



Fellow Lions,

I want to wish each and every Lion a prosperous New Year (and that also includes fund raising projects). Starting out the New Year will be this multiple page - should I say Bulletin – hmmm – oh well, Leader Dog information that you might enjoy reading. I have tried to hit as many bases that I could, from puppy raising, to letters from Leader Dog recipients, an article on Deaf-Blind Program to Veterans, GPS to dog health and a little bit more. I hope you will enjoy. Here again – Please **PASS ON TO YOUR CLUB MEMBERS** the below information, there might be someone out there that would be interested in learning more.

Also, for general info, I will be taking another important position within MD-18. That way, you will hear more from me in the future. Isn't that great? I sure can't wait myself. Anyways, please read the info under NEWS just below. You can also go to the following web site <http://www.leaderdog.org/> and find **Lions Clubs** near the top and to the right to get more information. And, just to remind you, please do not forget the “Growing the Dream” and “Kids'nCoins” programs.

Please support your District Leader Dog Chairs within your District - they do not mind giving you a program or send you information. I along with Leader Dog School will also send information upon your request. If there **ARE ANY PROBLEMS - PLEASE** do not hesitate in contacting me, information will appear below. If you have any club members who wish to be added to my email list, send me the information of name, District and email address.

Remember, I am here to provide any assistance I can.

Yours in Lionism,

Ed Hashbarger, PDG
State Leader Dog Chair
edmclionh@bellsouth.net
770-995-0405



N E W S

LCIF Coordinator

Lions Clubs International Foundation is in a position of unprecedented opportunity to build upon the recent success of Campaign SightFirst. To do so an LCIF Development Plan was created, which was approved by the LCIF Board of Trustees at the May 2008 Board Meeting. This plan is designed to strengthen our Foundation, and a critical aspect of the plan is the creation of an enhanced LCIF volunteer structure, similar to that of CSFII.

This enhanced volunteer structure will provide consistently trained and longer-serving LCIF Coordinators in every district and multiple district. These volunteer coordinators will serve as ambassadors of LCIF in all regards and will be supported in their efforts by geographically assigned LCIF Development staff. This change is being undertaken to better serve the needs of Lions and those we serve worldwide. The efforts of these LCIF Coordinators will help increase both awareness of LCIF's work and donations received, allowing Lions to provide greater humanitarian service when needed locally and globally.

These leaders are being appointed and trained during this Lions year (2008-2009) for a four-year term (allowing for some variation to address local needs). Please note that the new LCIF MD and District Coordinators will fill the role formerly served by MD and District LCIF Chairpersons. This new structure will be effective following International Convention in Lions year 2009-2010.

In the coming weeks, the recently appointed LCIF Multiple District Coordinator will be consulting with leaders in the district and multiple district to select LCIF District Coordinators to promote the work of LCIF.

Please give these leaders full support as they prepare to support our Lions Clubs International Foundation. Working together, Lions have the opportunity to build a stronger Foundation and create a better world.

The Mane Event


Nov, 2008
Issue 3

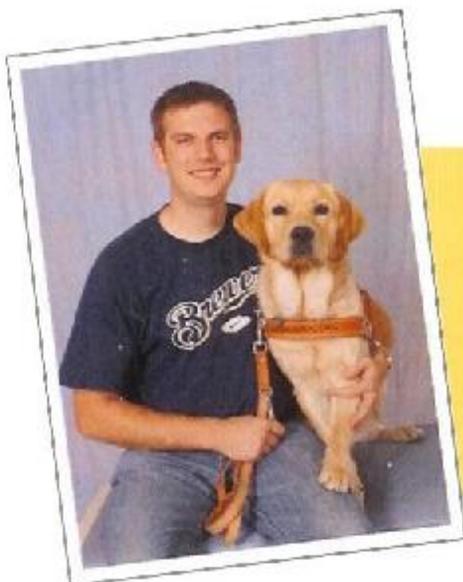
FROM THE DESK OF LION GREG

It was a great experience to meet so many District Governors, Vice District Governors and Leader Dog Chairs over the past several months. This year's Summer Visits went exceptionally well and I'd like to thank everyone that took time away from their families to visit us at Leader Dog. Summer Visits 2009 are already being planned. We'll let you know what will be happening as soon as we have the dates finalized.

This was my first year of Summer Visits and I was very inspired by the commitment and excitement of our Lions partners. Not only were we able to share with you the great things we have been doing at Leader Dog; we received great feedback and many interesting ideas on how we can better help Lions spread the work of LDB and raise funds. We are already taking steps to include some of your ideas on our website and in our recognition programs.

We are all aware that our economy is not thriving. Because LDB relies on 100% philanthropy to continue to offer our life changing programs, we need your support more than ever. Our endowment fund balance has declined resulting in less income to maintain our operating budget. As many of you learned during Summer Visits, we run on a tight budget with little room for cutting expenditures. Consequently, we must rely on donations more than ever. 100% participation in our "70 for 70" recognition program, highlighted in this newsletter, will give us the added budget required to continue offering all our much needed programs such as dog guide, Trekker Breeze GPS, Trekker GPS, Computers and Accelerated Mobility.

I, along with everyone at Leader Dog, wish our Lions partners a safe and warm holiday season. It is through the dedicated support of our donors that we continue our mission of enhancing the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired. Thank you.



Mission Moment

"It's an absolute hindrance not to have a dog.
You definitely need a Leader Dog."

**Lion 'BJ' Blahnik and Leader Dog "Jeb"
Green Bay, Wisconsin**

Revolutionizing Dog Guide Training with Technology

"One of the overriding themes we hear from our students is the anxiety and apprehension of travel in a new environment. For many, the first time using a dog guide combined with travel in a new city creates a situation that makes learning difficult and stressful. We believe we can really enhance the way we provide services by placing a GPS device in every student's hand while in our training program," says Greg Grabowski, president and CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind. "By including a talking navigational device in training, we are revolutionizing the art of dog guide training."

The "we" Grabowski is referring to is Leader Dog and HumanWare, makers of the GPS Trekker Breeze, an audible device that gives step-by-step directions for a programmed route and notifies the user of upcoming streets and landmarks. Together they are launching a completely unprecedented, state-of-the-art approach to dog guide training that fully integrates a talking GPS navigational tool into dog guide classes for people who are blind. "We are pleased to partner with Leader Dog in this initiative that will bring GPS technology benefits to an even wider portion of the visually impaired population," says Gilles Pepin, CEO of HumanWare. "This program is a new chapter of this success story."

In August 2008, Craig Hall returned to Leader Dog to train with his third Leader Dog "Theo." He agreed to test the dog guide/GPS training concept. "I found that I was much less worried about getting lost and could pay more attention to what I was learning. The last time I came to the school I spent a lot of time trying to memorize roads and really focusing on how I would get to places. Using the Breeze in class made me a lot more relaxed and I really enjoyed the experience," reports Hall.

The first entire class to be trained in the use of the device during dog guide training at Leader Dog will arrive on November 15, 2008. After the students complete the 24-day program, 14 of the American students will return home with the Trekker Breeze (several students in the class are from Guatemala and Mexico). These students have been selected to participate in an ongoing study to determine the long-term usability and assess the functionality of the GPS device in their home environment.

"We are sure our newest initiative will dramatically enhance the ease and pleasure of travel for people who are blind and visually impaired. Once we are able to secure funding, we plan to offer every student who comes to our school to receive a Leader Dog a free GPS unit to complete their mobility package," says Grabowski.

For more information on this program, visit the Leader Dogs for the Blind website at www.leaderdog.org/breeze or HumanWare website at www.humanware.com.





Dan and LD "Milo" who retired in October, 2008.

Dedicated Lion, Dedicated Leader Dog User

One thing can definitely be said for Dan Owens, once he finds something he likes, he sticks with it. Two things that Dan holds close to his heart are his Leader Dogs and the Lions.

Dan was diagnosed as legally blind from retinitis pigmentosa in his late 20s. He came to Leader Dog for the first time in 1992 and left with LD "Apollo." In 1993, Dan became involved in his local Lions Clubs helping them to merge two clubs into one—and became the president.

Today, Dan is serving his second term as president of the Greater Falls Run Lions Club in District 24-A (Virginia) which he helped found in 2005. He will be returning to Leader Dog on November 14th to train with his 4th Leader Dog.

Lions Recognition Programs

Leader Dog takes pride in our association with Lions Clubs. To reflect this, we offer a variety of specially tailored recognition programs available only to Lions. Just as Lions are committed to assisting individuals who are blind or visually impaired, we are committed to acknowledging the outstanding fundraising efforts of individual Lions and clubs.

Founders Tribute

This program allows Lions Clubs to honor an individual club member for his or her consummate service, dedication, and commitment to Lionism and Leader Dog. For a special club donation of \$500, the award recipient is given a custom engraved Leader Dog Founders Tribute plaque, a commemorative pin, and patch. Beginning with Lions year 2008-09, Club donations can be "banked" for up to five years to reach the amount needed for the award (donations made before July 1, 2008 do not qualify toward the award).

70 for 70



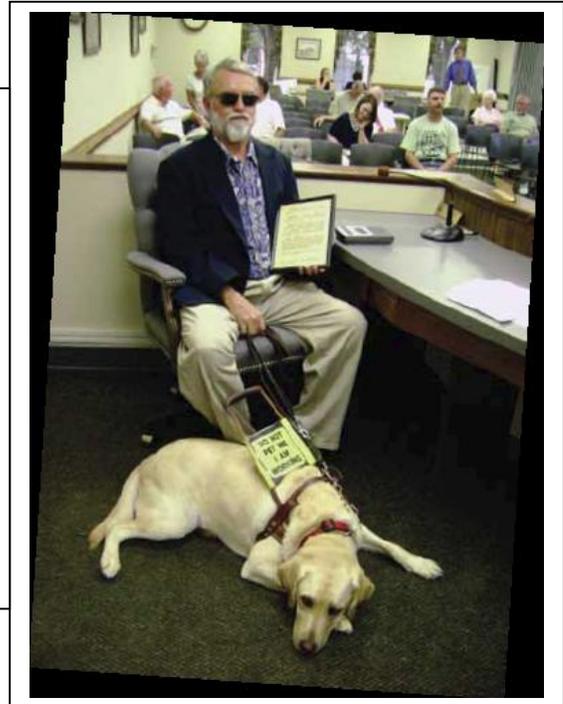
In celebration of Leader Dogs 70th Anniversary, all Lions Clubs making a donation \$70 more than last year's regular club contribution will receive a commemorative "70 for 70" patch for the club banner and a "70 for 70" pin for each club member. If your club did not donate last year, then \$70 will qualify. Determination is made on donations received through June 30, 2008. Just let us know how many members are in your club and we will take care of the rest.



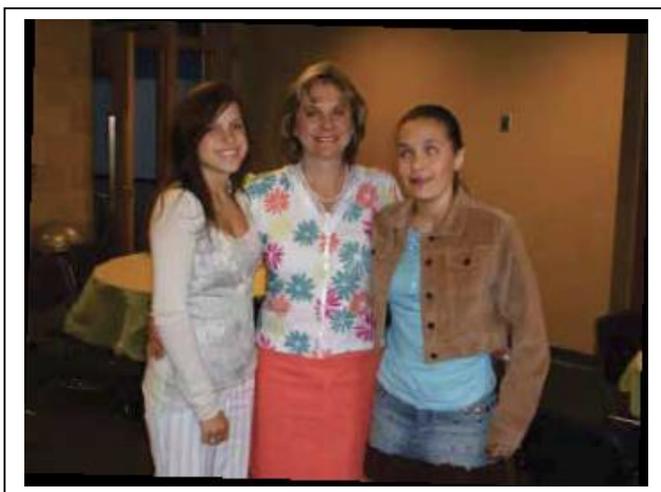
District Governor Tom Sperring presents a Leader Dog Founder's Tribute to Sierra Vista Lions Club President Willie Webster in recognition for his exceptional service to the club. This is the first Founder's Tribute presented in MD-21B and Arizona/California MD-21.

Alumni Letters

Dear Leader Dog,
I wanted you to know that Cooper, my Leader Dog, has been made the official dog of the Strasburg (Virginia) Town Council Chamber. I was elected to Council in May, and sworn in in July. Cooper received his designation right after I was sworn in at the first Council meeting. Thank you for the wonderful work you do at Leader Dog and the difference you make in so many lives every day!
Sincerely,
Richard Redmon



Dear Leader Dog,
I would like to thank Leader Dog for allowing me to participate in the Accelerated Mobility Program. When I first heard about this special program, I was very interested. My rehabilitation instructor gave me barely two hours of instruction in cane travel back in 1994. Since I had already obtained four guide dogs from the Seeing Eye, I was afraid that Leader Dog would not accept me into their program. I found Leader Dog to be an excellent school. The program far exceeded my expectations. I left with the confidence to face any travel situation as an adventure.
Sincerely,
Judy Presley



Dear Leader Dog,
Katie had such a wonderful time at camp. She is using her Trekker whenever she gets an opportunity to navigate to new destinations, and she is mastering the laptop that was given to her at camp. She was so excited to be given the opportunity to become more independent in utilizing this technology. She is emailing her campmates and is completing some summer goals that she set for herself on becoming more proficient on the internet. I can't thank you enough for these new opportunities for Katie. Please let the sponsors of this project know just how much this experience has meant to campers such as

Katie. I just wanted to send this note acknowledging everyone's efforts on making this program a success. Thank you once again.

Susan M. Kelel

Dear Leader Dog,

I wanted to drop you a note and let you know that we are doing great. On our first day we had huge obstacles to get around. The town was doing work on our road and we had to go around barrels and vehicles to cross the street. The workers were absolutely amazed with Danae. On the second day we went the same route and through the obstacles again. The workers stopped and greeted us and asked questions. It was a very nice encounter. We went grocery shopping last night and Danae was listening to commands and we worked through the pet food aisle. She behaved herself and did great!

My husband is very impressed and told me that Danae is a beautiful dog. Our other dog is adapting well. He loves watching our daily obedience routine and he is actually trying to learn the commands too – awesome!

Again, many thanks for what you have done for me.
Bobbie Poling



Dear Leader Dog,
Hi, just writing to say hello
and to let you know that things
are going pretty good.
Since we left the school last
year we have been pretty busy
going to meetings and speaking
at my church about the dog and
what you need to know when you
meet a Leader Dog in harness.
The kids really love it and
after we talk I give them
a chance to see what being
visually impaired is all about.
Sincerely,
Larry Skwarok and Leader Dog
"Argus"

Breeding Stock Host Homes

“Where do babies come from?” This innocent question has stumped many a good parent. But substitute one little word, and the answer comes easy. “Where do Leader Dog puppies come from?” They come from Mom dogs and Dad dogs and the hearts of breeding stock host families.



Mary (pictured in red) and her mother, Sibyl, have both been involved in the Leader Dog breeding stock and puppy programs for many years. They are pictured with (from l to r): Gayla, Swayser, Joy and Claire (laying down).

Mary Simpson

Female Breeding Host, Puppy Counselor & Puppy Raiser

“I never thought I would be doing this for so long,” confesses Mary Simpson. “I’ve been hosting female breeding stock dogs for 17 years and puppy raising for 21 years. Obviously, I really like the Leader Dog program.”

Mary is currently hosting her 5th LDB Mom, “Swayser,” who is expecting her next litter in December. Over the years, Mary has helped whelp enough litters to lose count of the number of puppies born. “With each new litter born in my home I get two months of heaven. I love when I have the ‘babies’ running around. I also enjoy the last two weeks of the dog’s pregnancy when the ‘pupcorn’ are kicking and I can hear their heartbeats with a neonatal stethoscope.”

Caring for a litter of puppies for 6-8 weeks is hard work; it’s even harder when you are raising those puppies to be Leader Dogs. Breeding hosts have the responsibility of giving their puppies a lot of stimulation and experiences. This means introducing the puppies to different textures such as tile, concrete, stones, and grass and having a lot of toys for them to explore. Breeding hosts also report each puppy’s progress to LDB veterinarians. Puppies are weighed, charted and tracked to make sure they are growing at a proper rate.

And do we even need to mention the cleaning. Newborn puppies are messy. When asked about it, Mary sighs and matter of factly says, “You just get used to cleaning the whelping box frequently. It’s worth it.”

Donor Reception

Learning about the Deaf-Blind Program

On the evening of June 12th, something special happened in the pavilion at Leader Dogs for the Blind. Mike Reese and Karen Bailey, two students in our deaf-blind program, were guests at our major donor event. The evening turned out as close to perfect as anyone could hope.

With the aid of an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, Karen shared that she is a student at Galudent College in Washington D.C. where she will soon receive her PhD. Coming to Leader Dog fulfills a dream she has had for many years. Karen has every expectation that she and her Leader Dog "Piston" will breeze through the streets of D.C. and that her life will be immensely enhanced with him at her side.



Right: Karen Bailey with her Leader Dog "Piston" explains how she feels having a Leader Dog will enhance her life. Left: With the use of an ASL interpreter, Mike Reese shares his experiences while Leader Dog "Noelle" takes it all in.



Mike spoke next with his Leader Dog "Noelle" closely at his side. After suffering through several groans when he informed the group that he worked for the IRS, he went on to speak of the greater independence he will have with Noelle. The group will remember Mike for his beautiful smile and obvious zest for life.

As the night wound down, other dog guide students joined the party which was a great experience for the students and donors alike. We were all thankful for good weather, but a thunderstorm probably wouldn't have put a damper on this great evening.



"I have been privileged and honored to be a volunteer and give my time to Leader Dog. On this special night, I attended the deaf-blind program with my husband David who had never been to this amazing place before. He was touched and awed by all that he learned and experienced at Leader Dog that evening. He wouldn't stop talking about this organization and how thrilled he was that he had the opportunity to be a part of the event – that he wants to donate financially to this wonderful cause."

– Dawn Karagosian



"I was deeply moved by the entire evening. It was an honor being in the presence of the students, Karen and Mike, the instructors, and the interpreters. A program such as this for the blind and deaf, is why I am committed to Leader Dogs. Every time I think I can't be more impressed with the programs offered and the skills taught at the school, I am blown away by something like this evening."

– Past Board Chair Lon Grossman (pictured with Heidi Paterson and Leader Dog President Greg Grabowski)

Saving a Young Puppy

Leader Dog Veterinarians Work Hard to Save a Life

One of the many benefits our dogs enjoy is high quality veterinary care. This became especially important for one small black Labrador during the first few weeks of his life.

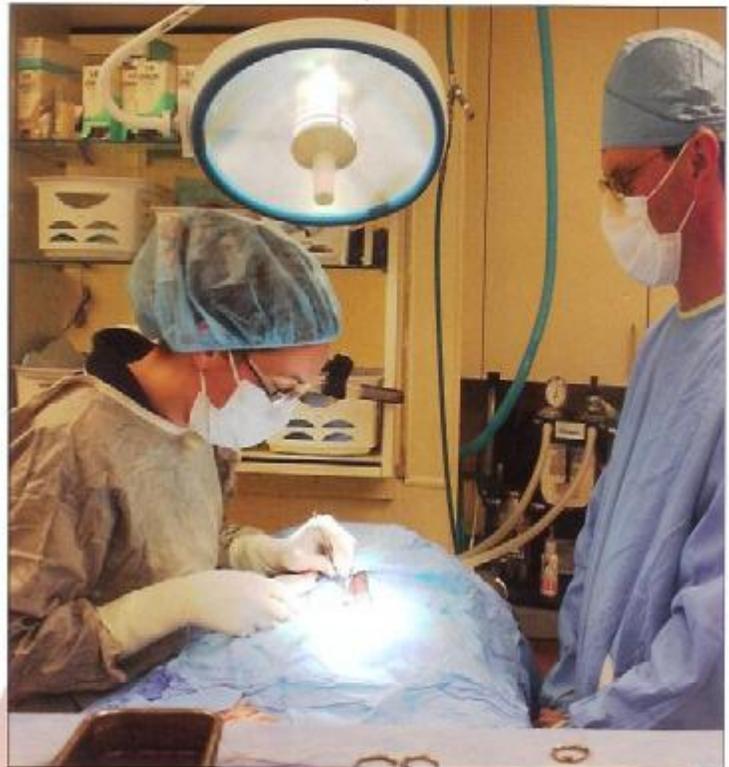
At just six weeks old, young enough to be listed as "No Name" in his file, one small puppy arrived at Leader Dog for an emergency visit. The breeding family that hosted the puppy, his littermates and their mother, Chloe, noticed that "No Name" was vomiting a lot and experiencing episodes of diarrhea. Their quick action in getting the puppy in for treatment helped to save his life.

Once at Leader Dog, the little puppy had an ultrasound which confirmed the diagnosis of intussusception, a condition where one piece of the intestine folds into the piece next to it - much like a sock folding into itself when you remove it. This folding tightens the section of intestine causing an obstruction that blocks the passage of food. "The misleading part about diagnosing this condition," explains Dr. David Smith, "is that the dog will generally be happy and alert. The main symptom is that they repeatedly vomit after eating. That was true with this little guy: he was still running around like a normal puppy."

Once the diagnosis was confirmed, Dr. Smith and Dr. Wilson stabilized the puppy by giving him an I.V. to rehydrate his body and then performed surgery to evaluate the affected section of intestine. They were able to reduce the affected section and perform a procedure to prevent a recurrence on that section. Within days "No Name" was romping around as puppies do and went to live with a puppy raising family.

But "No Name" was not out of the woods yet. Though intussusception is not very common, we only see it every 3-5 years at Leader Dog. The recurrence rate once a dog has the condition is 25% and "No Name" fell into this group. His second surgery took place 7 days after the first. This surgery revealed that an intussusception had developed in a new section of the intestine which had to be removed. Again, after a few days, he was as active as any other seven week old puppy.

Although it is unlikely that he will suffer any long term affects from this condition, "No Name" has been career changed. His multiple surgeries make him better suited to a life as a family pet.



Above: Dr. Kelly Wilson carefully closes "No Name" at the end of his second surgery. She and Dr. Smith participated in both surgeries and oversaw the puppy's care. The puppy's gastrointestinal tract has returned to normal function and he is thriving.



Right: "Jackson" as he was finally named, is doing well with the Wonsowicz family. The adopted family includes parents Ken and Karen and their four sons - Jacob, Tyler, Connor and Shane. That's one lucky puppy!

One Dog Touching Many Lives

Leader Dog "Jaspen"

If you have ever heard the song "My Wish" by Rascal Flats, it describes my feelings perfectly towards this project, but more towards this dog. My name is Jess Schwab, and I am a freshman at Clarion University.

I chose to raise a Leader Dog pup as my (high school) senior project. In the spring of 2006 my family and I drove to Michigan (from Pennsylvania) to get what would be the dog to change numerous lives. I named her Jaspen because of the "J" and myself being Jess, I thought at least she would have a little of me in her when she left to move on into her training. My family was a little hesitant about me raising Jaspen. As the year went on, Jaspen and I grew closer than ever, I wouldn't go anywhere without my sidekick. As the year progressed, Jaspen and I made some friends, left our impressions, and touched a lot of people; but mostly it was her doing the touching, she was so people pleasing that she made her mark, not only on my family, but on our entire community. On April 28, 2007, My family and I drove back to Michigan to return her, one of the hardest things I have ever done in my life. It hurts to give love away, but it was wonderful to know Jaspen was going to someone who needs her more than I do.

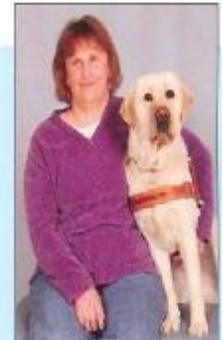
Now that Jaspen is gone, I still think of her every day. I see something that reminds me of her, or a memory we shared, or something hilarious she did. It makes me smile just thinking about her, even as I sit here typing this. My heart and life are forever changed by this one dog, and I know that the person she is placed with will love her as much as I still do and Jaspen will give her all to them.

When I heard that Jaspen was placed, it was honestly the first time I felt complete about her. I know she will do great things, I know she will touch that person's life, and I know I helped her a little along the way. The only thing I truly felt I taught Jaspen was unconditional love, and

even then I didn't have to do much because that's just what she was - "my love." I know she will do great things and I know that I was truly blessed to have had her in my life, not only so I could teach her some things, but so she could teach me as well.

"My wish for you is that this life becomes all that you want it to, your dreams stay big, your worries stay small, you never need to carry more than you can haul, and when you're out there gett'n where you're gett'n to, I hope you know somebody loves you and wants the same thing too, yeah, this is my wish."

- "My Wish" by Rascal Flats



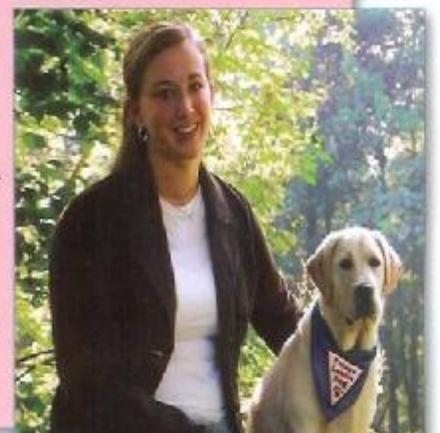
Today, Jaspen is leading the way for Deborah Knapp in Iowa. Deborah has been working with Leader Dog for 17 years and looks forward to many happy, productive years with Jaspen. Since being paired together this past February, they have done some traveling and Deborah reports that Jaspen has worked great in every environment they've encountered. "Jaspen loves to follow me around the house" says Deborah, "she doesn't like me to stray very far away." When asked if there was anything she would change about Jaspen, Deborah is quick to reply, "her snoring."



Above and Right: Puppy raiser and puppy quickly became inseparable. Jess even included Jaspen in some of her graduation pictures.



Left: Jaspen was featured on the 2006 Greene Township Lions Club calendar.



Honoring America's Veterans



There is a special pride in working at Leader Dogs for the Blind. We are proud to provide much needed services to people who are blind and visually impaired. We are proud that we provide these services free of charge. However, there is a heightened sense of pride, of honor, in providing these programs to men and women who have served our country in the military.

The history of the dog guide is strongly connected to war. The modern dog guide movement was initiated during WWI and the push for dog guides in the United States was accelerated during WWII. Between the attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941 to December, 1944 the Army Surgeon General's Office reported that 225 men had lost their vision during combat. During this same time period, the United States Congress passed a bill authorizing an initial appropriation of \$1 million to begin training dog guides for up to 1,000 veterans. By this time Leader Dog had already been in existence for 5 years and was well prepared to serve the students that arrived through the Veterans Administration.

The connection between the military and Leader Dog goes even deeper. In our early years, and even today, many of our instructors received their canine experience while serving in the military as dog handlers where dogs are used for explosive and narcotic detection.

Through the many veterans that have graced our organization over the years, we have witnessed how far strength and determination can take a person in their life. We have taught you, we have learned from you, and we thank you.

World War II - stationed in Germany Randall "Randy" Nelson

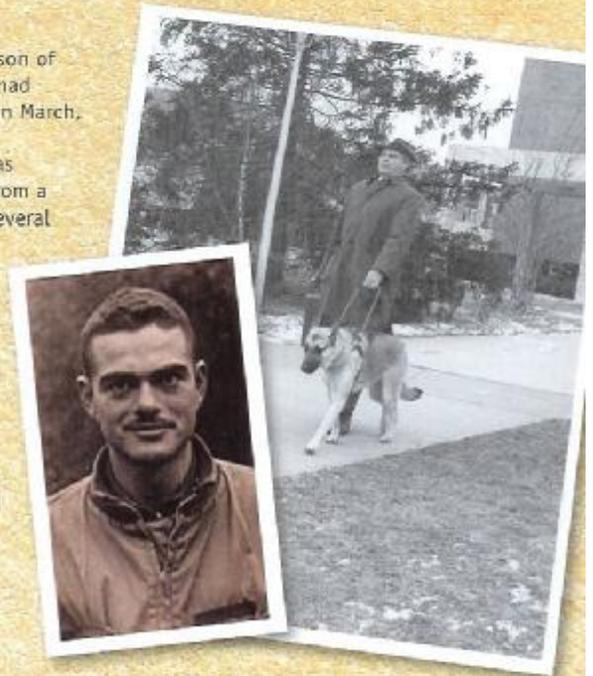
"Sonny, Rocky, Jack, Boots, Greta, Garcone, Bud and Rocco," Jim Nelson, son of Randy Nelson, quickly rattles off the names of the Leader Dogs his father had through the years. As Jim relates his father's stories (Randy passed away in March, 1999), his pride in his father and his accomplishments is tangible.

March 23, 1945 was a life changing day for 25 year old Randy who was fighting with the U.S. Army in Asenberg, Germany. On that day shrapnel from a shell explosion left him completely without sight. After recovering from several other injuries sustained in the explosion, Randy took to heart the old saying, "It's hard to keep a good man down."

When Randy was referred to Leader Dog in 1950 by the Veterans Administration, he had finished his rehabilitation and was a graduate student at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. On his application he answered the question, "What purpose would a Leader Dog serve?" by simply replying, "To enable me to travel about campus at U. of Mich." And that is exactly what his first Leader Dog "Sonny" did. With Sonny at his side, Randy earned his PhD in Political Science from U of M and moved to Carbondale, Illinois where he became a Professor at Southern Illinois University, eventually holding the position as Chairman of the Political Science Department.

For over 47 years Leader Dogs guided Randy as he taught at several universities, served on his city council, and attended the opening of the Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin, Texas (at the invitation of Hubert Humphrey). Randy received his last Leader Dog "Rocco" in 1989 immediately after his retirement.

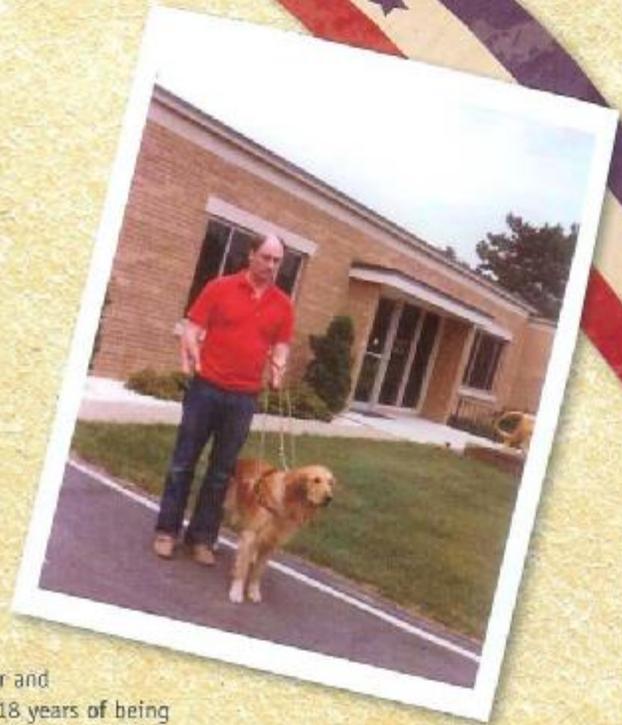
Through the years Randy's appreciation for his well trained dogs became apparent on his applications. On one of his last applications when asked "What purpose would a Leader Dog serve?" he wrote, "A dog guide ensures my independence, enables me to pursue my livelihood, and provides me with general freedom of movement."





Vietnam War - stationed in Vietnam

William "Bill" Wedekind



Upon graduation of high school, Bill Wedekind, whose father and grandfather were Marines, didn't have many options. "After 18 years of being raised in a boot camp, I had a choice of joining the Marine Corps or joining the Marine Corps. I chose joining the Marine Corps." Bill's active duty wasn't to last very long. After eight months as a member of the 1st Marine Division, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion in Vietnam, he triggered a booby-trap causing an explosion at close range. The explosion robbed Bill of his eyesight, both hands, and caused severe skull damage.

Under the circumstances, many people would be unable to plan for their future, but not Bill. "I figure you have two choices. You can quit, rollover, and die ... or you can try to make a fight of it and get with the program. You've always got the first alternative to go back to." And get with the program he did. After an unsuccessful attempt to use prosthetic limbs, Bill instead chose to have surgery to separate the bones in his arms. This allowed him to feel what he was touching and grasping – something that wasn't possible with prosthetics. During this time he learned from his grandmother the art that would define his career – pottery. He also became adept at home remodeling, automotive repair and ham radio operation (which he still enjoys today).

While successful in many things, Bill still had trouble crossing the street. "It was scary. I often missed the opposite corner and veered into the cross-traffic." This, along with knowing a few people who were successful with dog guides, prompted Bill to apply for a dog. After being turned away from another school, Bill applied to Leader Dog. He was glad that Leader Dog was willing to make the accommodations necessary to allow him to be successful with a dog guide. This included specifically training a dog to rely only on voice commands, not hand commands, for direction and designing a harness to accommodate Bill's needs – including an extra long harness handle and Velcro fasteners that he could manipulate on his own.

"The first time I was in Rochester working with Casey," Bill recounts, "we were at a street crossing and I told him "forward," but he didn't move. The next thing I felt was the "whish" as a car went by." Bill and Casey worked together for almost 12 years. He describes Casey simply as "pure gold."

Currently, Bill is contemplating a new career as a motivational public speaker. He has spoken at many schools hoping to pass on a belief that he has based his life on – "You can defeat what looks like impossible odds."



Korean War - stationed in Europe

Eddie Walker



If you ask Eddie Walker why he has been active in the Blind Veterans Association (BVA) for the past 21 years, he'll tell you "because it's about blind veterans helping blind veterans." His matter of fact answer let's you know that he wouldn't have done it any other way; as we say at Leader Dog, "Do what is right."

Eddie served in the Army and was stationed in Europe during the Korean War. A funeral director by trade, he served in the Medical Corps/Mortuary Unit. He retired several years ago as the Director of National Cemeteries with responsibility for ten military cemeteries throughout the United States.

After losing his sight to retinitis pigmentosa at the age of 56, Eddie immediately joined the BVA and was acting President of the MDVC Regional Group (Maryland, DC, Virginia) from 1987-1997. He is still actively involved with the group today. After learning more about dog guides from a Leader Dog graduate field representative, Eddie decided to apply for a dog in 2006, when he was 76 years old. The timing worked well for Eddie because his Leader Dog "Usher" allows him to stay active and involved in the BVA.

Taking his desire for independence further, Eddie returned to Leader Dog in 2007 for Trekker GPS training. He has found the Trekker unit to be invaluable. "It's very helpful. It tells me my location and let's me know when I'm approaching an intersection. It makes me more independent because I don't have to stop and ask

for directions."

Eddie readily admits that working with and properly caring for a Leader Dog is "a lot of responsibility; but it pays off in the long run." A self-proclaimed dog lover, he admits to "just loving the smell of a dog."

Leader Dog would like to honor our team members who have served in the U.S. Military

Carlos Gallusser

173rd Airborne Infantry, Special Forces Training, Vietnam

Rod Haneline

Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, Military Narcotics Detector Dog Handler

Dave Harmon

Technical Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, Military Investigator

Larry Heflin

U.S. Army, K-9 Division

Thomas Hill

Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, Security Police/Military Patrol, Explosive/Narcotic Detector Dog Handler

Randy Horn

Sergeant, U.S. Army Artillery, Ohio National Guard

Herb Mills

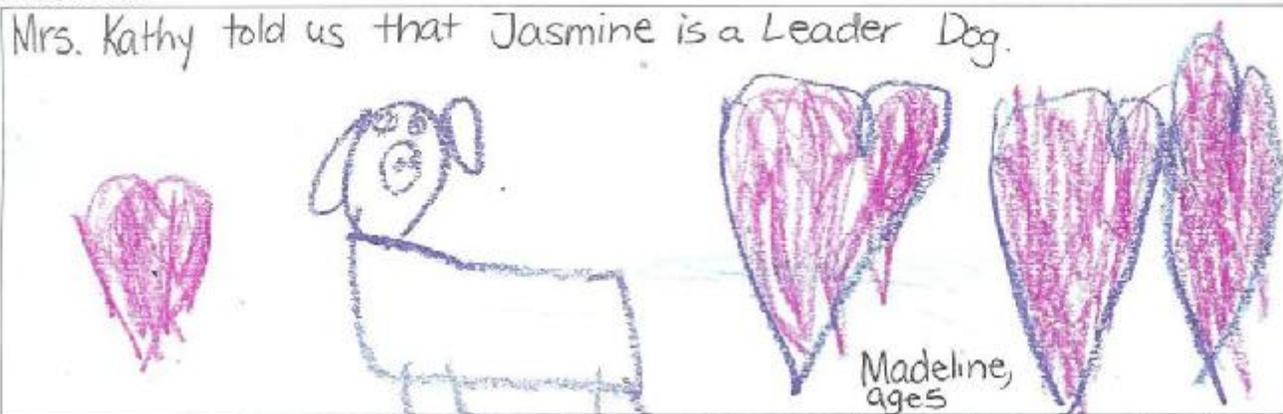
U.S. Air Force, Sentry Dog Handler, Vietnam

Over the past 65 years Leader Dog has been privileged to service many veterans who did not lose their sight during active duty. Illnesses such as diabetes and macular degeneration have caused some veterans to lose their sight years after their military service is complete.

Learning about Leader Dog

The artwork of the kindergarten class of SJMO Children's Learning Center in Pontiac, Michigan was so nice that it needed to be shared. The children drew the pictures, and teacher Beverly Hayhurst helped print their captions, several days after attending a Kids N' Coins program put on by Kathleen Breen of Leader Dog and Jasmine, a LDB public relations dog. Please enjoy the pictures as bookmarks, to decorate your refrigerator or to cheer up your workspace.

To learn more about the Kids N' Coins program, visit our website at leaderdog.org/kidsncoins or contact Kathleen Breen at 248-650-7110 ext. 2052.



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My Weekend with Phoebe By Puppy Raiser Kristen (and Future Leader Dog Phoebe)

risten: "My weekend with Phoebe started out with a drive to Lewisburg to pick Phoebe up from John and Elaine's on Thursday night—the same night that Nashville got hit with a snow and ice storm. What was supposed to be a 1 hour drive from Nashville, turned out to be 3 hours. All was well though, as I arrived to John and Elaine's house safe and sound. It turned out that's also where I was going to be spending the night."

hobe: "And if I had my way, I would have slept next to Kristen all night long."

risten: "Aww, Phoebs, that's really sweet of you."

Friday:

hobe: "But the next morning we were awake, bright and early, and got on the road heading to Nashville to go to the Tennessee School for the Blind's Annual Christmas Party, where many District 12 Lions gathered to present the TSB students with monetary donations collected throughout the year from the clubs."

risten: "That's right Phoebe, you and I actually got to present a check to a 12 year old student from TSB, who in return gave you a couple of presents, why don't you tell everyone about it."

hobe: "It was so cool, first of all, the student was so excited that I was there, Kristen let her pet me and she answered the questions that the student had about Leader Dogs. Secondly, she gave me and Kristen a calendar that was not only in print but also in Braille, along with some information on orientation and mobility techniques taught at the school. After the presentation, I got to investigate a really large Lion that was in the school. Of course, he wasn't alive, but that didn't keep him from being intimidating! The students at TSB were very inspirational, and I really hope I can help one of them someday when I become a Leader Dog."

risten: "Yes Phoebe, the students at TSB were really amazing, and was a great reminder of why we do what we do as puppy raisers."

hobe: "Our next stop after the TSB Christmas Party was the Ed Lindsey Industries for the Blind luncheon. Every year, Ed Lindsey puts together this luncheon for the employees at ELIB, and for the Lions, and this year the guest speaker was Steve Underwood, Executive Vice President of my personal favorite football team...the Tennessee Titans! He was a really cool guy and all, but I have to admit, I had my eyes on a working dog that showed up with his partner. He was super cute!"

risten: "Yes Phoebe, he was handsome, now let's move on to what we did on Saturday."

Saturday:

hobe: "Saturday we started out the day going to the Franklin Lions annual pancake breakfast. Kristen's boyfriend Donald was able to go with us too which made me feel extra special. He's been my buddy since the first day I met him. Anyway, I got to meet a lot of young children, most under the age of 7. It was really hard not to kiss these children as they were all very sweet to me... plus they had maple syrup on their hands!"

risten: "You were a very good girl Phoebe, everyone loved you! We were even able to submit our names for a few items in the silent auction. I don't know about you Phoebe, but Donald and I were pretty excited to be going home with a bottle of sparkling apple juice and a hand held sewing machine! That was some of the best seven dollars I've spent in a long time!"

hobe: "Moooving on, our next stop was at the Dickens of a Christmas



in downtown Franklin. Normally, this would be the Middle TN puppy outing, but this year, seeing as how I'm the only Future Leader Dog currently in the area, I was the representative of Leader Dogs. I heard that Mike and Debbie showed up with career changed Joy, but unfortunately we didn't see each other. However, I did get to see and hear all kinds of characters in costumes, farm animals, wind-chimes blowing in the wind, horses pulling a carriage, other dogs barking, a man making music by rubbing the wet rims of wine glasses, etc., and encountered the delicious smells of popcorn, roasted nuts, pretzels, and hot dogs. Again, I was a very good girl and ignored most of those distractions."



Kristen: "Up next, was a field trip to a local Christmas tree farm. Donald and I had visions of cutting down our own tree this year, however, that didn't work out as we didn't want a White Pine with long needles. But we still decided to take a walk around the field with Phoebe anyway. The field smelled so fresh to Donald and I, and I'm sure Phoebe like it too. We decided to get a pre-cut Fraser Fir tree, of which Phoebe got to watch the employees trim the end off of, and place on the shaker machine to get as many loose needles off as possible. Phoebe was at first a little frightened when the machine started up, but quickly recovered and watch the tree bounce up and down on the shaker thing. Sorry, I'm not sure what the technical term for that machine is."



Phoebe: "I was pretty tired from all of the days' festivities, so we went back to Kristen's and Donald's apartment and I played with their dogs Rika and Stealer for a little bit, and then we all napped for about an hour. Then, Kristen, Donald and I had to make a trip to Wal-Mart to visit with the Hermitage Lions Club as they were having their Pictures with Santa fundraiser. We didn't stay long though, it had been a very long day for all of us, and it was getting late. Plus, we had to get ready for our big event on Sunday."



Sunday

Kristen: "That's right Phoebe! Sunday, Phoebe, Donald and I all walked with the Donelson Lions Club in the Donelson Christmas parade. We walked in-front of the float with a couple of members from the Donelson Christian Academy Leo Club. This was our first time meeting many of the Donelson Lions members, and we were able to answer lots of questions



by Puppy Raiser Kristen (and Future Leader Dog Phoebe)

about Leader Dogs for the Blind. Everyone was very impressed at how well behaved Phoebe was for being only 9 months old."

Phoebe: "The only thing that spooked me at the parade was the loud car revving its engine in-front of us. After a few minutes though, I realized that there wasn't anything to be scared about, and once the parade started, I walked like a professional beauty queen in a parade—at least that's what Kristen told me afterward. I even got to wear some bells on my collar that although you could barely hear jingle because the wind was blowing soooo hard, I still looked fashionably festive. As we were nearing the end of the parade a couple of fire trucks and an ambulance drove by us with their sirens screaming (unfortunately on their way to an emergency and not part of the parade). Although, I looked at the trucks driving by, I kept walking and never lost my focus."

Kristen: "After the parade was over with, it was time for Phoebe to go back home to John and Elaine. We had a great weekend together and look forward to doing it again! Phoebe, I thank you for being such a great girl to work with, I predict that you have a very bright future ahead of you, and wish you all the best along the way. I also want to thank John and Elaine for letting Phoebe stay the weekend with Donald and me. She's such a sweetheart and we loved having her for the weekend."



Frostbite and Hypothermia

Dog's fur is generally enough protection against the cold; but long exposure to extreme cold especially with wet fur can cause hypothermia and frostbite. Also if dog fur is matted the fur is not as protective. A dog's general health as well as age can also play a role in how the dog can handle the cold and wind.

Frostbite:

Frostbite is unusual in dogs but ear tips, tail and, in male dogs, the scrotum are most susceptible. The location of these areas on the body makes them predisposed to the icy temperatures especially when wind chills are added. Frostbitten ear tips may appear pale in color due to less supply of blood to the area or red, swollen and hot and sensitive when being touched. The scrotum may come red and scaly.

Should your puppy become frostbitten the affected area should NOT be rubbed. Instead warm the frostbitten area with your hands or moist warm (not

hot) towels. Avoid any pressure on the affected areas.

If your puppy is unresponsive or you are uncomfortable with home care, take your puppy to your veterinarian as soon as possible. In the case of hypothermia your veterinarian will probably treat for shock and continue the warming process, which may include warm intravenous fluids. Your veterinarian may also monitor heart and kidney functions. In the case of severe frostbite, tissue may be damaged requiring antibiotics and possibly pain killers.

Hypothermia:

A dog's fur is generally enough protection against the cold; but long exposure to extreme cold, especially with wet fur, can cause hypothermia. A dog's general health can also play a role in developing hypothermia and frostbite.

Hypothermia symptoms can include shivering, stumbling, exhaustion,

drowsiness and a low body temperature (80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit).

For hypothermia treatment at home place your dog in a warm room. Very careful use of warm-water baths, electric blankets and electric heating pads will increase your puppy's body temperature but the body temperature rises slowly so patience is needed. Monitoring the rectal temperature (normal is 101 to 102 degrees Fahrenheit) will help you determine the warming progress as will your puppy's response. If your puppy is conscious giving warm (not hot) liquids will also help your puppy.

Winter, like any other season should be enjoyed to its fullest. Your puppy may work in snow, ice, salt and sand when they go to Leader Dog or upon graduation if he/she goes to a cold climate so give him/her a chance to experience the fun parts of this season as well as the opportunity to work with you in it