



## Make a Difference Day

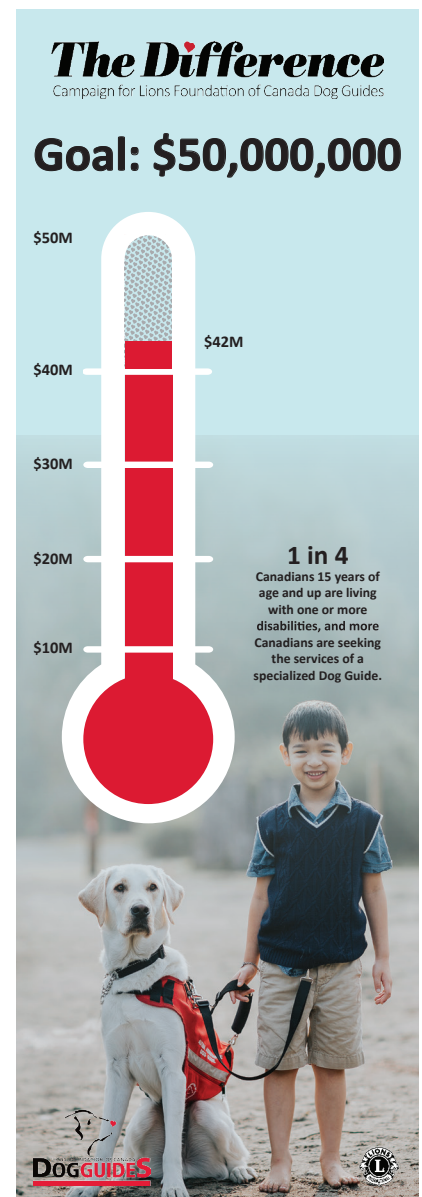
### Help Make The Difference!

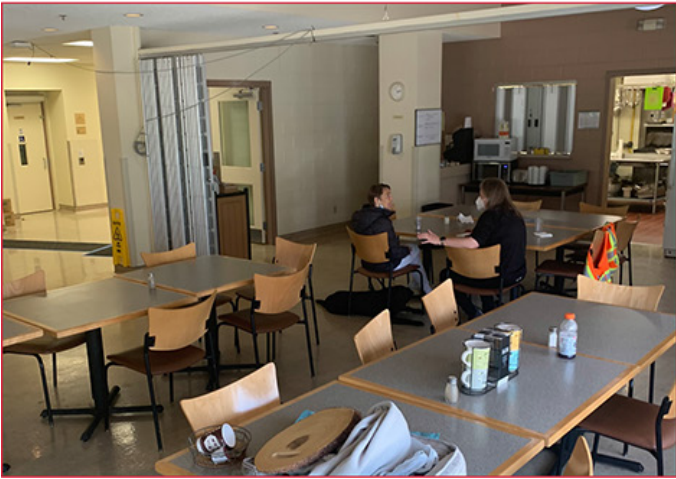
October 26th is “Make a Difference Day”. This day reminds us that there are many remarkable ways kindness can change lives. From raising puppies to raising awareness, LFCDG experiences the difference you make every day. Now, supporters are coming together to make a difference at LFCDG for generations to come.

LFCDG’s history making fundraising campaign, The Difference, has an ambitious goal of \$50 million in support of a purpose-built national Dog Guide training school. LFCDG is excited to have secured \$42 million for this goal, but the remainder is crucial, and it can’t be met without the support of people like you. Each special gift to The Difference campaign will help make thousands of Dog Guide matches possible in the new state-of-the-art school.

### How You Can Make a Difference for Clients

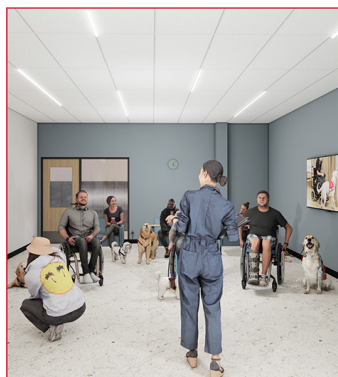
LFCDG clients travel from across the country for Dog Guide training. The current facility is outdated and has limited accommodation and accessibility. In the new training school, clients will have 35 accessible and comfortable guest rooms to stay in during their stay, training with their Dog Guides. Dedicated areas for learning and connecting, including 7 program classrooms, dining room and lounge will further improve the experience.





## How You Can Make a Difference for Future Dog Guides

Future Dog Guides will also enjoy the difference made by the new national training school with large, purpose-built living areas that will benefit them for their training. Currently, Dog Guides in training have limited space to run and play while not in training. The new training school will change this with both internal and external play spaces. Seven dedicated program training rooms will give Dog Guides and their instructors the resources they need to continue their amazing work for years to come.



To donate and learn more about how you can make a difference in the future of LFCDG, please visit The Difference website, call 1(800) 768-3030 or (905) 842-2891 ext. 218, or email [thedifference@dogguides.com](mailto:thedifference@dogguides.com).

# Graduate Corner

## Fall Graduations

In September, we proudly celebrated the achievements of over 20 graduates through both virtual and, for the first time since before the pandemic, in-person ceremonies. Graduates from across the country were matched with their life-changing, four-legged partners thanks to the incredible efforts of foster families, volunteers, donors, and dedicated staff. Together, we've transformed lives and created lasting partnerships—thank you for making this possible!

You can catch both graduations on our YouTube channel:

- [September Virtual Graduation](#)
- [September In-Person Celebration of Graduates](#)

## LFCDG Happenings

### Patron Awards Winners

We are thrilled to announce the following winners of this year's Patron Awards:

**Corporate Patrons:** We are delighted to announce that the Rexall Care Network and Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) have been selected as recipients of the 2024 Corporate Patron Award of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. This prestigious award recognizes a corporate partner who has shown exceptional service, commitment, and an ongoing support in furthering our mission of providing life changing Dog Guides at no cost to Canadians with disabilities.

#### REXALL

The generous contributions of the Rexall Care Network have made a profound impact on the lives of the families of Autism Assistance Dog Guides Rose and Robin, and the future families of Rex and Luna. We are deeply grateful for your financial support but also your active participation in highlighting our partnership such as in Town Halls, newsletters, social media and employee engagement activities. Rexall's efforts have been instrumental in raising awareness and generating support for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.



## GTAA

The training sessions GTAA have helped coordinate monthly at Pearson Airport have become an extension of the work we do here at Dog Guides. For almost two years, staff, clients and dogs have benefited from this program, helping to create better-prepared, more confident air travelers. The time and effort GTAA invested in our success will reap benefits for years to come.

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**Individual Patrons:** A patron award is a form of recognition or honour given to an individual that has shown exemplary service, commitment and on-going support in furthering the cause of the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

### Nancy Chiasson:

Nancy is a consistent champion for LFCDG. In addition to her efforts in fostering, she attends just about every LFCDG sponsored event, actively raises funds for the Capital campaign as a member of the Ontario Lions Campaign Committee, dedicates countless hours to the Mossborough Busy Busy Lions Club who dedicate their fundraising efforts to LFCDG. She is a monthly donor and has generously supported the capital campaign financially.

As a board member of LFCDG, Nancy provides leadership and Chairs the Finance Committee, sits on the Executive Committee and actively engages in board discussions.

The combination of her commitment of time, expertise and wisdom, and financial support are immeasurable and truly exemplify what it means to be a patron.

Nancy is always looking for new ways to support LFCDG and helps engage local Lions, foster families and the community to rally around the Foundation.



## **Brennan Beaumont:**

Brennan began his journey and passion for our Foundation early in his Lions journey. Passionate about LFCDG, he promoted the organization at any opportunity. He had his vehicle wrapped in support of LFCDG during his tenure as District Governor and travelled throughout New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Maine. He served as New Brunswick Director to LFCDG and assisted speaking to individuals about larger donations. Brennan further sat on the Board of Finance and represented the Foundation well. Brennan served as the LCLC campaign representative for New Brunswick and successfully secured a number of gifts conducting numerous presentations.



He gave personally and wholeheartedly. His impact on the Foundation will live on.

## **Cohen Matthews:**

Nominated by his grandmother, Cohen may be our youngest Patron Award recipient, at 11 years old. Clearly, his youth doesn't hold him back! Over the past 5 years, Cohen has been a local voice for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides in Western Newfoundland, and a true champion for the cause and advocate for those with Autism and those who are Dog Guide users. Cohen has been featured in radio interviews and news articles promoting the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides, speaking about the impact his Dog Guide Kito has had on his life. He enjoys educating the public on the amazing work of the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

In addition to his news interviews, Cohen is featured in LFCDG's 2023 promotional video, positively representing the Autism Assistance Program. In Cohen's words he is "giving back as much as I can, because they changed my life by giving me Kito."

If all of this was not enough for an 11-year-old, Cohen has taken it upon himself to develop a presentation for elementary school age classrooms where he introduces students to Dog Guides. He explains how to interact with a Dog Guide, how his Dog Guide Kito helps him, and so much more. To date Cohen has presented to over 20 classrooms in Western Newfoundland.

## SRD Waitlist Opening in October

We are excited to share that the Seizure Response program will be opening its waitlist on October 14th at 9 am (EST). Please take the time to review the updated [Discovery Package](#) document before you submit an Expression of Interest. Currently, we have 20 spaces available on our waitlist.

If we receive more expressions of interest than available spots on the waitlist, we will randomly select a limited number 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. Please note that we have limited spots available for those who require hypoallergenic dogs. If you're unable to complete the Expression of Interest online, please contact our client services team for support at [client-services@dogguides.com](mailto:client-services@dogguides.com).

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

## Halloween and Dog Guides / Foster Puppies

Spooky season is here, and we have some tips on how to keep Dog Guides/foster puppies safe!

1. Make sure that all costumes fit correctly and are safe for dogs to wear.
2. DO NOT let dogs eat chocolate or any other unwanted treats. Xylitol is sugar substitute to be aware of and is more toxic per gram to dogs than any type of chocolate.
3. Some decorations can be a concern around this time. Do not let a dog ingest décor like molding pumpkins, fake cobwebs, spiders, candles or corncob. If ingested, it can be serious.
4. Please be aware that some costumes and decorations may be scary or overwhelming to some puppies and dogs. Watch for signs of stress and create distance from scary situations if necessary.



Be sure to keep these in mind to have a safe Halloween.

## Activities & Events

Congratulations to Our 2024 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides Bonus Incentive Winners!

We are thrilled to announce the winners of our 2024 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides Bonus incentives! Everyone who achieved one of the fundraising goals for the 2024 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides was automatically entered to win an additional prize based of the level fundraised to show our appreciation, thanks for supporting our mission and vision we look forward to your continued support!

Congratulations to:

- Amanda Mackay: \$250 pre-paid Visa gift card (not yet claimed)
- Helen Kitchen: \$500 pre-paid Visa gift card
- Denise Axenty: Dyson V8 Animal Cordless Stick Vacuum
- Carrie Doherty: Samsung 55" Smart TV

Your hard work and dedication have truly made a difference!

It's not too late to support our October Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides!

### Updated Local Walk Totals

We're excited to share that all local walk totals have been updated on our walk website. Check them out [here!](#)

### Upcoming 2025 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides Town Hall Meeting

New! We are super excited to host our first Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides Town Hall on Monday, October 28th, 2024, at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. This virtual meeting is open to all past, present, and future walk organizers or committee members.

Join us to discuss the 2025 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides Campaign. You'll hear insights from our CEO, the walk leadership team, and a special guest from Pet Valu, along with a Dog Guide recipient.

To participate, please [RSVP HERE!](#)

Please note this is an auditing Town Hall Only - questions can be asked in the chat and a Q&A document will be sent out to all participant's the following day.



## Year-End Events

As we approach the end of the year, we want to remind our community that event fundraising doesn't stop! We love when you organize events in support of the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, whether it's a holiday party, birthday celebration, benefit event, sports tournament, or anything else you have in mind. Our eager events team is here to help bring your vision to life! Email [events@dogguides.com](mailto:events@dogguides.com) to set your event up!

## Gift Shop Update

Our Gift Shop is open every Wednesday from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. This month, we are featuring our Halloween Dog Guide Long Sleeve T-Shirts—a great way to support our mission while outfitting yourself, family, and friends in our merchandise. Price: \$30

For any questions, feel free to email [giftshop@dogguides.com](mailto:giftshop@dogguides.com)





# Volunteer Corner

## Volunteer Appreciation Event

On September 21st, LFCDG hosted a Volunteer Appreciation event to celebrate and recognize our amazing volunteers for their unwavering dedication and support. As a heartfelt gesture of gratitude, staff members shared a special video expressing their thanks for the incredible impact volunteers have on our mission. Your time and commitment make a world of difference—thank you!

[Watch Video](#)



# Litter Updates

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 20 new LFCDG puppies. Welcome to the Dog Guide world little ones!

- Q Litter: Padme (black lab) and NSD Hiero (black lab/golden X) – 6 puppies born August 22, 2024 – 2 black females, 2 black males, 2 yellow males
- R Litter: Gala (black lab) and NSD Hiero (black lab/golden X) – 8 puppies born August 28, 2024 – 3 black females and 5 black males
- S Litter: Dinah (black lab) and Gibbs (black lab/golden X) – 6 puppies born August 28, 2024 – 2 black females, 1 yellow female, 2 black males, 1 yellow male

These little puppies will soon be looking for foster homes, would you be interested in helping us raise them? For the first year of their lives, you can take them into your home, care for them, socialize them, and teach them good manners. You will be preparing them for their careers as Dog Guides.

If you are interested, and live no more than 45 minutes away from our Oakville or Guelph facilities, please apply online at [www.dogguides.com](http://www.dogguides.com)

