



# Guiding Eyes for the Blind



**“ Having him is liberating for me. I can walk around by myself. I’m able to go out and know I’ll be safe. ”**  
— Sydney + Guide Dog Vaughn



## Our Mission

**To provide guide dogs to people with vision loss. We are passionate about connecting exceptional dogs with individuals for greater independence.**

Guiding Eyes is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides all services completely free of charge. We rely upon the contributions of our generous donors to fulfill our mission.

We work out of our Headquarters and Training Center in Yorktown Heights, New York, and our Canine Development Center in Patterson, New York.

Our Puppy Raisers are located along the Eastern Seaboard, stretching from Maine to North Carolina, and west to Ohio.

Regional Guide Dog Mobility Instructors are located throughout the United States to help support the ongoing relationship with each graduate.



**Guiding Eyes is an accredited member of the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF), the organization that establishes worldwide standards for the breeding and training of guide dogs.**



# Our Programs

## Genetics & Breeding

Guiding Eyes employs a data-driven approach that helps to promote genetic diversity and ensure that each generation of guide dogs is improving over time.

## Socialization

From birth to 12 weeks, we acclimate our pups to the sights, sounds, social interactions, and early training that will maximize their potential to be a guide dog.

## Hockmeyer Puppy Pavilion

At age 6-9 weeks, our puppies transition to the Hockmeyer Puppy Pavilion, where they continue to build upon the progressive lessons taught by staff and volunteers.

## Puppy Raising

Puppies selected as potential future guide dogs move to loving volunteer homes for 12 to 18 months, where they learn socialization, house manners, and basic obedience.

## Brood & Stud Fostering

Brood/Stud fosters and sitters care for the health, well-being, and happiness of our breeding dogs, who ensure the future of our programs.

## Veterinary Services

We operate two state-of-the-art veterinary hospitals through our main campus in Yorktown Heights, NY and our Canine Development Center in Patterson, NY.

## Kennel Enrichment

Our staff and volunteers provide a healthy combination of exercise and rest to stimulate our dogs' minds, enhance their lives and prevent stress during on-campus training.



# The Journey of a Guiding Eyes Dog



## Training Our Guide Dogs

Dogs in training are assigned to a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor, who will develop a relationship with each dog as they refine their training for approximately five months.

## Caring for Our Students

As part of our personal approach, our nursing, dining, and activities staff members keep students connected, comfortable and safe during our program.

## Birth

Puppies are born at the Canine Development Center in Patterson, New York.



## Birth to 8 Weeks

Puppies receive early training and socialization.



## 8 Weeks to 16 Months

Puppies learn key skills from volunteer puppy raisers.



## 16 Months to 22 Months

Dogs join Guide Dog Mobility Instructors in Yorktown Heights, New York to learn guide work.



## 22 Months to 8-10 Years

Dogs are matched and live with people who are blind as guides until retirement.



# Guiding Eyes By the Numbers

**We were founded in 1954 to provide exceptional guide dogs to people with vision loss.**

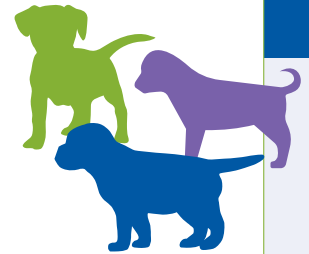
We estimate that more than 10,000 service dog teams have graduated since our founding.

All of our services are provided free of charge to people who are blind or visually impaired.

Guiding Eyes does not depend on government funding. Our support comes almost entirely from individuals and philanthropic organizations.

**Nearly 500 pups are born annually.**

On average, 92% are Labrador Retrievers. 8% are German Shepherds.



**Approximately 150 guide dogs are placed annually.**



**More than 1,700 volunteers support our mission.**



**Approximately 1,000 Guiding Eyes dogs actively work as service animals for people with vision loss in any given year.**

# Get Involved

## Donor Opportunities

Any donation is welcome! Special opportunities to support our mission include:

### **\$500 to \$2,000**

Personalize a leaf or stone from our “Honor Tree” for a beloved pet or person

### **\$1,000**

Sponsor a graduation ceremony

### **\$1,000 to \$2,500**

Dedicate a cute paw on our “Paws of Fame” wall to honor a loved one

### **\$5,000**

Special Name a Guiding Eyes puppy

### **\$10,000**

Sponsor the home or on-campus training of a guide dog team

### **\$50,000**

Sponsor a Guiding Eyes handler-guide dog team, from breeding through training

### **Pathfinder Society**

Become a Pathfinder by including Guiding Eyes in your estate plans

## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are a vital part of the Guiding Eyes community. Ways to become involved include:

### **Campus Volunteers**

Everything from providing kennel assistance to working in our offices

### **Puppy Raising**

Provide a home for a pup, teach basic skills, and attend training classes

### **Foster a Brood/Stud**

Provide a permanent home for a brood or stud dog

### **Early Training & Socialization**

Help our pups learn confidence and resilience

### **Home Socialization**

Introduce pups to new sights, sounds, and people for 3-5 days

### **Home Litter Care**

Host a mom and litter of future guide dog puppies for up to 5 weeks

**Visit the Ways to Give and Volunteer sections on our website or contact Guiding Eyes to learn more.**



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Guiding Eyes for the Blind is a leading nonprofit guide dog school with 501(c)(3) status.