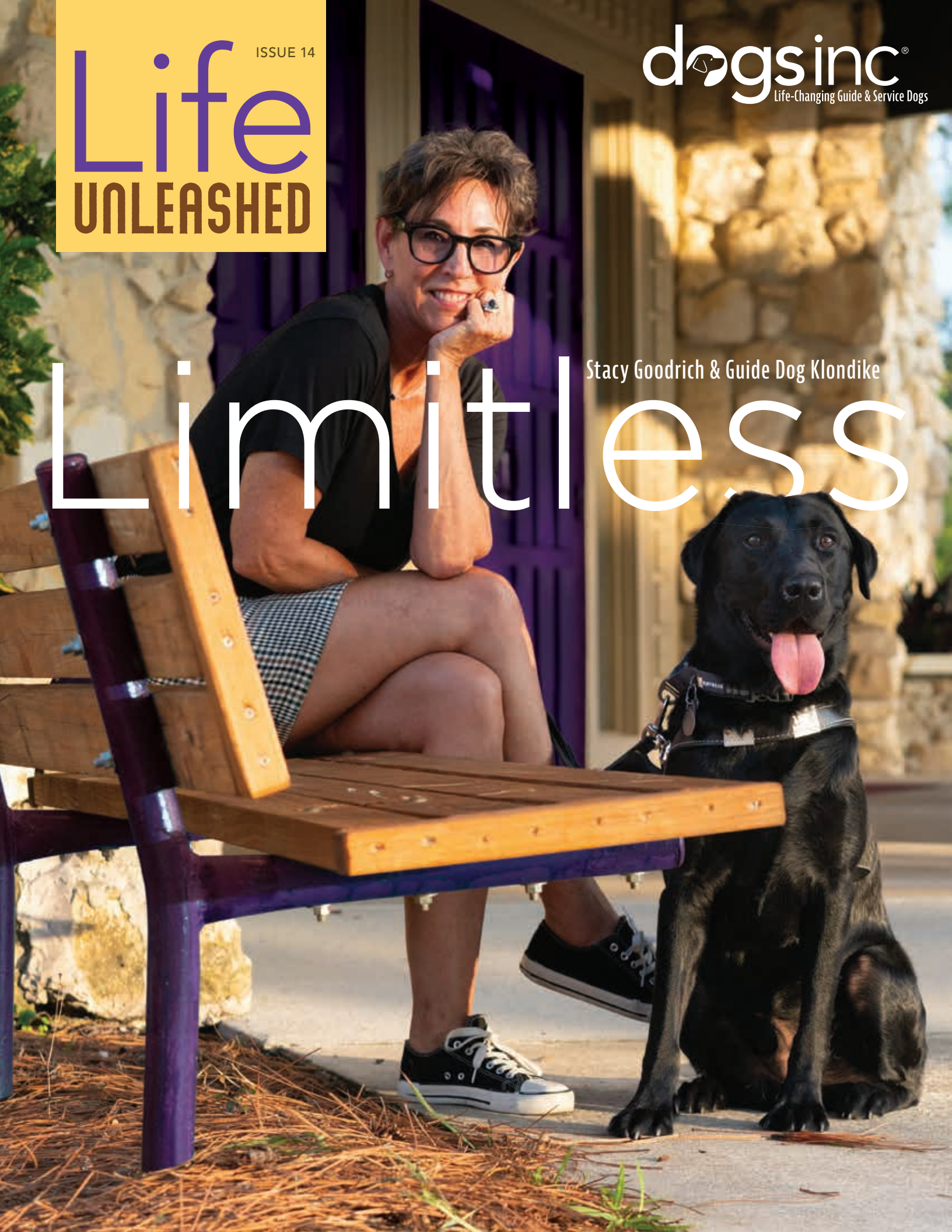
ISSUE 14

Life UNLEASHED

dogs inc®
Life-Changing Guide & Service Dogs



Stacy Goodrich & Guide Dog Klondike

Limitless

LIFE UNLEASHED

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Dear Friend,

Life is meant to be lived to the fullest. To explore, to create, to love.

And sometimes, we need someone to remind us that we can do just that. That's when a life-changing dog steps in, walking alongside their person to move them beyond what they ever imagined.

To a place where dreams feel within reach and peace is possible. The stories in these pages prove that limits fade and barriers break when extraordinary dogs and people find their way forward together.

Thank you for supporting extraordinary bonds that make life limitless.

Thank you for giving our dogs the chance to change lives so people can dream bigger and live fully.

Veronica Thames
CEO

Life UNLEASHED
ISSUE 14

A Publication of Dogs Inc

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and volunteers, we provide our dogs, expert instruction, and alumni support—at no cost to our clients.

Top-tier pedigrees, decades of research, and thousands of hours of training and love prepare our dogs for life-changing destinies.

Guide dogs lead. Service dogs heal. Skilled companion dogs comfort. And facility therapy dogs support.

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CORNERSTONE SOCIETY
THE JOY IN GIVING BACK

Amy Furman with Josie
Dogs Inc Puppy Raiser & Cornerstone Society Member

The JOY

"I love the joy in the mission.

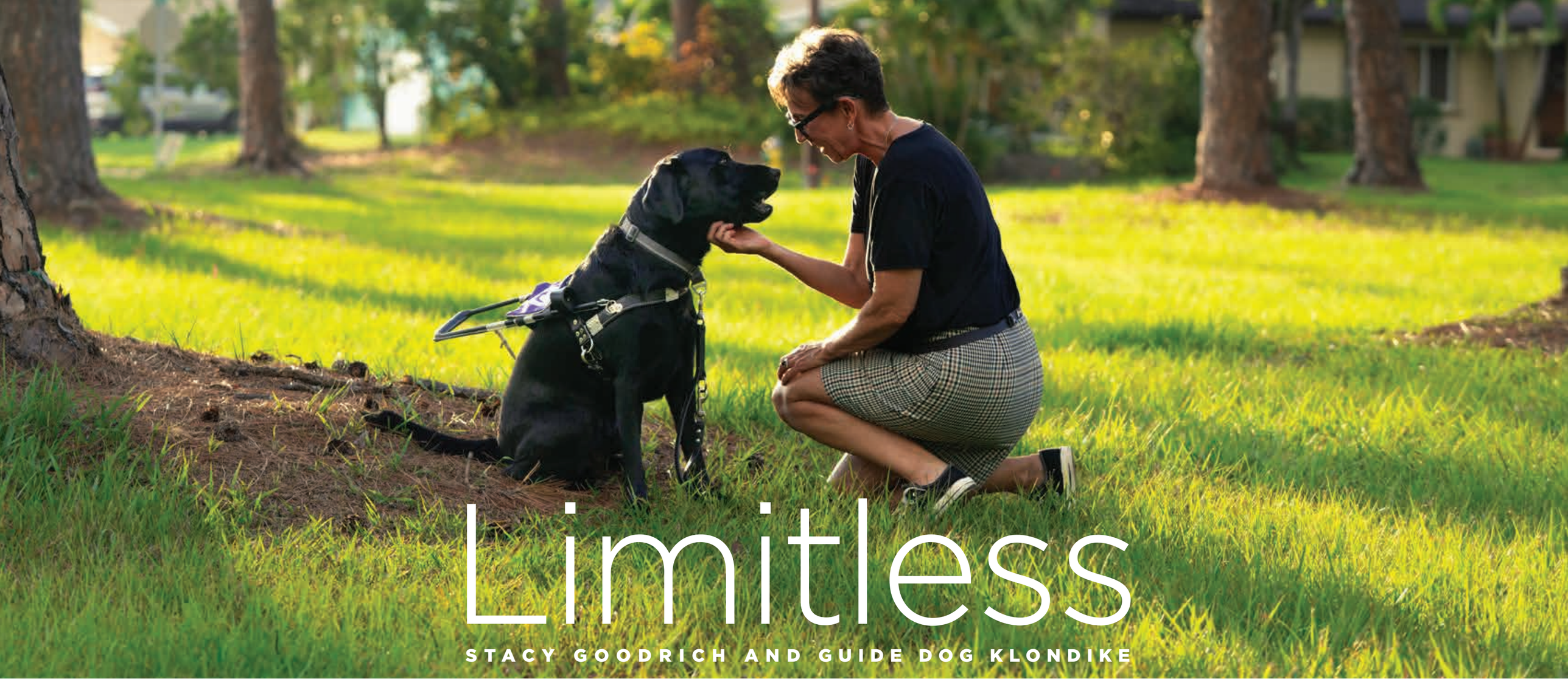
The joy of seeing new moms and puppies in the nursery.

The joy of puppy raising and witnessing puppies grow into well-trained, confident dogs.

The joy in watching the trainers turn wonderful dogs into life-changing guide dogs and service dogs.

The joy of getting to see and listen to the stories of the people who get these amazing dogs and hear them talk about how Dogs Inc changed their lives.

For me, I feel a sense of joy in all of this, and I'm so proud to be a part of something that is so meaningful."



Limitless

STACY GOODRICH AND GUIDE DOG KLONDIKE

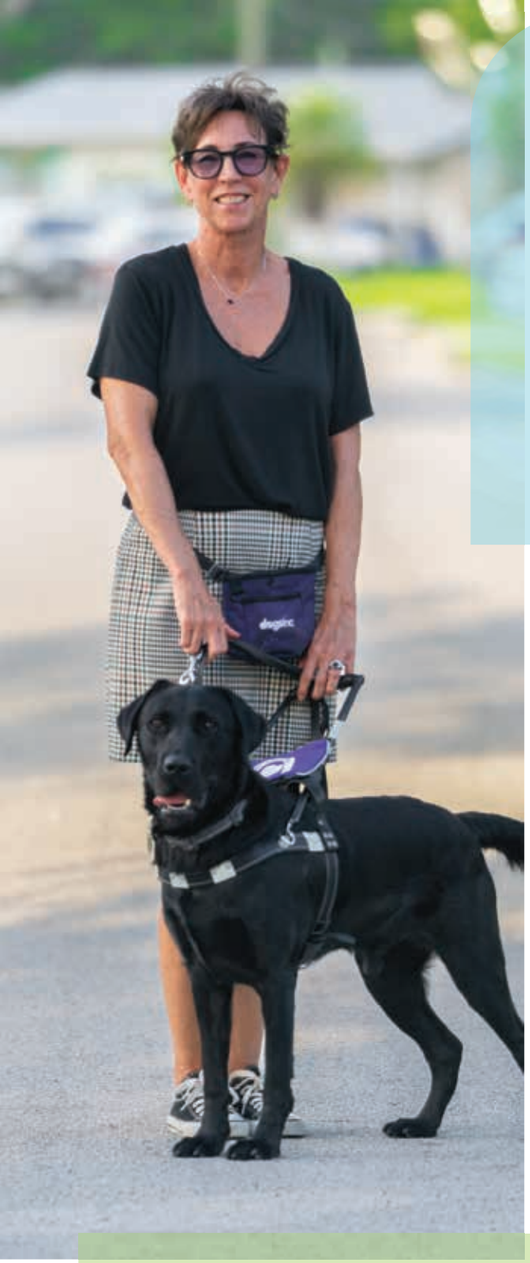
When Stacy Goodrich was just 38 years old, the doctor told her to make a bucket list.

The vibrant colors of the coral reef below the Pacific's surface. The breathtaking views waiting at the tops of mountains she'd yet to hike. She always thought there was more time to see the world and take in its beauty until the diagnosis put a deadline on her explorations.

She moved through the thick shock of the words: retinitis pigmentosa. The explanation for why she'd been tripping over objects, running into corners, and filling with uncertainty behind the wheel. Her vision would continue to narrow, and she was left to make a list.

Stacy shook off the shock and earned her scuba diving instructor's license, teaching diving in Australia, taking in the colorful sea life beneath the waves. She and her husband traveled, hiked, sailed, and soaked in memories.

She found an outlet in glass art and worked in a studio in her backyard, molding the hot glass into beautiful shapes inspired by the natural art she'd seen on the ocean floor. Ornaments, statues, dishes.



"It's so comforting to know he's got my back."

And even though each adventure added another mental checkmark to what she was able to see and do before her vision worsened, she found herself passing up invitations to lunch with coworkers and friends or going on evening outings. The weight of feeling like she'd need to be helped grew heavier as the years passed.



Fear crept in, despite holding a white cane in one hand and her husband's arm in the other. But she still had places to see and adventures to take. She'd followed her doctor's advice to dive all in and see life, but she'd hesitated to listen to his other recommendation . . . to get a guide dog for greater independence.



Was she blind enough? Did she really need a dog to help her navigate? Doubts circled her mind for nearly 10 years, until she decided it was finally time to check that one thing off her list, too. The one thing that might bring everything else within reach.



It didn't take Stacy long to realize that Klondike is more than a way to help her continue exploring life. He is adventure. His inquisitive nature and drive to take in every experience to the fullest make him Stacy's perfect match.

And just like that, the deadline that was once placed on life's to-dos vanished. No longer a timeline for joy, but the freedom and independence to go when she wants and where she wants.



"I didn't realize just how life-changing it would be to have a dog," Stacy says. "Klondike's opened my world back up again."



Klondike trots full force, tail wagging high, with his favorite person at his side. They now hike down to the bay together, his paws dipping in the salty shoreline, Stacy smiling down at him with pawprints and footprints stretching behind them in the sand. The sun's warmth presses against her face as a reminder that she no longer needs to look down at her steps because Klondike's got her covered.



Whether by her side, hiking through the trees or cuddled up with his chin on her shoulder, Klondike gives Stacy the freedom to no longer live by a list, but in a world that's limitless.



Klondike was raised by volunteer puppy raisers, Russell & Mary Hillpot, Kathy & Megan Hillner and Lori Wadsworth.

"To all the puppy raisers, thank you for taking these little fuzz balls and helping turn them into fantastic dogs. For being willing to give them back so that people like me can have a guide dog. I so appreciate everything that you do every day to create this experience for me . . . for us."

—Stacy Goodrich

Samples of Stacy's glass art shown above.

FOLLOWING EDDIE

@miamiguyandhisguidedog

Luis and Guide Dog Eddie: A Team with a Digital Pawprint

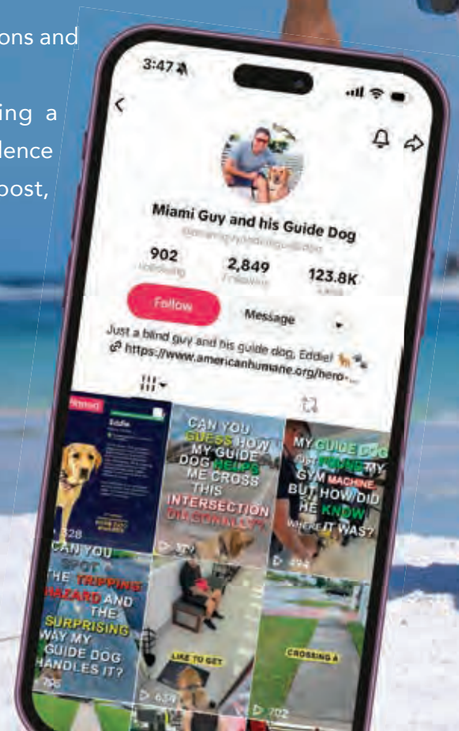
As a lifelong introvert, Luis Rodriguez never thought he would have thousands of followers. He was content to stay out of the spotlight, until guide dog Eddie came along.

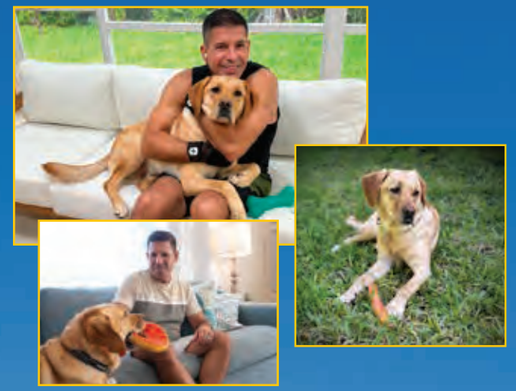
With Eddie by his side, Luis found more than just confidence in navigating the world, he also found confidence in letting the world in.

What began as one man's journey with his first guide dog has grown into something much bigger. People across the country follow Luis and Eddie's journey online, and their daily adventures become opportunities to show what life with a guide dog is really like.

Every walk is a chance to answer questions and challenge misconceptions.

For Luis, it was never about building a following. It was about sharing the confidence Eddie gave him. One conversation, one post, and one new perspective at a time.





#everydaylife

Whether they're grabbing a coffee or shopping for groceries, ordinary moments help people understand that guide dogs are working partners.



#travel

Airports, cruises, city streets. Every destination is a chance to show what this Miami-based team can do, and what independence with a guide dog can look like.

> Eddie's more than my partner. He's become an ambassador, opening doors and changing lives one interaction at a time.
>
> -Luis Rodriguez

ask anything...

Q. Can I pet your guide dog?

@miamiguyandhisguidedog Thanks for asking! When Eddie is in harness, he's working to keep me safe, so it's best not to pet or distract him. Once the harness comes off, he's just a happy dog who loves attention.

22w 5 likes Reply

Q. Are you blind?

@miamiguyandhisguidedog Blindness 'looks' different for everyone. Some people have no vision at all, while others, like me, have a fraction of usable eyesight. That's why blindness is often called a spectrum.

22w 3 likes Reply

Q. How does Eddie know where to go?

@miamiguyandhisguidedog We work as a team. I tell Eddie where we want to go, and he safely guides us around obstacles, stops at curbs, and even refuses a cue if it would put us in danger.

22w 6 likes Reply

From GOODBYes to HELLOS



Since 1990, Jim and Sharon Skiles have raised **24 Dogs Inc puppies . . .** and counting!



"Our puppy hall of fame!"

THE FIRST GOODBYE IS ALWAYS THE HARDEST.

But the love, cuddles, laughs, and moments that make saying goodbye so difficult kept volunteer puppy raisers Jim and Sharon Skiles saying hello.

Hello to Markel, the sweet fluffy boy whose nose politely booped the doorknob when he needed to go outside. Hello to Magnolia, the pup who liked shoes so much she got her own pair to cuddle with. And hello to Tilly, who went on to change a child's life.

"Thank you so much for Tilly," the girl wrote. "Before, the other kids ignored me. Now, with Tilly, everyone wants to play with me."

Updates like that little girl's note continued turning every tearful goodbye to another heartfelt hello . . . for over 30 years, Jim and Sharon raised 24 puppies for a purpose.

"These dogs are raised for a purpose, for a destiny," Jim says. "You love them while you have them, and you cry when they leave. But you leave them with joy and happiness, because they're going off to do what they were made to do."

Each time Jim and Sharon welcome another bundle of joy, hope finds a new home.

Though the goodbyes are never easy, the memories are always cherished, and the impact of a life-changing dog fulfilling their calling makes everything worth it.

Because of the love Jim and Sharon poured into these special puppies, people across the country are forever changed by extraordinary dogs.

Say your first cuddly hello. RAISE A PUPPY TODAY.

LIFE BEYOND SURVIVAL

THERESA REIFINGER AND SERVICE DOG ELSIE

The explosion was almost beautiful.

Theresa watched gravel free itself from the earth, twisting and spinning through the air, reaching for the sky to escape the violence on the ground. But just as quickly, the fragments were reminded of their gravity. Like droplets in a summer rainstorm, they showered the Humvee with the nostalgic ping of rain on a metal roof as they fell.

In the moment, Theresa didn't stop to think about the future. She thought about her truck commander and her gunner and her own survival. All that mattered was pushing the gas and escaping the kill zone. And she did.

But the impact of the blast reverberated far beyond that moment of life or death. In fact, it stalked Theresa, following her into civilian life. She went into survival mode because she had to. She stayed in survival mode because she didn't know how to get out.

For a while, she tried to hide it. She thought she saw pride in her Vietnam veteran father's eyes when he believed his daughter came out of the war unscathed. She thought she was tough, and that a tough person wouldn't break.

But everywhere was a battlefield. In Disney World, the most magical place on earth, she scanned for exits. Her heart raced, and her palms pooled with a panicked sweat, the world closing in around her. She calculated possible escape routes, weighing options, searching for the best path to lead her family to safety. *If something goes down,* she thought to herself, *how are we going to get out of here?*

And everywhere they went, as anxiety took over and Theresa began to map out an exit plan, her daughter learned to withdraw and stay out of the way.

Every time she told her daughter she couldn't go to her dance competition or take her to join her friends for pie after school, Theresa's heart broke all over again. All she wanted was to be a mom, but trauma kept her in overdrive, distancing her from the people she loved, until she finally reached a breaking point.

She was tired of missing moments, and she knew something had to change.



And something did: service dog Elsie walked right into her life, tail wagging, ready to turn battlefields back into grocery stores, amusement parks, and family trips.

The walls that were meant to protect Theresa—but in reality, shut her out from the rest of the world—came down bit by bit. The numbness that had become so familiar slowly faded away, making room for her smile once again.

Because with Elsie, there is possibility. Doors are open and Theresa, for the first time in a long time, is excited to see what's on the other side.

And most importantly, her daughter has gotten her mom back.

In a crowd of strangers, through the clatter of silverware and conversation, Theresa feels the weight of Elsie by her feet. Her breath remains calm and steady, her focus on what matters most: the little girl across the table, the 5th grade graduate, beaming with excitement to finally share a slice of cherry pie with her mom. As she watches her daughter simply enjoy being a ten-year-old girl, the fractures in her heart fill with a warm gratitude.

This is beautiful, she thinks.

There was a time when Theresa's mind was trapped in the past, in the Iraqi desert, her foot glued to the gas to get out of a kill zone that she had long escaped. Elsie, her best friend, partner, and comfort blanket, gave her the key that unlocked the door of that Humvee and allowed her to live and not just survive.

Now, Elsie stands by her side, and the question is no longer, "How can we get out of this place?" Instead, it's, "Where can we go next?"

"She's changed my life so much," Theresa says. "Elsie is like an angel to me."

"Elsie is like an angel to me."



HELP HOPE *Branch Out*

Many ways to give. One mission that changes lives.

PupPal
Get a monthly dose of puppy love delivered right to your inbox.

Cornerstone Society
Put your annual giving to work—deepening your involvement and shaping something that lasts.

Heritage Society
Change the future through your will—sustaining the mission now and beyond.

IRA Distribution
Make your required distribution count—potentially reducing taxable income and creating immediate results.

Appreciated Stock
Turn apppreciated assets into good—potentially avoiding capital gains tax while creating new possibilities.

Send a Pup e-Hug
Celebrate milestones, say thanks, or show sympathy, with a little bit of puppy love.

Donor-Advised Fund
Put funds already earmarked for philanthropy to great use by supporting our dogs.



Every gift helps hope grow

Discover all the ways to give at dogsinc.org/give

man's best friend

Life is better with a best friend. Someone to stick by your side and understand what you need when you can't quite find the words.

Living with vision loss has shaped both Zane and Nico's journeys, and their friendship is built on understanding the road behind them and believing in all that lies ahead.

And somewhere along the way, their bond sparked another friendship . . .

Guide dogs Surfer and Gabe.

Out of harness, they're free spirits, ears flying as they race through the yard. But when the harnesses go on, everything changes. They become trusted guides, leading Zane and Nico to work, on adventures, and through the everyday moments in between.

Because sometimes, man's best friend has two legs. And sometimes, four.



Enjoying pup cups.



Taking a break to frollick!



Chillin' with my bestie.



Taking it easy under the tiki.



Friends make life more fun.

Help us reach our $3 million goal!

THE Perfect Gift CAMPAIGN

Every holiday season, we're all searching for the same thing. Not just another gift. The one that says, "You matter."

This holiday season, you can give that gift. For someone waiting for the confidence to take the next step. For someone longing for greater independence. For someone whose greatest gift isn't waiting under the tree.

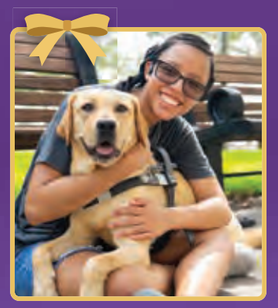
It's waiting to meet them, with four paws and a wagging tail.

Your gift helps puppies become life-changing guide and service dogs, giving people the confidence to embrace new possibilities, the freedom to live more independently, and the companionship of a trusted partner.

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

Now through December 31, your gift will be **matched dollar-for-dollar** by a group of generous donors.







Double your gift here

Give today at **dogsinc.org/perfectgift**

Matching Donors

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Happy Has a Color

Some eight-year-olds might say, "I'm sad." Cassidy says sadness is blue.

She pauses, thinking. Happy is yellow. Fear has its own color, too. Ask her another question, and before long her imagination is carrying her into a story of her very own. Cassidy has a way of making the ordinary feel extraordinary.



Born with Midas Syndrome, Cassidy sports a prosthetic in one eye and has limited vision in the other. But she doesn't let her vision loss dampen her spirits. She soars into stories written in Braille and is gaining more confidence every day using her cane, tapping it to learn what's ahead. Sometimes she'll stretch a cautious foot to test the depth of the path, like dipping a toe in the pool before jumping in.

Yet there are moments when a cloud of grey floats in, and Cassidy says to her mom: *Oh I wish I wasn't blind.*

Sometimes she wishes she didn't have to do it all…. Other times, it's all she knows.

Her mom and dad knew it just might take a best friend at her side to keep their daughter's big, beautiful world alive. Skilled companion dog Casey bounded in like a ray of sun, shining through the clouds. She's a soft pillow for Cassidy to cuddle into at a night, a playmate in the backyard, and a friend always ready for dress-up.

Every day, Cassidy carefully carries a cup of food to Casey's bowl. As the self-appointed "safety monitor," she meticulously inspects Casey's toys for anything that might be unsafe. And every night, no matter how close it is to bedtime, Cassidy insists on taking Casey's collar off herself. Working the clip helps strengthen the fine motor skills her diagnosis affects. But to her, it's simply one more way to care for her best friend.

"Casey is her safe space."

Cassidy's mom, Margo, says, "She's the best companion for her."

With Casey, Cassidy has a best friend to lean into, soft ears to twirl between her fingers, and a dog who belongs right beside her.

Because one day, Cassidy may open her heart to a guide dog, and Casey is helping her discover the comfort of four paws by her side. Ask Cassidy what color love is, and she just might point to Casey.♡








no ordinary dog
I lead the way toward places that were once out of reach.
I navigate through the darkness, giving confidence.
I help someone go where they want to go and live life on their own terms.
I'm no ordinary dog . . .
I'm a guide dog.
dogs inc®
Life-Changing Guide & Service Dogs