

April 2026



LFCDG Happenings

Independence Restored: Natalie & Phoebe's Story

With just two months to go until our biggest national fundraiser — the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides — now is the time to get involved.

By registering or donating, you help ensure Dog Guides are provided at no cost to Canadians with disabilities. With 1 in 4 Canadian adults and over 118,000 children living with disabilities, your support has never been more important.

Join Natalie — and help change lives. Register or donate at www.walkfordogguides.com

Meet Natalie and her Dog Guide, Phoebe

Natalie, a 31-year-old Métis artist, lives with type 1 diabetes. After losing the ability to feel when her blood sugar dropped, everyday activities became stressful and unsafe.

That changed when she was matched with her Diabetes Alert Dog Guide, Phoebe.

"Phoebe has given me back my independence and peace of mind. Something as simple as walking to the mall alone now feels possible again. I feel calm, confident and safe."

Natalie walks in the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides so others can experience that same freedom.



Global Accessibility Awareness Day

Global Accessibility Awareness Day on May 21 offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the importance of creating inclusive, accessible spaces for all. We see this commitment come to life through our growing partnerships across the air travel sector.

We are proud to continue our collaboration with Toronto Pearson International Airport, where our staff works alongside the Passenger Care team to help enhance the travel experience for individuals with disabilities. Through monthly, hands-on training sessions Dog Guides gain real-world exposure to airport environments—navigating security, practicing boarding procedures and becoming comfortable with the sights and sounds of travel.

We're especially excited to expand this work with our first session with Air Canada launching in April, we are thrilled to further support training that allows Dog Guides to experience aircraft environments firsthand—an important step in preparing for confident, independent travel.

Together, these partnerships represent a shared commitment to accessibility, innovation, and continuous learning. We are deeply grateful to the teams at Toronto Pearson, WestJet and Air Canada for their collaboration and leadership as we work toward a more accessible travel experience for all.



Leave a Legacy Month – Become a Dog Guide Legacy Leader

This May, join Canadians across the country in celebrating Leave a Legacy Month. It's a chance to think about the difference you can make, not just today, but for generations to come. Leaving a gift in your Will celebrates a life well-lived and reflects what matters most to you. By including a gift in your Will to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, you can help change lives by enhancing independence for those living with disabilities. No matter the size of gift, your legacy is one worth remembering.

A Dog Guide Legacy Leader is someone supporting the future training and placement of Dog Guides at no cost to Canadians living with disabilities by including LFCDG in their Will. The future placement of a Dog Guide from one of our seven distinct programs ensures the Dog Guide Handler can navigate their world with confidence and independence.

If you would like to learn more about the Dog Guide Legacy program, please visit <https://www.dogguides.com/legacy/> or email legacygiving@dogguides.com. We look forward to celebrating with you!

For me, giving back to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides by making a bequest is a natural choice, as I've benefited from my Hearing Dog Guide, Sparrow, for over a year now, and I can truly say it has changed my life!

This Foundation does wonderful work providing Dog Guides to many Canadians through seven different programs. Let's support this Foundation together!" - Pierre, A Legacy Leader



Grad Corner

Celebrate Recent Graduates!

We were proud to celebrate over 20 graduate teams in December and March.

If you missed the ceremonies, you can catch up anytime on our [YouTube channel](#).



Dog Guide Programs Update

How Seizure Response Dog Guides Support Independence

At LFCDG, one of our seven programs is the Seizure Response Dog Guide (SRD) program—designed to support Canadians living with epilepsy. SRDs are specially trained to assist their handlers before, during and after a seizure, helping to create a greater sense of safety and independence in daily life.

Each SRD is trained to respond in ways that meet their handler's unique needs. These Dog Guides are trained to bark in response to a seizure, go and get someone inside the home, fetch a medical kit, and provide comfort during a recovery period. Beyond these critical responses, SRDs also perform everyday skills that support independence—both at home and in the community.

Through partnership and trust, SRD teams build life-changing connections—empowering individuals to navigate their world with greater confidence.

Smoking Policy

If you are new to applying for a Dog Guide or considering reapplying for a successor Dog Guide, please take note of the following updates.

Information about the application process can be found in the discovery packages on our website under “Dog Guide Programs”. To protect the health of our Dog Guides, Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG) only places dogs in smoke-free homes. This means that applicants who smoke must commit to not smoking in the home where the Dog Guide would reside as well as not smoking with the Dog Guide by their side. This includes smoking, vaping, and smoking/vaping medicinal marijuana.

Please contact our client service staff if you have any questions about this information, client-services@dogguides.com or (905) 842-2891.



Volunteer corner

Foster Families Needed

Love dogs and want to make a meaningful difference? Become a foster family with Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

Foster families care for future Dog Guide puppies during their first year, helping them build the foundation they need for training. From basic obedience to socialization, fosters play a vital role by introducing puppies to everyday environments like restaurants, shopping malls and public transit.

We're currently looking for approximately 30 foster families within an hour of our Oakville or Breslau (Guelph) locations, including Oakville, Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara, Guelph and Kitchener-Waterloo.

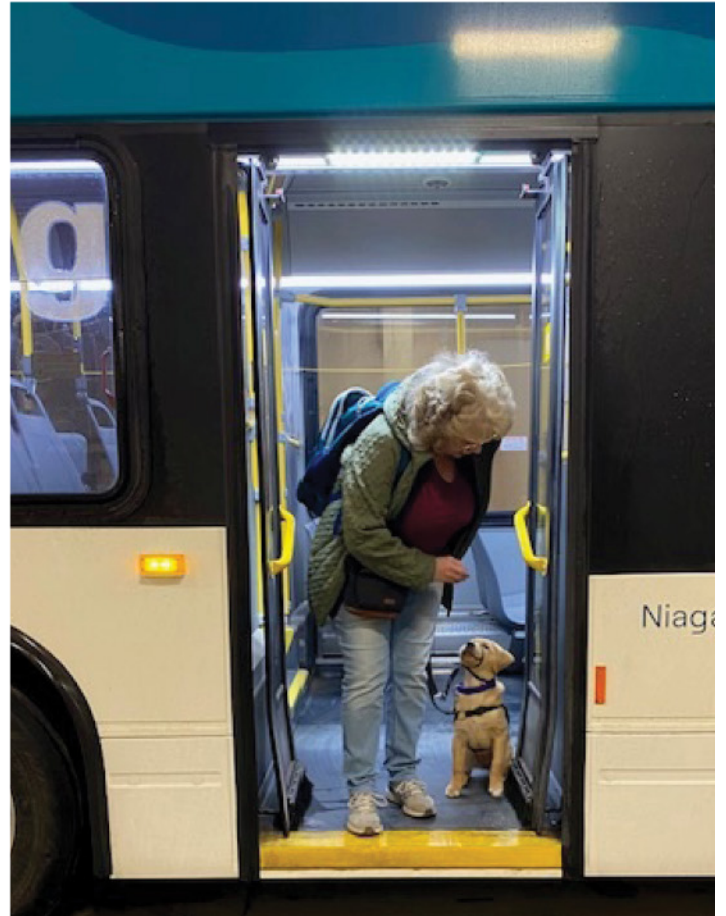
[Learn more and apply.](#)



Thank you, Niagara Transit!

Hands-on experiences are essential for our puppies' success. Thanks to Niagara Transit, our foster puppies and families had the opportunity to practice key skills like boarding the bus, using the ramp and staying calm during a full ride.

Experiences like these help prepare our puppies for their future roles — thank you, Niagara Transit, for your support!



Litter Update

We're excited to share the arrival of several new puppies who have joined the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides family. Welcome to the world, little ones!

B Litter: Rockette (black lab/golden X) and Freddy (yellow lab) – 7 puppies born October 7th – 3 black females and 4 black males

C Litter: Rhumba (black lab) and Taco (yellow lab) – 4 puppies born November 13th – 1 black female, 1 black male, and 2 yellow males

D Litter: Willow (yellow lab) and Pippen (yellow lab) – 9 puppies born December 3rd – 5 yellow females and 4 yellow males

E Litter: Dinah (black lab) and PADS Steller (yellow lab) – 3 puppies born Jan 16th – 1 yellow female, 1 yellow male, and 1 black male

F Litter: Truffle (black lab) and Ollie (golden retriever) – 7 puppies born February 4th – 2 black females, 1 yellow female, 3 black males, and 1 yellow male

If you live within 45 minutes of our Oakville or Guelph facilities and would like to get involved, please [apply online](#). Thank you for helping us prepare the next generation of Dog Guides.

