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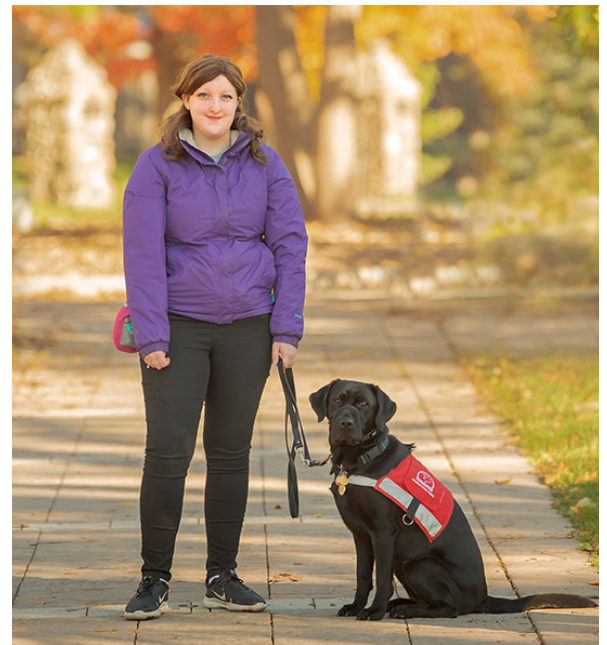
Hearing Dog Guide Team Maddie and Echo Take on University Together

Maddie and Hearing Dog Guide Echo have been a team since the summer of 2021 and having Echo has “completely transformed” her life.

Echo entered a pivotal moment of Maddie’s life, just before she was going into university. Maddie and Echo worked hard together that summer and bonded with each other before attending their first in-person classes. Since then, Echo has attended many classes with Maddie, from lecture halls to theatre/ studio classes. Today, she is in her fourth year and is set to graduate soon, with Echo by her side.

“Echo has completely transformed my life, in more ways than one,” Maddie says. “I am much more confident doing things by myself, like going to classes or shopping. I don’t have to be hyperaware of my surroundings anymore, she is my ears, she’s looking out for me in the same way that I am looking out for her. She’s helped me get through a lot of tough times, and I don’t know what my life would look like or who I would be if I didn’t have Echo.

I am extremely grateful for Echo and for everyone involved in helping us be matched. These dogs allow us to exist in a world that was not built for people with disabilities. They allow us to have confidence and independence, they protect us and love us unconditionally. Thank you to everyone that brought Echo and I together. You have changed my life.”



Duncan Gives the Gift of Independence to Kyler and his Family

Autism Assistance Dog Guide Duncan gives Kyler and his family a new world of independence. With Duncan, they are able to do just about anything, like go on outings to the beach, walks in the park, or go shopping. Duncan has even started attending school with Kyler, which has helped him so much. Duncan keeps Kyler safe at school and in busy areas.

"Our lives have changed so much for the better since we got Duncan," says Megan Payne, Kyler's mother. "We all feel more relieved that we can all go places, and we don't have to worry. Words can't express how much of an impact Duncan has had."



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



keepingpupwithharris

🎵 Daniel Summer · Medieval Times



dexter_the_srd



If you graduated from LFCDG and live in Toronto, John is looking to start a play/walk group. Please follow and message him if you are interested. You can message us if you do not have Instagram and we will connect you both.

LFCDG Happenings

LFCDG Achieves Accreditation from Imagine Canada's Standards

LFCDG was recently re-accredited by Imagine Canada's Standards, a testament to our ongoing commitment to operational excellence. We are immensely proud to remain an integral part of a distinguished community of non-profit organizations dedicated to upholding the highest standards of service and efficiency.

Imagine Canada's Standards are designed to elevate organizational excellence and transparency within charities and nonprofits. The goal is to foster resilience and bolster public confidence in both individual organizations and the sector as a whole. The accreditation process involves meeting 73 rigorous standards spanning financial management and accountability, fundraising, board governance, human resources, and volunteer involvement.



Diabetes Alert Dog Guide Program Waitlist Now Open

We are excited to share that the Diabetes Alert program has opened up its waitlist from February 2nd until February 16th. During those dates, people that are interested in receiving a Diabetes Alert Dog Guide that is a Labrador Retriever or Golden Retriever, will be able to submit an Expression of Interest.

The [Diabetes Alert program](#) assists Canadians (16 years or older) diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes with hypoglycemic unawareness. Diabetes Alert Dog Guides are trained to detect sudden drops in their handler's blood sugar and alert them.



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

Seizure Response Dog Guide Program Opening Soon

Starting on March 4th, 2024 at 9 am (EST), LFCDG will be reopening the waitlist for the [Seizure Response Program](#). If you're interested in applying, please visit our website and read the Discovery Package for this program.

Please note that waitlists are currently closed for other programs. We will, however, continue to accept re-applications from our successor clients who have previously had a Dog Guide from us.

Dog Guides in the News

Foster Puppy Love: Finding Homes for Future Dog Guides

On Thursday, January 4th, a few 8-week-old poodle puppies were picked up from the foundation to start their journeys as future Dog Guides. Watch our latest puppy pickup day and learn more about fostering future Dog Guides. [CTV](#) and CBC came to the facility to film the moments.

Adorable Puppies with Jobs need Foster Families

Director of Marketing and Communications Maria Galindo talks about the potential future Dog Guide Rosie has and how foster families are critical to their success. To watch the interview visit [msn.com](https://www.msn.com).



Career Changed Dog Jerri is looking for his Forever Home

Hey, it's Jerri! I'm a lively 2-year-old lab filled with 60lbs of pure fun! Right now, I'm on the lookout for a loving home because, well, I've got a bit of an issue with impulse control, and I tend to get a tad possessive of my toys around other dogs.

Playtime is my ultimate joy, and sharing... not my strongest suit. I've got this crate thing down to an art - it's my go-to spot for comfy naps and when you have to leave the house. You should know that I'm a curious guy, and every now and then, I'll sneak a peek to see if there are any tasty snacks on the counter. I apologize, sometimes my nose gets the best of me! Growing up with teenagers was so much fun! I would love it if my new home had some older kids that I could play with. I just ask no little ones as sometimes my excitement is too much and I don't want to knock anyone over!



As I mentioned earlier, I never got the whole "sharing is caring" idea, so a home that I can be the only dog would be great! Did I mention I'm a puzzle whiz? Put a food puzzle in front of me and I'll figure it out in no time! Car rides? Count me in! Throw me in a car and I'm ready for any adventure you may have in store. I've been told I'm a pretty funny guy, so if you give me the chance I promise to keep you laughing until your stomach hurts. If you're ready for a lifetime of joy, I'm ready to make it happen.

To learn more about Jerri or other dogs available for adoption, please visit our [website](#) or email careerchange@dogguides.com

Upcoming Events

We have some great events coming up this spring. Please see below and mark them in your calendars!

Spring Open House

This spring's open house will be taking place at our Oakville facility. Learn about our Dog Guide programs and how to get involved and talk with staff and clients about the Dog Guide journey.

Date: April 6 2023

Time: 9:30 am – 3 pm

Location: 152 Wilson St. Oakville, ON



Spring Graduation

Celebrate LFCDG's mission in action and watch our Spring graduation on Wednesday, April 24th at 7pm (EST) on Dog Guides' [YouTube Channel](#).

We hope you will join us to celebrate with our clients, volunteers, donors, and staff!



National Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides is Sunday, May 26th, 2024

This year's Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides will be held in communities across Canada on Sunday, May 26th. Help us raise \$1.6 million for our four-legged superheroes! Please visit www.walkfordogguides.com to register.



Contact us • www.dogguides.com



Donor Recognition

New year, new planning – take advantage of Will Power to ensure your future and legacy are protected

With the start of a new year, it's always a good time to get a head start on your financial planning and review your Will.

LFCDG has partnered with the Will Power national movement which makes it easier for Canadians to leave a bequest to the causes that matter most to them. Will Power has some valuable tools to help you plan for the future. See how your Will can make a bigger contribution than you ever thought possible with their easy-to-use calculator tool: [Calculate Your Legacy to Support Causes and Loved Ones - Will Power](#)

Please visit Will Power to learn more about Dog Guides and the difference a bequest can make - [Find Charities to Support with Your Legacy - Will Power](#)



Hearing Dog Guide Team Sharon and Eden Give Back as Monthly Donors

Are you a regular supporter of the work at Dog Guides? Become one of our Guardians! A monthly gift is an easy way to take your regular gifts and increase their impact. The [Dog Guides Guardians](#) monthly giving program is seamless for our donors and has a low administrative overhead for us – a win-win! Dog Guides Guardians get the benefit of automatic donations while knowing that their gift goes each month to help match more life-changing Dog Guides to people who need them.

Like Hearing Dog Guide Eden who is matched with Sharon – who is also a Dog Guides Guardian! Sharon tells us “Eden was a life changer for me, especially when I lost most of my hearing completely. I am so grateful to LFCDG. It was an amazing experience training with Eden. The foundation has always been so supportive. Eden is my life! I can live alone and keep my independence. I love taking her out in public as she still gets many compliments for her good behaviour. Everyone loves her!”



By becoming a Dog Guides Guardian, you don't just change lives; you change them one paw at a time, one month at a time. Become a Dog Guides Guardian today and help make miracles for those who need it most.

[Become a Dog Guides Guardian Today!](#)

Pawsitivity Grant Recognition

We would like to recognize the following donors for their contributions to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Thank you for all your support and making endless pawsibilities happen!

- Whitearn Foundation
- Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
- The Marilyn Neaves Charitable Foundation Trust
- Alice and Murray Maitland Foundation
- Dr. Charles & Margaret Brown Foundation
- The Fenella Foundation

Volunteer Corner

Fostering is truly a life changing experience for all involved

Anna Harris is new to fostering, but after raising future Dog Guide Enya, she's hooked! She is on her second foster puppy Harper. Her first foster puppy Enya is now training at LFCDG.

Anna first heard about fostering from family friends who are now fostering their 8th dog. She loved helping socialize and train a puppy that would change a life as a working dog. Anna also has a senior black Labrador retriever at home and thought bringing a puppy into their home would help keep him engaged and energetic in his golden years. It has done just that, and so much more.

"Reading the success stories and hearing about the profound changes working dogs make in their person's' lives is what inspires me to foster," says Anna. To think that I helped my dogs along in their journey from goofy pups to working dogs makes me beyond proud. These pups are true superheroes."

Foster families are responsible for teaching basic skills and obedience to future Dog Guide puppies. Volunteers will provide puppies with a loving home until they are ready to attend Dog Guides University.

"Fostering is truly a life changing experience," says Anna. "It has taught me so much about myself, connected me to an amazing community of like-minded dog lovers, and given me

the gift of watching these little pups grow up. It is so special to watch a brand-new puppy learn, grow and experience all of their firsts. Both of my puppies have taught me so much about practice, patience, and loving and letting go. If you are thinking of fostering, I highly recommend it.”

If you are interested in fostering, please visit Foster Puppy Program to learn more. All vet, food and training expenses are covered by LFCDG, and all fosters will receive full training and support.



Do you want to help prepare Diabetes Alert Dog Guides for their careers?

LFCDG is looking for volunteers who have Type 1 Diabetes to participate in this program. They must be willing to bring home a Diabetes Alert Dog Guide in training nearing the completion of their training for approximately 7-14 days. This is a vital step in the training process to test the in-training Diabetes Alert Dog Guides’ ability to alert to live lows in a home environment. Dogs are fully trained and have completed extensive obedience training.

This is a rare chance for volunteers to help directly train our dogs. Please visit our [website](#) to read more about the opportunity and volunteer requirements.

Litter Updates

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 10 new LFCDG puppies. Welcome to the Dog Guide world little ones!

- Z Litter: Ojai and Ozzy – 10 puppies born January 8, 2024

Would you be interested in helping us raise these little pups? We're currently looking for fosters that live in the GTA, Hamilton, Niagara, Kitchener and Guelph. Foster families play a crucial role in setting up a future Dog Guide puppy for success. To apply to become a Foster Family to a future Dog Guide puppy, visit the [Foster Puppy Program](#) web page.