

## Graduate Updates

### Memories from Highschool

Back to school for many of our clients, including Taylan & Diabetes Alert Dog Guide Kelly. We were sent this yearbook photo from last year. Their story was also featured in the yearbook:

#### My Hero Isn't Human

*A dog is man's best friend, but Kelly is different. For Taylan, her beautiful black lab is her best friend and her potential saviour. Kelly is a Dog Guide who has been by Taylan's side since May 2022.*

*Taylan was diagnosed with type one diabetes in February 2014. Being diagnosed at only the age of six, she describes her experience as different. "I had been sick for a while, so it was good to have an explanation," states Taylan. A couple years after her diagnosis, she was gifted with the opportunity to have Kelly by her side.*

*Apart from being the cutest dog on Earth, Kelly has the ability to smell low blood sugar and alert Taylan. She can fetch Taylan her glucose monitor and Dextor tablets. In an event of an emergency, Kelly is able to bark for help and get service when needed.*

*While Kelly is Taylan's best fur-friend, she also keeps Taylan safe.*

Good luck with your studies this year, Taylan and Kelly!



## Harvey's Legacy

After years of Harvey's dedicated service as an Autism Assistance Dog Guide for Madelyn, we received this lovely message from her mother Lynda:

*Madelyn was a handful, refusing to go to school, grocery shopping sitting in the cart covered in a blanket, running into streets and throwing herself down the stairs, but three months after Harvey came home, she was a different girl.*

*Madelyn decided she didn't want her "differentness" to dictate what she could and could not do. She committed to learn as much about herself as possible so that she could access as independent a life as possible....and the only way to do that was with Harvey by her side. Harvey has "graduated" 4 times. Once in Oakville. Once in grade 8. Once in grade 12. And finally, after college.*

*I have witnessed Harvey give Madelyn his courage, happiness, confidence, and tenacity.*

*I cannot imagine what Madelyn's life would look like without Harvey. I don't even want to go back to the thoughts of what the doctors told me she most likely would and would not be able to do. Now, she drives herself around. She has been working at Harvey's/Swiss Chalet (total coincidence) for over 3 years. She has become a community advocate for not just accepting people but wanting to understand how they can fit their different shaped puzzle piece into the community picture.*

*None of this would have been possible without the gift of Harvey. He stood by Madelyn when she wanted to give up. He kept her safe above himself, especially at night-time when he could have been sleeping. Harvey has always been available for a "Hug" or to "lend an ear" to Madelyn. Above all, Harvey is Madelyn's best friend, when everyone else lost interest.*

*Thank you is not enough. You are all Heroes is not enough. What you have all done for Madelyn can never be repaid...but we will never stop trying.*

*As always, with all my gratitude forever,*

*Lynda*





## AGT congrats to Ahren

Congratulations to Service Dog Guide graduate Ahren Belisle for making it all the way to the finals of America's Got Talent. You are an incredibly talented comedian, and we can't wait to hear what's next for both of you!



# 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



@dogguidescan

**@wynnihelpsanna**  
Diabetes Alert Team Anna & Wynni



wynnihelpsanna

...



**@marlene\_aad\_lfcdg**  
Autism Assistance Team Paul & Marlene



marlene\_aad\_lfcdg

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# LFCDG Happenings

## Seizure Response Program Update

We are excited to share that the seizure response program is now accepting Expressions of Interest. If you're interested in applying, we encourage you to visit [Seizure Response - Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides](#).

Please read through the [Discovery package](#) for more information.

Applications will remain open until October 16, 2023. Currently, we have 20 spaces available on our waitlist. If we receive more expressions of interest than available spots on our waitlist, we will select a limited number randomly and process those expressions of interest only. Those who are not selected will need to wait for the next time Expressions of Interest reopen to reapply.

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](mailto:client-services@dogguides.com)) if you are a successor.

## ADI Conference Croatia

We are excited to share that last month LFCDG staff traveled to Croatia to attend the 2023 Assistance Dogs International (ADI) Conference. We loved learning more about the assistance dog industry and on different topics. We even had one of our instructors, Melanie Krumme, take the stage and present.

As a member of ADI, LFCDG is able to learn from other Assistance Dog Schools, build more partnerships and collaborate with organizations alike.



# Staff Shoutouts

## Welcome to LFCDG Mackenzie, Evelyn and Emily!

We have some new staff who have started working with us!

Mackenzie Brown has started in the puppy program and is our newest puppy rep looking after pups in our Hamilton and Niagara area.

Evelyn Marshall is moving from working in our Breeding Program to her new role managing our in-house volunteer program and gift shop.

Emily Langton has started working on the Resource Development team and will be looking after mid and entry level donors who contribute annually under \$9999 a year.



## World Teachers Day - October 5th

A special shoutout to all our fabulous instructors who dedicate their time to teaching Dog Guides so many skills and also teach clients how to become a successful Dog Guide team. Thank you for always being so patient, kind and being there for our Dog Guide teams.





# Upcoming Events

## Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides

The Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides is still happening! There are still several Fall Walks that you can get involved in. It is not too late. Please visit [www.walkfordogguides.com](http://www.walkfordogguides.com) to donate to the walk and register for one happening near you.

Goderich, ON- October 1st

Newcastle, ON- October 7th

Omeme, ON- October 15th

Athens, ON- October 21st

## Dog Guides Open House a Success

Thank you to everyone who attended our Fall open house this past weekend. It was our first one since 2019 and it was a big success! We enjoyed inviting everybody to watch program demonstrations and learn more about current volunteer opportunities with the foundation.



# Volunteer Corner

## Looking for Foster Families

We are looking for dedicated volunteers just like Karen to help us raise future Dog Guide puppies. Visit [www.dogguides.com](http://www.dogguides.com) to learn more about this rewarding way to give back.

Karen Jarvis and her family have been involved with Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides for many years and have fostered 8 EIGHT future Dog Guide puppies. Currently she is fostering future Dog Guide Vladdy and has adopted Audio, retired breeding mama mom for LFCDG.



Karen loves to give back to the community and make a difference in the lives of others. With each foster puppy, she continues to learn something new about herself, the community, and Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. She loves watching a foster puppy grow up and meeting the clients once they are matched to the dog she helped foster.

*"We are often asked how we can give the dogs up after having them in our lives for a year. We always answer-'it's not about what we are giving up, but what we are able to give.'"*

## Volunteer Appreciation BBQ Recap

We had a wonderful time at our Volunteer Appreciation BBQ, held at our Breslau facilities. Foster Families, Day School Sitters and facility volunteers all came out for an afternoon of great company and food. There was also a raffle and a scavenger hunt that took place. Thanks to everyone who attended!





## Dear Valued Volunteers

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself to those who may not be familiar with me. My name is Evelyn Marshall, and I am thrilled to have recently joined the Fundraising team at the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides as the Volunteer and Gift Shop Lead.

My journey with LFCDG began in 2006 when I became a dedicated volunteer foster family. I was deeply moved by the organization's incredible mission, which led me to officially join as a staff member in 2017, where I worked in the breeding department.

It is both an honor and a privilege to assume my new role, where I will be responsible for overseeing our volunteer program. I am eager to connect with each of you, our devoted and passionate volunteers, as you are the heart and soul of Dog Guides, and your unwavering support is invaluable to our mission.

As I embark on this exciting transition, I will be working diligently to update our volunteer roles, policies, and procedures. Stay tuned for further details.

In the meantime, should you have any questions or require assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at [emarshall@dogguides.com](mailto:emarshall@dogguides.com). I am eagerly looking forward to meeting and getting to know each one of you.

Warmest regards,

Evelyn Marshall



# Donor Recognition

## Recognizing Rob Stanley

A big shoutout goes out to Rob Stanley, who recently rode across the U.S East Coast in support of the Ride for Dog Guides. His journey took him to Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and New York State and he raised \$18,500 for Dog Guides. Thank you!



## Looking for Guardians

Dog Guides Guardians are donors that give a gift each month to LFCDG. We are extremely grateful to our monthly donors whose gifts provide us with a predictable, reliable source of revenue. Dog Guide Guardians have the ability to spread giving out over an entire year, making it easy. They have the power to manage/pause/cancel their donation any time they need to. Subscription based monthly giving requires less administration – so lower fundraising costs – so more of their donation goes to helping provide life-changing Dog Guides. It’s more bang for your buck! What’s not to like?



If you are a regular supporter of LFCDG (or if you love the idea of convenient, manageable donations) consider signing up to be a Dog Guides Guardian. The impact of a Dog Guide is priceless to our graduates, like Cohen with Autism Assistance Dog Guide Kito. A gift each month can help make that happen for more Canadians.



[Learn more](#) about being a Dog Guides Guardian and about how Kito changes Cohen’s life every day!



# Support the Future of Dog Guides Through Planned Giving

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides has never stopped working towards our mission of empowering Canadians living with disabilities to navigate their world with confidence and independence, by providing a Dog Guide at no cost. Our priorities have always been our Dog Guides and the clients we serve. We can't thank you enough for the continued support of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides during these unprecedented times.

Our dedication to matching people with life-changing Dog Guides has encouraged us to partner with Will Power, a national movement inspiring Canadians to think differently about charitable giving, and supporting causes they care about through a gift in their wills.

Did you know that you can make a large and lasting contribution to Dog Guides through a gift in your will? Without using any of the resources you need now, or taking away from loved ones? Even 1 % of your estate could result in a truly powerful gift, while still leaving 99% for family and friends. Want to learn more? The Will Power website has many resources to show you how you can turn your Will into a powerful tool for change.

Your support and generosity has been fundamental in helping us continue our Dog Guide programs and services. We would love to walk you through how a gift in your will to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides could be used. Please reach out to Julie Jelinek, Director of Campaigns, Major and Planned Gifts at [jjelinek@dogguides.com](mailto:jjelinek@dogguides.com) or 905 842 2891 Ext, 223 if you have any questions. For more on how we use gifts in Wills at Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, visit [Find Charities to Support with Your Legacy - Will Power](#).



# Litter Updates

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 6 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.

N Litter: born September 8th, 2023

