



A Heartfelt Thank You and a Look Ahead

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude for the incredible support, dedication and commitment that is given to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. I can honestly say we couldn't do the work we do without the amazing team of staff, the very generous donors and deeply passionate volunteers. Many of you fall into more than one of those categories and I am humbled by your contributions and your shared commitment to our mission. I am excited to share just some of the highlights from 2024 and our vision for the future.



2024 Highlights

Impact:

Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to match 119 clients with dogs in 2024. In addition to the new clients added to our family, we continue to provide ongoing support for over 1000 clients as they navigate their world with confidence and independence.

We've opened up our waitlists in all but two programs and are managing our waitlists with the goal of no longer than 18 months from the time a client is accepted to when they are matched with a Dog Guide.

Community Engagement:

We are reaching out to more and more people through events and social media. Our calendars are full with activities and each one is an opportunity to tell someone about the

amazing work of Dog Guides. Our volunteers have been busy helping to organize events, support our operations and be the best ambassadors.

Fundraising Success:

With the dual challenge of raising money for our annual operating budget and an inspiring capital campaign, our donors continue to overwhelm us with their generosity. We raised a record breaking \$276,000 on Giving Tuesday – enough to provide Scholarships for almost 8 teams!

The annual Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides raised a record setting \$1.3 million.

The increase in the number of monthly donors has doubled compared to last year.

Our capital campaign is coming along and we are at 80% of our \$50 million goal. As I write, the structural steel is being erected on our new school and it is starting to take shape. We need to continue to push to the finish line to make our dream school a reality.

Looking Forward to 2025

As we look ahead, we see a year of opportunity and optimism. We have plans to match more clients with Dog Guides, and we will continue to build our new school to house our ambitious plans for growth and accessibility. With your continued support, we can accomplish even more and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community. Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a happy New Year.

Bev Crandell

CEO, Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

Minister Anita Anand Visits Our Oakville Facility

On November 29th, Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG) had the distinct pleasure of hosting the Honourable Minister Anita Anand, President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Transport. Minister Anand was joined by special guests MP Pam Damoff, Town of Oakville Councillor Dave Gittings, Councillor Cathy Duddeck, Councillor Tom Adams, and members of the press.

Minister Anand's visit had a special purpose; to announce that LFCDG's new national training school was selected to receive a \$1.3 million grant from the federal government's Enabling Accessibility Fund. The Enabling Accessibility Fund is dedicated to funding construction or renovation projects which improve accessibility and create opportunities for Canadians

living with disabilities. As the largest grant ever received by LFCDG, these funds will make a significant impact on the development and construction of accessibility features vital to the many Dog Guide recipients. With help from funds like these, the new school can go above and beyond AODA regulations to achieve Rick Hansen Foundation Gold Accessibility Certification.

While The Difference campaign's \$50 million goal is ambitious, it is an investment well worth making for the future of LFCDG. If you would like to join the national initiative to create a fully accessible Dog Guide training school for Canadians coast-to-coast, please reach out to thedifference@dogguides.com, call (905) 842-2891 or 1 (800) 768-3030, ext. 218, or visit The Difference campaign website.



Together, We Made a Difference: Giving Tuesday Recap

On behalf of everyone at Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your incredible generosity on Giving Tuesday. Thanks to you, we raised an amazing \$277,458 in just 24 hours—enough to support the cost of seven life-changing Dog Guides!

We are excited to share the results of our “Name a Future Dog Guide” campaign and the meaningful stories behind each chosen name:

Vimy (Donor: Laurelle)

A tribute to the bravery of Sgt. James Know, a WWI soldier who fought at Vimy Ridge.

Keeper (Donor: Shirley)

A name that symbolizes the protective, unwavering dedication of a Dog Guide, always keeping their person safe.

Ridley (Donor: Karen)

Named after a school where the donor taught for 30 years, and where a future Dog Guide puppy spent 20 years sharing the classroom.

Charity (Donor: Linda)

A reminder of the generous contributions that make it possible to raise, train, and place our Dog Guides.

Vandora (Donor: Dawn)

Honouring a dedicated foster mom who nurtured many future Dog Guides, including one for the donor’s daughter.

Nugget (Donor: Susan)

In honour of “Grammy” Sue’s annual donation to support Dog Guides, inspired by her grandchildren’s love for chicken nuggets.

Giuseppe (Joey) (Donor: Lexus of Oakville)

Named in honour of the new owners at Lexus of Oakville.

A special thank you to Lexus of Oakville for their generous support in matching every donation made to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$20,000!

Your support makes a profound impact, changing lives every day. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey.

Graduate Corner

December Graduation

On December 10th, LFCDG proudly celebrated another heartfelt in-person graduation! We're beyond proud of the teams who graduated from our Vision, Diabetes Alert, and Autism Assistance programs. It's inspiring to see these incredible partnerships begin, and we can't wait to watch their journeys unfold. Watch the graduation on our [YouTube](#) channel.

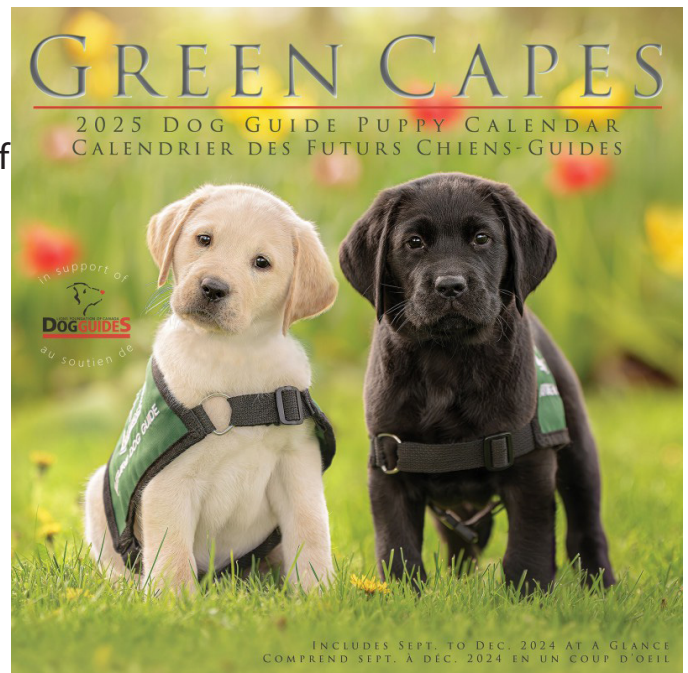
LFCDG Happenings

Introducing the 2025 Green Capes Dog Guide Puppy Calendar

We're excited to unveil the 2025 Green Capes Dog Guide Puppy Calendar, featuring 14 adorable future Dog Guides. Every calendar purchased helps support the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, with 100% of net proceeds going directly to raising, training, and placing these amazing puppies with those in need.

For just \$20, you can enjoy a year of heartwarming puppy photos while making a meaningful difference in someone's life.

Order your calendar today at shop.greencapes.org and help us support these life-changing dogs!



Support Dog Guides with Dr. Barry Heath's Book, *Odyssey and Shammy Go to School*

Veterinarian Dr. Barry Heath has written *Odyssey and Shammy Go to School*, a heartwarming children's book that highlights the incredible impact of service dogs. This delightful story follows two students and their service dogs, while also offering an informative section on the roles and importance of these remarkable companions.

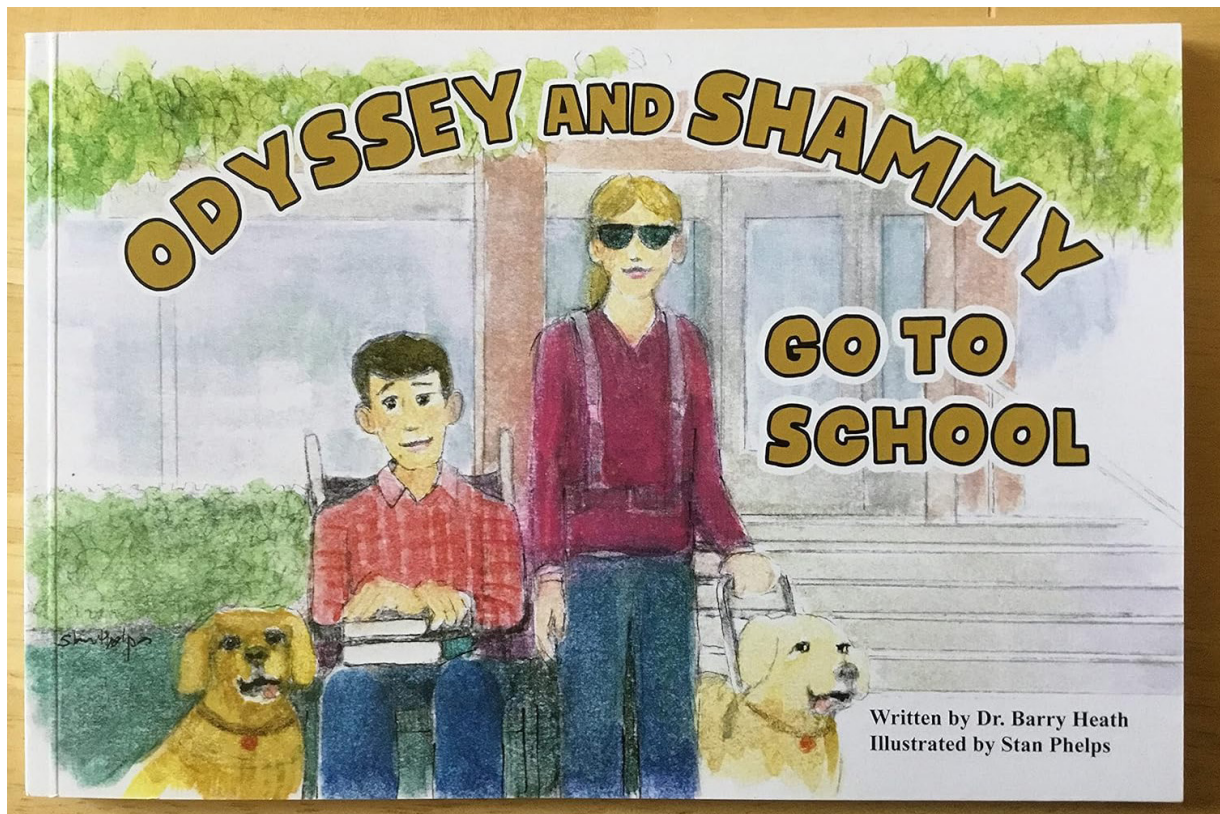
Why it matters:

- Educates kids about inclusivity and the unique role of service dogs.
- Teaches how to interact respectfully with service dogs and their handlers.
- Features insights from trainers and individuals with service dogs.

Bonus: \$5 from every \$15 purchase supports Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

To order, email Dr. Barry Heath at barryheath@sasktel.net. Shipping is under \$4!

Join us in celebrating the incredible work of service dogs while spreading an important message about inclusion.



Help Us Improve Festival & Event Accessibility – Your Input Needed!

We need your help to make Canadian festivals and events more accessible! Please take a few minutes to complete our Festival & Event Accessibility Quick Survey, which takes only 2-3 minutes and is anonymous. Your feedback will directly inform accessibility recommendations for Canadian festivals and events.

Survey Details:

- Deadline: January 15, 2025
- Survey Link: [Complete the Survey](#)
- Accessibility Options: [Learn More](#)

How You Can Help:

- Take the Survey and share it with your network
- Spread the Word on social media or with colleagues, volunteers, and attendees.
- Share the Instagram: [Instagram Post](#)
- Share the LinkedIn: [LinkedIn Post](#)

This project, funded by Accessibility Standards Canada and the Government of Canada, aims to improve the accessibility of outdoor, indoor, and virtual festivals for Canadians with disabilities. Your input is vital in shaping a more inclusive future.

Thank you for supporting accessibility!

Events

A Pawsome Event for a Great Cause

On November 17th, the Mosborough Busy Busy Lions Club hosted the Perfectly Pawsome Pawty, a dog-friendly Christmas Artisan Market in Burlington. 100% of the event's proceeds went to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

The market featured 40 local vendors, including Dog Guide recipients and fosters, offering dog-themed items, custom collars, treats, home décor, candles, Christmas ornaments, and more. Highlights included raffle prizes, door prizes, free dog nail trims by Dog Guide trainers, and a festive Santa photo booth for both humans and dogs.

With support from the community, the event was a success. The Lions Club plans to make it an annual tradition, building on this year's success for even more holiday cheer next year!



A Holiday Message from the Events Team

As we close out another incredible Calander year, the Events Team would like to extend our warmest wishes for a safe and happy holiday season! We are so fortunate to have a strong support system that includes our community partners, foster families, volunteers, and event participants. This calendar year simply wouldn't have been possible without you!

This December has been bustling with holiday spirit and success, thanks to events like:

The Oakville Santa Claus Parade



Pucks and Paws



The Port Perry Santa Claus Parade



The Grimsby Santa Claus Parade



University Pension Plan Toronto celebrates Dog Guides on International Day of Persons with Disabilities and makes a \$2000 commitment



New Dog Guides Gift Shop

Exciting news! The soft launch of our brand-new Gift Shop website is now live! Explore the shop by visiting our [website](#).

Stay tuned as we receive new items and update all product pictures—we can't wait for you to see what's coming!

2025 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce that registration for the 2025 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides is now open! Be part of our 40th anniversary celebrations with the theme "Brighter Futures, Countless Possibilities". Visit the website to register as a WALK ORGANIZER:

If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to Anna Harris, our National Event Coordinator, at:

walk@dogguides.com

(905) 842-2891 ext. 224 or (800) 768-3030 ext. 224

Cell: (905) 464-1081

**Thank you for making this year truly unforgettable.
We can't wait to see what 2025 will bring!**

Wishing you a paws-itively wonderful holiday season and New Year!

The Dog Guides offices will be closed for the holidays from noon on December 24th and reopening on January 2, 2025. Phones will be answered at 1-800-768-3030 Ext. 0. To make a donation during the holidays, please visit www.dogguides.com/donate

Donor Recognition

Gratitude for Generous Donations to Support Dog Guides

We are deeply grateful to the Alice & Murray Maitland Foundation, the Marilyn Neaves Charitable Foundation Trust, and Our Lady of the Prairies for your generous donations. Your support makes it possible for Canadians to receive life-changing Dog Guides.

Volunteer Corner

Volunteer with the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

At the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, we're on the lookout for passionate volunteers to help us train the next generation of life-changing Dog Guides! Whether you have a soft spot for puppies or a desire to work with dogs in training, we have a role for you.

Here are just a few ways you can get involved:

Love puppies? Join our Foster Program and care for a future Dog Guide for a full year. Help them grow into confident, well-trained companions.

Enjoy working with dogs in training? Our Day School program allows you to take a dog in the evenings and on weekends, providing vital support as they continue their journey.

Short on time? Become a sitter! Care for a dog temporarily and support them as they work towards becoming a life-changer.

No matter which role you choose, your time and commitment will help transform lives. You'll be part of an incredible journey, guiding these amazing dogs towards their important work.

Ready to help? Learn more and sign up today at: <https://www.dogguides.com/how-to-help/volunteer/>

Foster Families Making a Lasting Impact

A group of dedicated volunteers is actively raising funds to secure a spot on the donor wall, and they're inviting the entire LFCDG Foster Community—current, past, and breeder fosters alike—to help. The original goal was to raise \$5,000 to honour the “LFCDG Foster Families” name on the donor wall of the new Dog Guides building, creating a lasting tribute to our community's impact on Dog Guides' future.

This campaign has since gained remarkable support, and the goal has increased to \$10,000! Reaching this would mean an opportunity to name an office after “LFCDG Foster Families,” which would be an even greater testament to our community's contribution. Thanks to our amazing supporters, the “Fostering the Difference” campaign has already raised an impressive \$6,700!

If you're interested in helping reach this new milestone, donations can be sent to fosteringthedifference@gmail.com. Please include your full mailing address to receive a tax receipt for donations over \$20.

Thank you for being a vital part of this incredible community and for helping us create a legacy that will last well into the future!

Litter Updates

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 7 new LFCDG puppies. Welcome to the Dog Guide world little ones!

W Litter: Tacoma (black poodle) and GDF Specs (black poodle) – 8 puppies born October 31, 2024 – 3 black males, 2 cream males, 2 black females, and 1 cream female.

X Litter: Yasmin (black lab) and an outside stud – 3 puppies born November 19, 2024 – 1 yellow male, 1 black female, and 1 yellow female.

Y Litter: Willow II (yellow lab) and Alix (yellow lab/golden X) – 10 puppies born November 24, 2024 – 7 yellow males and 3 yellow females.

Z Litter: Yasha (yellow lab) and Arther (black lab/golden X) – 6 puppies born November 30, 2024 – 3 black males, 2 yellow males, and 1 black female.

A Litter: Neesha (black poodle) and Charley (cream poodle) – 1 puppy born December 1, 2024 – 1 apricot female.

B Litter: Saffron (black lab) and Kody (golden retriever) – 6 puppies born December 3, 2024 – 1 yellow male, 4 black males, and 1 yellow female.

C Litter: Hattie (black lab/golden X) and Arther (black lab/golden X) – 7 puppies born December 4, 2024 – 2 yellow males, 3 black males, and 2 black females.

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

