



International Week of the Deaf - September 18th - 24th

It's International Week of the Deaf and we're celebrating! This is a special week dedicated to recognizing the strength, pride, and resilience of people that are Deaf or are hard of hearing.

Let's celebrate this week by sharing stories, experiences, and accomplishments of our Hearing Dog Guide teams. If you have graduated from our Hearing program, we would love to read about how your Dog Guide empowers you. Please email Angela at athibert@dogguides.com with your stories and updated pictures of you and your Dog Guide.

"Gervais has been instrumental in helping me pick up sounds that I've never been able to identify before. Since I was born I've struggled with hearing loss. Gervais has changed how I interact with the world and I now feel safe and secure when I have my hearing aids off." - Mitchell with Dog Guide Gervais



Graduate Updates

Crystal & Kelvin Graduate from Western University with honours

September is back to school for lots of students, but not Crystal and Canine Vision Dog Guide Kelvin!

The two of them graduated from Western University back in June with a Bachelor of Arts, double major in Criminal Justice and Disability Studies. Crystal was also the recipient of the Doris L. (Billie) Ransberry Memorial Medal, which is given to a student who overcame adversity to succeed.

Crystal credits Kelvin for helping her graduate with her degree. He helps her everyday guiding her through obstacles and making sure she gets to where she is going safely:

"I feel very safe traveling with Kelvin," says Crystal. "He guides me around obstacles in our path with expertise and confidence. Kelvin guided me safely to and from and around campus. He loved riding the London Transit and University shuttle buses with me and was always well behaved. My fellow students and professors enjoyed having him in class. He was proudly by my side during Graduation ceremonies at Brescia University College and walked me confidently across stage at alumni Hall during Western's Convocation ceremony. I was the only graduate with a service dog that day. I was so proud of my Kelvin. It fills me with pride to him for a job well done. He allows me to be totally independent every day. We are a well bonded team with a deep love and respect for each other."



Jacob and Rocko's first meeting

The day had finally arrived. Jacob and his mom Allison were both excited and anxious to meet the dog that would change their lives. They had planned to greet his father Jason with Autism Assistance Dog Guide Rocko at the airport when they first got off the plane. But things didn't go as planned.

While they were walking through the airport, Jacob fell down unconscious and started to experience a seizure. Jacob was rushed to a nearby children's hospital and his father and Rocko followed behind. When Jacob regained consciousness, he was asked if he would like to meet Rocko.

"He hadn't been awake previously, so this was the first opportunity Jacob had to meet Rocko," Alison says, Jacob's mother. "Jacob called out Rocko's name and he came over and automatically gave him kisses. Jacob was weak and tired but was able to give him a little pat on the head and say 'good boy', before falling back to sleep."

Over the next few days after being discharged, Jacob had to attend multiple assessments, tests, and doctor appointments. Jacob does not like the hospital and that is one of the things he struggles with, but Rocko had no problem coming and spending all day at the Children's Hospital to give Jacob all the support he needed.

"It was not the smooth, magical meeting we had planned, but we are grateful that Rocko was there to help Jacob get through this difficult time," says Alison. "Jacob has now been able to spend time swimming, playing and relaxing with his new best buddy Rocko. Their bond is growing and we are enthusiastic about having this wonderful dog be the newest addition to our family."



Ahren Belisle moves on to AGT Finals

Service program graduate Ahren Belisle and his Dog Guide AI moves on to the final round of Americas Got Talent (AGT). Ahren performed his stand-up comedy with his dog Service Dog Guide, AI by his side and wowed all the judges and American viewers.

"It's important to me to spread the lessons I've learned and try to make things better not only for me but also for everybody else, too," he recently told Parade Magazine. "I see comedy as a way of letting people into my world. Communicating my experiences and letting them see what it's been like to be me. I certainly plan to expand on it. I think every comic I look up to talks about what it's been like to be them and finds a way to bring joy about it and that's what I want to do."

Watch AGT on Mondays at 8 pm (EST) for more finalists. The finale will be announced on our social media channels.



Dog Guide Teams in Action!

If you would like to be featured, share your photos or tag us on social media! Follow us on our social media accounts:



@lfcdogguides



@lfcdogguides



@lfcdogguides

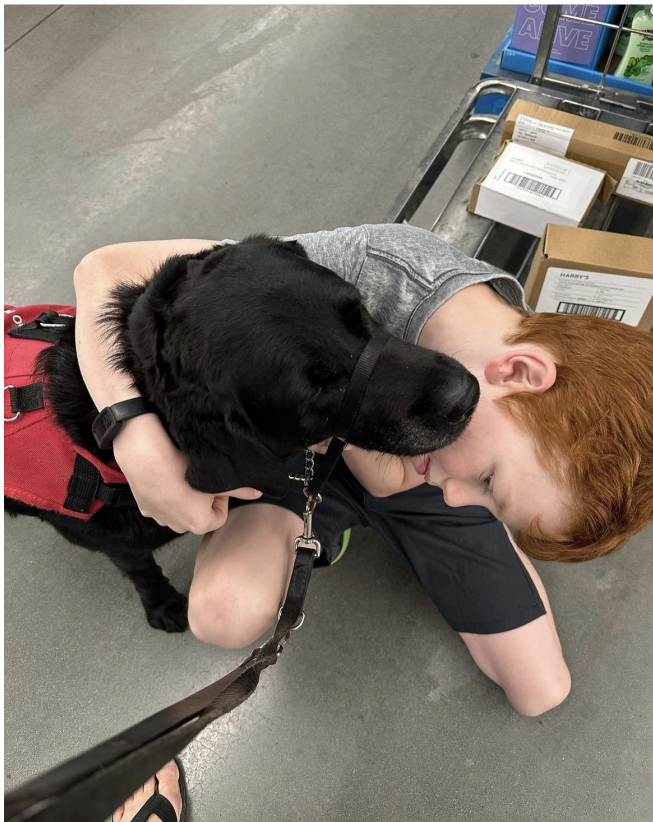


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LFCDG Happenings



Facility Support Program Update

Our Facility Support Program is accepting new applicants. Please read through the application and training process for more information. Everything you need to apply will be listed in the Discovery Package found on our website- Facility Support - Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. This program will remain open until September 17, 2023 or until all spots are filled.

Seizure Response Program Update

Starting on October 2 at 9 a.m. (EST), Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides will begin accepting Expressions of Interest for the Seizure Response program.

The Seizure Response program is open Canadians (16 years or older) diagnosed with intractable epilepsy. These Dog Guides are expected to maintain the highest level of behavioural obedience and help their clients manage their epilepsy.

In the meantime, if you are interested in applying to this program, please review the Seizure Response Discovery Package on our website Seizure Response - Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

Please note that applications are currently closed for our other programs. We will, however, continue to accept re-applications from our successor clients who have previously had a Dog Guide from us. Please e-mail (client-services@dogguides.com) if you are a successor.

Staff Shoutouts

Thank you, Kathryn for all your Hard Work

Our lovely receptionist Kathryn McFarlane has been with us since April. We thank her for all her hard work and dedication during her time here. Her last day was on September 1st. Jen Close will now be taking over reception.

Julie Jelinek Celebrates 20 years at Dog Guides

Julie Jelinek, Director of Campaigns, Major and Planned Gifts is celebrating her 20th year working at LFCDG. Julie grew up in Oakville and would always see Dog Guides training downtown, wagging their tails while proudly showing off their skills. She was only a toddler when Dog Guides first opened 40 years ago!

“Living in Oakville and being an obsessed dog lover with two dogs, I thought it very exciting that a “guide dog” school was opening in Oakville,” says Julie. “For the past 30 years, I have walked in the Oakville Walk for Dog Guides, rounding up friends and family to join me with an assortment of dogs. Who knew that I would then organize the Walk and help it raise more each year? I fostered my first pup 22 years ago and that is when I knew I wanted to join the team at LFCDG having no idea, I would be here 20+ years later.”



Today Julie works with major donors and oversees projects that will ensure the successful future of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. For her, every day brings something different- whether meeting someone new, hearing about a success of one of our Dog Guide teams, or raising funds for a new opportunity.

“I never expected to be with Dog Guides for so many years, however there has always been a new initiative which relied on fundraising and I wanted to do it! I love the challenge, along with the variety and the combination of planning, fundraising and marketing to make it happen. Over the years, we have seen so much growth, with the addition of new Dog Guide programs, significant changes to the building and special fundraising days such as Giving Tuesday. For me,

each one involved developing a unique campaign to raise the funds to make these possible. In addition to being part of an amazing team at Dog Guides, I treasure the relationships I have with many of our donors. The relationships I've developed over the years with many donors, volunteers and clients are special and some are now good friends."

When asked about her favourite part of her job, Julie had a hard time coming up with just one! She loves getting to know all the dogs here and has fallen in love with so many over the years. But of course, she loves hearing the stories from our clients about how their lives improved and changed with a Dog Guide by their side. "I love sharing the success stories of our teams with both prospective and current donors and hearing their enthusiasm and desire to help create more partnerships."

Upcoming Events

LFCDG Fall Open House Returns

Interested in learning more about the world of Dog Guides? You are invited to our Open House on Saturday, September 30th starting at 9:30 am – 3 pm.

Morning session (9:30am-12pm) will include demonstrations of Canine Vision, Service and Hearing programs and afternoon session (12pm-3pm) will include demonstrations of Facility Support, Autism Assistance, Diabetes Alert and Seizure Response programs.

In addition to this, you will have the opportunity to tour our training facility and learn about volunteer opportunities like fostering , day school and more! There will also be a raffle with an amazing prize of flight passes thanks to West Jet airlines, Premium Lounge passes and Be Relax Spa vouchers thanks to Pearson International Airport!

Our Open House will take place at our Oakville training facility (152 Wilson St, Oakville ON).

We hope to see you there!



The graphic features a yellow background with red maple leaves in the corners. At the top, it says "open house" in a bold, sans-serif font, with a red house icon above the 'o' in "house". Below this, the text "Interested in learning more about the magical world of Dog Guides?" is written in a smaller font. The middle section contains two images: on the left, a white dog wearing a red harness is standing next to a woman in a wheelchair; on the right, two golden retriever puppies are sitting together. At the bottom, the text "Visit our upcoming Open House on Saturday, September 30th - 9:30a.m.-3:00p.m. at Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (152 Wilson St. Oakville, ON)" is displayed. Below the text is the Dog Guides logo (a dog head profile) and the website "www.dogguides.com". A small Lions Foundation of Canada logo is in the bottom right corner.

Pet Valu Fall Walk for Dog Guides

The Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides isn't just held in the Spring! There are lots of Walks year round you can support. Many are taking place in September and October this year. Please visit www.walkfordogguides.com to donate to the walk and register for one happening near you.

Our Fall Walks include...

Airdrie, AB- September 16th

Sheffield, ON- September 23rd

Orillia, ON- September 24th

Tottenham, ON- September 24th

Goderich, ON- October 1st

Newcastle, ON- October 7th

Omeme, ON- October 15th

Athens, ON- October 21st

Rewatch our Summer Graduation

Missed our summer graduation? Last month we celebrated graduating teams from each of our seven programs. Visit our YouTube channel to watch our latest graduation if you haven't had a chance, or want to rewatch! Make sure you have some tissues nearby for those heartfelt moments. <https://www.youtube.com/@dogguidescanada>

Volunteer Corner

5 Reasons to Volunteer at LFCDG

Volunteers who care for puppies are doing something amazing for other people and doing something amazing for themselves and their families. Research shows that volunteer foster families benefit physically and mentally from their experience, with improved companionship, exercise, well-being and social life.

- You get the benefits of a dog in your home without the cost! LFCDG provides support for volunteers including individual ongoing training to covering the cost of food and veterinary expenses.
- There are a variety of different volunteering roles to suit your lifestyle and time commitment, whether it's for a couple days, months or a year.
- We'll support you every step of the way. People who volunteer to care for puppies and dogs in training with LFCDG get support from Instructors and puppy staff.
- Assistance dogs are good for you! Volunteer foster families and puppy raisers benefit physically and mentally from their experience, reporting improved companionship, exercise, wellbeing, and social life.
- Best of all...you'll be changing someone's life! Dog Guides improve the lives many Canadians living with disabilities by helping with practical tasks, enhancing independence, and boosting wellbeing, dignity and confidence.



Day School Program

We are recruiting volunteers for our newest volunteer opportunity, Day School that live close to Oakville or Guelph!

Day School volunteers would bring the dog back and forth to our training facility Monday to Friday, and would provide housing for the dog each weekend, including statutory holidays. Learn more about this new volunteer opportunity by visiting Volunteer Opportunities - Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

"Nash has been an excellent houseguest," says Maria Galindo, Day School Volunteer and Communications Manager at LFCDG. "We've seen such a positive change in Nash! Before being enrolled in Day school, Nash was really stressed staying overnights in the kennel, but now, he goes to school 8am-4pm, learns skills to help a child on the spectrum from his wonderful instructors, and after a successful day, he comes home and winds down."

"Knowing that we're helping Nash to succeed so he can give love and support to a child on the spectrum is extremely special. We look forward to the day we get to cheer for him at his graduation."

Read more about our Day School program here! Volunteers sought for Oakville dog guide training program ([insidehalton.com](https://www.insidehalton.com))



Poodle foster families needed

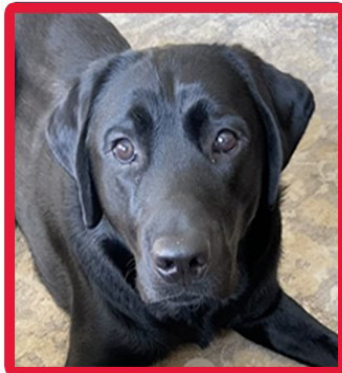
We are looking for volunteer foster families to help raise standard poodle puppies. These hypoallergenic pups are destined to grow up to change a person's life with a disability or assist facilities that focus on helping people going through traumatic situations.

Adopt a Career-Changed Dog

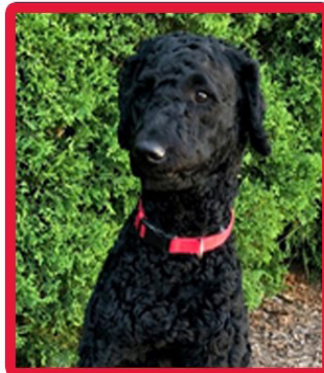
Not all our dogs are meant to be working Dog Guides, and that's okay! Some dogs may not have the right personality, health or temperament for life as a Dog Guide. Regardless, our Career Changed dogs can make wonderful pets. We regularly update our website with dogs available for adoption. They are all deserving of loving homes. Interested in Giving a Dog a New Home? - Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

Thanks to Karen, Ebby now has a place to call home, and has gained a new best friend!

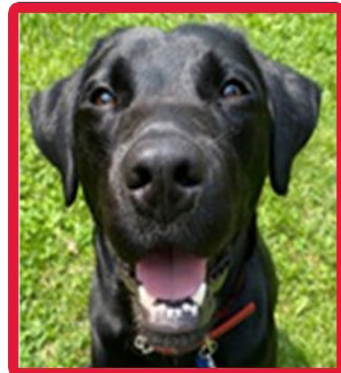
"Ebby has been a wonderful addition to our family and fit right in from day one. She is a gentle and loving dog. The adoption experience was easy and we appreciated the details provided about Ebby, which really helped us determine that she would be a great fit for us. We would adopt through LFCDG again and would recommend it to anyone. We are extremely grateful to Ebby's foster family for all the great training. Jojo, our other dog, now has a new best friend!" - Ebby's Adoptive mom, Karen Anderson



Theo



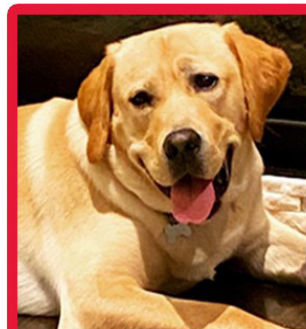
Warin



Jedi



Musca



Van

Donor Recognition

Revera Lemonade Stand

A big thank you to The Kensington Oakville residences by Revera for setting up a lemonade stand in benefit of LFCDG last week. Lots of staff and foster families came out to support the event. Together, we raised \$320. Thanks to everyone who showed up to the event to buy some refreshments.



Sparky's Dog Days of Summer!

We would like to say a BIG THANKS to everyone that came out to the Sparky's Dog Days of Summer events this July and August. Our Foster Families, volunteers and staff support was impressive! These fun community events were partnerships between the Oakville Fire Dept., Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, Panago Pizza and Fortinos, and took place at seven different splash pads across Oakville. The events were important for both awareness of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides and for fundraising. All proceeds from the sale of pizzas, chips and soft drinks benefitted LFCDG

Become a Monthly Donor

Monthly donations are an easy, seamless and manageable way to give to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. As a monthly donor, you become part of a special group of donors called The Dog Guide Guardians. Dog Guides Guardians know that their monthly gift provides us with a reliable and predictable source of revenue that helps us plan for the future and deliver on our mission. For as little as \$5 a month, you can help LFCDG continue to provide life-changing Dog Guides to Canadians living with disabilities.

As a longtime supporter of Dog Guides I've found the easiest way to give an ongoing donation is by becoming a Dog Guides Guardian monthly donor," says Deb Cserhalmi. "By giving a monthly contribution, Dog Guides is assured of a steady stream of donations that they can count on to do their awesome work. LFCDG does such a great job of raising, training and placing expertly trained dogs to qualified Canadians with disabilities, at no cost to them. As the foundation receives no government funding it's up to generous donors to support this most worthy of causes. Every time I see a team out in public, I smile, knowing that in some small part I have helped. The dogs help to bring safety, confidence, and companionship to those whose world opens up with their new furry friend."

Please consider becoming a Dog Guides Guardian, you will be changing lives one paw at a time. Become a Dog Guides Guardian Today!

Litter Updates

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 43 new LFCDG puppies. Welcome to the Dog Guide world little ones!

Would you be interested in helping us raise these little pups? We're currently looking for fosters that live in Toronto, Mississauga, Oakville, Burlington, Hamilton, Niagara, Kitchener and Guelph. Foster families play a crucial role in setting up a future Dog Guide puppy for success.

G Litter: 8 puppies born July 19th, 2023

H Litter: 1 puppy born July 20th, 2023

I Litter: 6 puppies born July 29th, 2023

J Litter: 8 puppies born August 9th, 2023

K Litter: 4 puppies born August 10th, 2023

L Litter: 8 puppies born August 14th, 2023

M Litter: 8 puppies born August 21st, 2023