



Diabetes Awareness Month

Did you know that November is Diabetes Awareness Month? Let's spread awareness for the millions of people living with diabetes and our wonderful Diabetes Alert Dog Guide teams. Living with diabetes can be a challenge, and we are proud of all our graduates for their accomplishments.

Our Diabetes Alert program was started in 2013 and since then over 80 Diabetes Alert Dog Guide teams have graduated from LFCDG.

This month we celebrate all our Diabetes Alert Dog Guide teams and how far they've come!

World Diabetes Day is Tuesday, November 14th



Graduate Corner

Diabetes Alert Dog Bonnie Saves the Day

By Instructor Nicky Uliana

Camille received her Diabetes Alert Dog, Bonnie, in 2022. Since then, they have returned home together in Quebec, and have proven to be a remarkable team.

One day, Camille was home alone and her Dexcom was charging. A Dexcom is a device used by people with diabetes to monitor their glucose levels, and it can be very dangerous for them to go without it. Camille also has hypoglycemic unawareness, meaning she can't feel when her blood sugars drop, making it even more dangerous for her to go without a Dexcom device. Due to the Dexcom charging, Camille had to go without her device for 2 hours, meaning she was unaware of her glucose levels.

When Camille and Bonnie walked into her room, Bonnie began to alert Camille by nudging her nose against Camille's leg. However, Camille felt fine due to her hypoglycemic unawareness, and thought that maybe Bonnie was trying to get some extra treats. Camille ignored Bonnie's alerts, but Bonnie continued to persistently nudge Camille against her leg, insisting she check her blood sugar levels. Bonnie had gotten so frustrated with Camille not listening to her, that Bonnie went and fetched Camille's blood testing kit, on her own without being asked, in order to force her to check her levels. As Bonnie approached Camille, she collapsed to the ground and became unresponsive. Bonnie, being the brilliant girl she is, began to bark for help to get someone's attention to help Camille. Camille's neighbour is aware that Bonnie is a Diabetes Alert Dog, and if she is barking then there is an emergency in the home. Bonnie barked for over 5 minutes, until the neighbour ran inside Camille's home and found her passed out on the floor. Her neighbour called 911, and when EMS arrived Bonnie refused to leave Camille's side and remained concerned for her well-being.

Camille is now okay thanks to Bonnie's persistence and quick thinking. Way to go Bonnie for keeping Camille safe!



Public Access Barriers Survey

The Seeing Eye, a philanthropic organization located in the U.S., whose mission is to enhance the independence, dignity, and self-confidence of blind people through the use of Seeing Eye® dogs is conducting an online survey to learn more about the public access barriers Canine Vision Dog Guide teams are facing as they go about their daily lives and the impact of those barriers.

The survey targets:

- People who are blind or low vision
- People who currently work with a Dog Guide
- People who are waiting for a Dog Guide

Please visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/SeeingEye_Access to access the survey. The survey will remain open November 30, 2023.

We invite all Canine Vision Dog Guide to share their experiences.



Did You Know - Harmful Effects of Smoking on Dogs

We are all aware that smoking can have harmful effects on one's health, even secondhand smoke can be dangerous to others, but have you thought of how it can affect dogs? Smoking cigarettes, e-cigarettes and marijuana all pose a risk to our canine friends.

Secondhand smoke from cigarettes and vaping is just as harmful to dogs as it is to humans. Living with someone who smokes puts dogs at a greater risk of many health problems like eye infections, allergies, respiratory issues and cancer. Smoke from marijuana can also be irritating to dogs. Dogs who inhale a lot of smoke could develop signs of toxicity or marijuana poisoning. Signs could be lethargy, vomiting, tremors, dilated pupils and urinary incontinence. They breathe the same air that we do, so it is important that they live in a healthy environment.

Dogs may also be at risk of consuming discarded cigarette butts, e-cigarettes or marijuana. A cigarette contains over 7,000 chemicals, many of which are toxic. Accidentally consuming marijuana can also be harmful to your dog and can lead to sickness too. However, ingesting liquid nicotine is the most dangerous because tobacco is so concentrated. If a dog accidentally ingests an e-cigarette cartridge containing this liquid, it can quickly absorb in the gastrointestinal tract and cause serious problems. It is important that you seek emergency veterinary care for your dog if this happens.

If consuming marijuana, it is best to do so outside away from your dog. As well, always properly discard cigarettes/ e-cigarettes and do not leave remnants lying around.

It is important that we take the necessary precautions to keep a safe, smoke free environment for future Dog Guides and working Dog Guides.



Thank You for Your Service

By Service Dog Graduate Tammy Walsh

We are working on a new addition to the newsletters thanking Dog Guides that have passed away or have retired to recognize their years of service. Moving forward, we will recognize these Dog Guides on our newsletter in our August and December newsletters. This new idea was brought forth by Service Dog Guide graduate Tammy Walsh. Earlier this year she retired her Service Dog Guide, Kiwi. This idea means a lot to her:

"In a graduate's eyes, retirement is the end of a working team. Maybe because of health issues or sudden loss of life. Regardless of the reason, I believe that each and every dog should be mentioned and be celebrated as they all deserve to be thanked for their service!"

Shortly after graduation, I realized that our dogs are all superheroes. Our dogs are similar but also unique in how they fit into our lives. The similarities to our dogs are that each and every one of them, in some way, change our lives, but they also save our lives!

For example, thanks to Autism Assistance dogs, families can now do tasks like going out to get groceries, go to sporting events, and family time can be spent as a family and for the first time in, however long, their child will sleep the whole night because of their dog! Diabetes Alert Dog Guides allow a person to safely go about their day, knowing that having their dog beside them to alert them that their sugar is dropping before they even know it, changes and saves a life.

For me in the Service dog program, I received Kiwi 30 years post injury, which left me unable to walk and needing to use a wheelchair for the rest of my life. I had no idea how bringing this dog into my life would change me forever. It's not just picking items I've dropped, opening a door, helping me make the bed, do the laundry, but she opened up my world, and I got to know the people in my neighborhood thanks to Kiwi. I was afraid that having a Service Dog Guide by my side would bring more attention to the disability, when in fact it did the total opposite.

Having Kiwi by my side brought people over to ask questions and have conversations with me that would never have taken place if I did not have her. She was the catalyst for those conversations. This incredible, intelligent, beautiful, standard poodle has saved my life, literally twice. First, when she scared off a coyote that I had no idea was following us, and the second time, Kiwi alerted me when we were out for our walk that someone was behind me attempting to get into my backpack that was on the back of my chair. Kiwi has also gone to get help when my wheelchair has gotten stuck. I could go on and on about what Kiwi has done for me but I'm afraid that would take far too long!

I hope that this will be a welcome addition to the newsletter so that everyone who receives it, whether they be a foster, grad, Lion, volunteer, or donor will see and hopefully understand that our dogs are not just dogs, they are “just the dogs that save and change lives” and that’s why when they retire, they should be celebrated and recognized for their dedicated service!”

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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

@dominothedad

Diabetes Alert Dog Guide team
Marieve & Domino

@compassionatecanine_ireland Diabetic

Facility Support Dog with Train RCMP
Victim Services



dominothedad
Downtown Oakville



dominothedad Training last week in
Oakville 🌻 #dtoakville



compassionatecanine_ireland



compassionatecanine_ireland Ireland

LFCDG Happenings

Canine Vision Program Update

We are excited to share that the Canine Vision program will be opening their waitlist from November 13 until November 27, 2023. During those dates, people that are blind or visually impaired and are interested in receiving a Canine Vision Dog Guide that is a Labrador Retriever or Golden Retriever, will be able to submit an Expression of Interest. If you're interested in applying, visit our website and read the [Discovery Package](#) for more information on the applicant journey.

Once you've reviewed the Discovery Package document, applicants will be able to submit an expression of interest.

Currently, we have 15 spaces available on our waitlist. If we receive more expressions of interest than available spots on the 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 the waitlist reopens to reapply.

If you're not able to complete the Expression of Interest online, please contact our client services team for support at client-services@dogguides.com

Please note that waitlists 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.



New Scholarship Program

Give the gift of education and help change lives!

LFCDG has some exciting news to share that will make a difference in the lives of those we serve. We are introducing the Dog Guides Scholarship program, a new way you can choose to give to support our mission.

The Dog Guide Scholarship Program helps cover a portion of the \$35,000 that it takes to raise, train, and ultimately match a Dog Guide with a recipient. The entire process takes up to two years. Scholarships help cover the cost of

Dog Guides' breeding, training, veterinary care, as well as the transportation and accommodation for the new recipient while in residence at the national Oakville, Ontario training school. This support will help the Dog Guide team be partners for as long as 10 years, with a lifetime of follow-up services. It's a gift that paves the way to a brighter future.

For more information about this new program please visit [Dog Guides Scholarship - Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides](#).



Empowering Four Lives to Unstoppable Heights this Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is all about making someone smile, helping strangers and providing help to those that need it – a Dog Guide does all of that and more. It makes people unstoppable.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 28th, as we come together to embrace Giving Tuesday, the world's largest generosity movement. Together, on this day, LFCDG will aim to raise a total of \$140,000 and empower four lives to unstoppable heights by providing them with a Dog Guide each.



Thanks to the kindness of Frank Apa from Lexus of Oakville, donations on Giving Tuesday will be matched up to \$20,000. This means whatever you choose to give on Giving Tuesday will be doubled!

Frank and Lexus of Oakville have supported this initiative for the past seven years. Since then, Lexus of Oakville has donated over \$85,000 to the Giving Tuesday campaign which has raised over \$605,000. We thank them for all their generosity over the years. We could not do it without them!

Join us on Giving Tuesday and keep an eye on our social media channels for inspiring stories that illuminate the profound significance of this extraordinary day. Be part of something truly empowering and make a lasting impact on this Giving Tuesday.

Volunteer Corner

Coming Soon - New Volunteer Opportunities!

At LFCDG, there are lots of ways that you can choose to get involved. Volunteer opportunities can include helping in the office, working with puppies or Dog Guides in training at our Oakville or Breslau facilities. A new volunteer section on our website is coming soon. Stay tuned!

Raise a Puppy, Change a Life.

Yvonne Schmiedendorf has dedicated her time as a foster for LFCDG for many years. She has always loved dogs and thought fostering would be a good fit for her. Twenty-two years and thirty-one foster puppies later, she has not looked back!

"Fostering has brought me a lot of dogs, a lot of puppies, joy and an overwhelming sense of community," says Yvonne.

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is looking for foster families to take in future Dog Guide poodle and labs/golden crosses puppies and help raise them.

Yvonne knows how rewarding it is to work with puppies. All of her foster puppies have been poodles. They are a great choice for people who have allergies, since they do not shed - Yvonne's reason for getting her first poodle puppy, but now they have become her breed of choice.

"The best part is picking up a tiny puppy and then giving back a mature confident dog, all ready to learn to be a superhero. It feels so gratifying to help others."

Visit [Foster Puppy Program - Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides](#) if you are interested in becoming a foster. People who live close proximity to Kitchener/Guelph and GTA are welcome to apply. Food and veterinary expenses are all covered by the foundation and its feeding partner, Pet Valu.



Congratulations Indie on your Retirement

LFCDG breeder Indie is celebrating his retirement!

Indie has had a tremendous impact at Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides over the years. He has fathered 200 future Dog Guide puppies and 45 puppies for other service dog organizations through cooperative breeding arrangement. His puppies have gone on to graduate from all seven Dog Guide programs, be placed with Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and become breeders themselves.

Thank you, Indie, for making such a wonderful difference in the lives of so many. A big thank you to Patti Tutt for fostering him during his career.



Donor Recognition

Canine Vision Program Donation to honour mom

Jill Thompson wanted to do something to honour her 96-year-old mom, Marian Thompson. Jill's donation to the Canine Vision Dog Program was influenced by her mom's struggle with being blind in one eye and having low vision in her other eye, along with Jill's love of dogs.

Jill's mom grew up fearful of dogs all her life, but when Jill was 8 years old and told her mom she "couldn't live this life without a dog", Marian knew it was time to overcome her fear. As it turned out when they got their first dog, a golden retriever named Vixen, Marian was the one who ultimately took care of her and nursed her through a major sickness. She was the family pet for more than 11 years.



Jill's first-time donation to LFCDG of \$200,000 will help many for years to come. The donation includes purchasing a van for the program which will be used for training and team outings for future Canine Vision classes, and towards full scholarships for four Canine Vision teams.

Jill has also enrolled to become a foster! She has her mom on board as she spends lots of time with her and will want to bring the puppy along.

"I am always in awe when I see Dog Guides with their partners, and it amazes me the astounding impact these dogs have in so many people's lives."



One of the sponsored dogs will be a Canine Vision Dog Guide named Birksy, in honour of Jill's mom. There were three "Marians" in Jill's mom's nursing class, so they were given nicknames using their surnames, adding a "y" in this case. Jill and her mom are excited to meet Birksy and the person who will be receiving her. Jill also looks forward to meeting the future partners of the other three dogs.

We are so grateful for Jill's support. Thank you so much for all you have contributed to the organization!

Green Capes Dog Guide Puppy Calendar

Did you know that this stunningly beautiful calendar featuring adorable Dog Guide puppies, launched in 2018, is on target to raise over half a million dollars by the end of the year.

The Green Capes Lions Club is a specialty club dedicated to supporting the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. It is made up of puppy raisers, graduates of LFCDG's training programs and volunteers from coast to coast. Each member is passionate about helping others live safer and more independent lives. Through a strong network of volunteers and partnerships with other Lions Clubs and schools across Canada, Green Capes offers a beautiful, full-color, annual Dog Guide Puppy Calendar for sale to the public that is packed with testimonials and information about the school and the amazing benefits these dogs bring to recipients of Dog Guides.

Calendars are sold by members of the Green Capes Lions Club, foster families, graduates, and a growing list of schools and partner Lions Clubs in almost every province. You can even purchase them at the gift shop in the Oakville building. If you (or your Lions Club) are interested in buying (or helping sell!) calendars, joining the Super Pup volunteers or even becoming a Green Capes member, please email hello@greencapes.com or visit the website (<https://greencapes.com>) and let us know.

