



A Monthly Newsletter for Friends of Dog Guides



Join Us for the 2024 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides!

This year, we embark on one of our most ambitious missions yet—to raise \$1.6 million for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. With your support, we can continue our vital work of matching Dog Guides with Canadians living with disabilities.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship from Pet Valu, every dollar raised during the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides goes directly towards supporting our mission. Each Dog Guide costs \$35,000, and your contributions help make these life-changing partnerships possible.

Here's how you can get involved:

- 1. Register for a Dog Walk:** Visit walkfordogguides.com to register as a participant. It's easy! Once registered, spread the word to friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues. No donation amount is too small, and every contribution counts towards our \$1.6 million goal.
- 2. Raise Funds Online:** Use your participant profile to collect donations online. Share your profile link with your network and encourage them to support this worthy cause.
- 3. Offline Donations:** If online fundraising isn't your preference, you can request a walk pledge form to collect cash donations. Reach out to your local walk organizer or contact our Manager of Events, Travis Forbes, at tforbes@dogguides.com for assistance.



We're counting on Canadians from coast to coast to join us in walking their way towards our fundraising goal. Together, we've witnessed the miracles that our Dog Guide community creates, and this year will be no different.

Make your donation today and be a part of the 2024 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides!

[Donate Now](#)

Graduate Cornor

Facility Support Dog Guides making a difference across Canada

Facility Support Dogs are different from our other Dog Guides because instead of working with one individual, they assist multiple people on a regular basis. These dogs are placed with professional agencies to work with vulnerable people who have experienced trauma and are specifically trained to provide a non-judgmental, attuned presence and calming influence.

We have 18 active Facility Support teams across Canada spanning from British Columbia to New Brunswick:

Province	Year of first FSD Received	Number of Teams	Approximate Number of People Assisted
British Columbia	2022	4	2500-3000
Alberta	2019	6	1500-2000
Ontario	2018	3	7000-7500
Quebec	2022	1	300-400
New Brunswick	2019	4	1000-1500

From hospital visits to counselling sessions to court visits to police support, the work that these Facility Support dogs do is immeasurable and extraordinary. Read below about what some of our teams have to say!

Suzanne and Karson, Alberta: Karson has the ability to pick a person out of a crowd and when he feels that they are hurting or sad in any way, or stressed, almost like an underlying problem, he sits by their feet and wraps his arms around their ankles. He sends a sense of



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calm like nothing I have ever seen. Karson is so attachable, and beautiful, and has the most amazing eyes, and demeanor.

Brittany and Indus, Alberta: Indus is remarkably calm and loves a good snuggle. Clients have reported how calming his presence alone is, and we have been able to use him strategically to support clients when they really need it, in the journey of working through their traumas. Not only does he benefit clients, but his presence in our offices also changes the atmosphere entirely. I personally love the moments of humour he brings to sessions as well, and the therapeutic value therein.

Jennifer and Ireland, British Columbia: I continue to be amazed by what she can accomplish with clients who are experiencing trauma. I can actually see the physiological changes that the victim experiences after a few minutes of support from Ireland – like their breathing becomes more regulated, their speech slows and becomes clearer, and their bodies relax a bit more into the sofa. She is pure magic.

Katina and Poet, New Brunswick: We have had children describe her as being “magical”, “unique like a diamond”, and her presence as “comforting and peaceful”. There are children who specifically come to Kit’s Place because they know that Poet is there, and they look forward to being greeted by her. Children have stated that they would not speak with a social worker or offer their statement unless Poet was available. Other children report feeling courageous and brave when Poet is present.

Kiara and Yukon, Alberta: We can’t remember our lives before Yukon. She provides our clients and staff with a warm, joyful, and non-judgmental presence to help support healing. Many of our clients have shared that they feel as though they couldn’t have given testimony in court without her, or that her grounding work with them represented a significant piece of their healing process.

Isabelle and Jillie, Ontario: We work in an environment that can be stressful and it’s important to note that she also helps our Child and Youth workers and Child and Family therapists as well. Their faces light up when they see Jillie, and they will “borrow” her for walks and body breaks when they need to recharge. Jillie spreads joy and calm with all the people she interacts with at Crossroads.



Karson



Brittany & Indus



Jennifer & Ireland



Katina & Poet



Kiara & Yukon



Isabelle & Jillie

Autism Assistance Dog Guide Team say thanks

Autism Assistance Dog Guide Doug has tremendously changed the life of Stephen and his family. Thanks to Doug, Stephen has become more confident and focused at school. This June, Stephen will be graduating at the top of his class and will be attending university in the fall.

Stephen and his family are forever grateful to the Lions of Saskatchewan, the G Murray and Edna Forbes Foundation, Doug's fosters Sam Hobbes, Andrea Buttgen and Barry Filter and his Day School volunteer Sally Davis.



"We'd also like to thank all the staff and volunteers at the LFCDG for all the work and love they put into these heroes," says Laurie, Stephen's mom. "You have truly made a difference."

Grads featured in new AMI Documentary Series

We are so proud and thankful to the Dog Guide teams that participated in this educational episode of the show “You Can’t Ask That” on AMI. Aidan with Hearing Dog Guide Peggy, Matthew with Autism Assistance Dog Guide Harris, Jeremy with Diabetes Alert Dog Guide Jackson and Lilian with Service Dog Guide Gavin answered questions submitted by viewers regarding assistance dogs. Thank you to those teams for doing an incredible job representing Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides and educating people on Dog Guides.

Watch the episode of “[You Can’t Ask that](#)” to see them in this candid and bold documentary series.

If you would like to help us graduate more Dog Guide teams, please donate and register for our biggest fundraiser the [Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides](#). You can help us continue to change lives!

LFCDG Happenings

Open House Recap

Our Spring Open House was a huge success! We welcomed over 800 Dog Guide supporters, and we couldn’t be more grateful for the incredible turnout! Huge thanks to our amazing volunteers who made the day possible. It was heartwarming to see the community come together to learn more about our mission and vision here at Dog Guides. Special shoutout to all the volunteers who helped on the day, you helped us raise over \$10,000!

If you weren’t able to make it to our Open House but would like to help us provide more Dog Guides at no cost, join register or donate to the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides at www.walkfordogguides.com. Please watch a recap of our [Spring Open House](#).



Celebrating recent graduates this Spring

On Wednesday, April 24th we celebrated 20 graduates from all seven of our programs. We are so proud of our grads and all they have accomplished. Thank you to all our wonderful donors, sponsors and volunteers who make these graduations possible. If you missed it, our grad is available to our [YouTube page](#) to watch at your convenience.



Upcoming Events

Join Us for Exciting Events with Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides!

We have some fantastic opportunities coming up to support our mission and vision at Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Check out the details below:

McHappy Day - May 8, 2024:

McHappy Day - May 8th- Join our staff and volunteer team at select McDonald's locations across Oakville to help raise money for the vital support of our mission and vision at Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.



Toronto West - High Park Walk for Dog Guides - May 24, 2024:

Registration begins at 5:30 pm. Join us for an evening walk, raffle, food, and refreshments provided by When Hounds Fly. Help us kick off National Walk Weekend and contribute to our shared \$1.6 million goal. [Register to walk at Toronto West.](#)



Oakville Walk for Dog Guides - May 26, 2024:

Help us reach our \$100,000 fundraising goal. For all details, visit link. Register to walk and email Jennifer Boyd jboyd@dogguides.com if you have any questions.

Motorcycle Ride for Dog Guides - June 23, 2024

Get ready for an exciting ride from Oakville to Breslau. Registration starts at 8:45 AM, and the ride begins at 10:00 AM. Join us for a scenic route, refreshments, incentives, prizes, and a poker run component.

If you would like to join the Ride Committee visit www.dogguides.com



Delta Bingo:

Help support our initiatives by participating in charitable gaming at Delta Bingo. Funds raised go back to each community and help various vital initiatives. Reach out to events@dogguides.com to find out when the next bingo event is happening.



Get Involved:

The Events Team is actively recruiting for different event committee roles and volunteer opportunities. Email events@dogguides.com to see how you can get involved and make a difference.

Let's work together to make these events a huge success and continue providing vital support to those in need. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and commitment!

Donor Recognition

Become a Legacy Leader for Dog Guides

Joanna, a Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides Legacy Leader, decided to make some changes in her Will at the same time that her friend's son Jason received his first Lions Foundation Dog Guide, Romeo.

"When I saw what a gift Romeo was to Jason, I decided that Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides would be the charity that I would leave a bequest to. It makes me glad that someone will be graced with a loving companion like Romeo who will help them become more independent and confident, too."

Please consider leaving a gift to the LFCDG in your Will and Estate plans. A legacy gift can have a meaningful impact and together we can help realize your vision. Learn how leaving a gift in your Will works.

We're here to help with any questions you may have. Feel free to reach out to us directly or submit your inquiries via the form linked below.

Contact: Jane Leaver jleaver@dogguides.com 905-842-2891 Ext. 219

Become a Monthly Donor Today

If you give regularly to LFCDG, have you ever thought of making it a monthly gift? Dog Guides Guardians are special donors who give a gift each month. Monthly giving helps LFCDG by providing a predictable and reliable source of revenue. It helps us provide more life-changing Dog Guides, like Service Dog Guide Siri to people who need them like Prince.

A number of years ago, Prince was caught in a devastating fire in his apartment building in Toronto. Two thirds of his body was badly burned, and he lost both of his arms.



"Siri has literally become my hands when I need her to," says Prince, who is helping LFCDG promote this year's Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides. "I am eternally grateful to our donors for making it possible to bring Siri and I together. It never ceases to amaze me how incredibly trained these dogs are and I know personally how much of a difference a Dog Guide can make. And for me, Siri gives me the confidence I need to live life to the best of my abilities regardless of my disabilities because I know she's got my back!"

By becoming a Dog Guides Guardian, you help make miracles for those who need it most.

Become a Dog Guides Guardian Today!

Volunteer Corner

Jennifer Enriching Experience with the Diabetes Alert Dog Guide Transitional Home Program

When asked about her time volunteering in the Diabetes Alert Dog Guide Transitional Home Program, Jennifer says her experience has been “truly rewarding and fulfilling.” Since starting, she has welcomed Diabetes Alert Dog Guides in training Topyy and Raya, and has written the following:

As someone who has been living with type one diabetes for over a decade, I was surprised by the influence that working with these dogs had on my own diabetes management and their positive impact on my overall mental and physical well-being in such a short period of time. Having a Diabetes Alert Dog Guide (in training) present has helped in easing my anxiety, as they provide a sense of safety and support that is often lacking in diabetes management.

Seeing the attentiveness and behaviours of the dogs when they sense my blood sugars beginning to drop is truly remarkable. Even before my blood sugar is low enough for them to alert, the dogs have ensured they were close by with my attention, and ready to act. Seeing the moments when these dogs in training successfully alerts a live low blood sugar level, whether that be in home or in public has been very rewarding. Not only are the dogs getting to practice what they have trained for in a real-life setting, but by alerting before my blood sugar is dangerously low, they are often able to catch my lows before I do. Having that extra support and assurance of safety regarding my blood sugars has allowed me to feel safe and confident of keeping my blood sugars in range, without having the constant worry of my blood sugar dropping too low without me realizing. This is a worry most people living with type one diabetes have to carry with them every day, and it can often negatively impact how they manage their diabetes, especially in a public setting.





Diabetes is an invisible disability. Having the diabetes alert dog in training beside me in public not only acted as a safety net for me in regards to my blood sugars while providing a sense of safety and security, but also has brought awareness to the potential support needed if something were to go wrong in the public setting- support that would not have been assumed to be needed by just looking at me, without a service dog present.

My participation in the Diabetes Alert Dog Guide Transitional Home program showed me how diabetes alert dogs will bring light and awareness to diabetes. Witnessing the dedication and hard work of the trainers, the transformation of the dog's ability to alert low blood glucose levels, and most importantly, the impact they have on the lives of individuals with diabetes is beyond words.

Thanks to volunteers like Jennifer and others in the Diabetes Alert Transitional Home Program, Diabetes Alert Dog Guides in training have the opportunity to practice their life-saving skills before matched with their clients. If you have type 1 Diabetes and are interested in this program, please visit Diabetes Alert Dog Guide Transitional Home Program.

Litter Updates

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 18 new LFCDG puppies. Welcome to the Dog Guide world little ones!

- E Litter: Pinto and Gibbs – 3 puppies on March 15th
- F Litter: Hattie and Gibbs – 9 puppies on March 18, 2024
- G Litter: Neeko and Walter– 6 puppies on April 7, 2024

Would you be interested in helping us raise these little pups? We're currently looking for fosters that live no more than 45 minutes away from LFCDG's Oakville or Guelph location. 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.

