

February 2025



## Dog Guides Program Update

### Service Program Waitlist Opens March 3rd – Limited Spots Available!

We're excited to announce that our Service Dog Guide Program waitlist opens on March 3rd! These highly trained Dog Guides assist Canadians (14+) with physical or medical disabilities by retrieving objects, opening and closing doors, and barking for help on command.

#### Key Details:

- Only 10 spots available.
- Available breeds: Labrador Retrievers and Labrador crosses.
- Open to individuals who use powered mobility aids (e.g., power wheelchair or scooter).
- Applicants must be comfortable independently handling and caring for their Dog Guide.

A Dog Guide isn't just a helper—it's a lifelong partner in independence. If you or someone you know could benefit, be sure to review our [Discovery Package](#) and get ready to apply!

#### Final Call: Diabetes Alert & Seizure Response Dog Guide Applications

Our Diabetes Alert Dog (DAD) and Seizure Response Dog (SRD) programs are currently accepting expressions of interest until February 28th, or until all spots are filled.

**Diabetes Alert Dog Guides** assist Canadians (16+) with diabetes and hypoglycemic unawareness by detecting sudden drops in blood sugar. Please note that all spots for hypoallergenic dogs in this program are now full.

**Seizure Response Dog Guides** support Canadians (16+) living with epilepsy by barking for help. Limited spots remain for those needing a hypoallergenic dog.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a life-changing Dog Guide, apply before the deadline!

Review our [Discovery Packages](#) for more information and apply.

Our Facility Support program is still accepting Expressions of Interest! However, waitlists for other programs are currently closed. We will continue to accept re-applications from successor clients who have previously received a Dog Guide from us.

## Events

### Mark Your Calendars! Our 2025 Spring Open House is Blooming Soon

Spring is just around the corner and so is one of our most anticipated events of the year! Save the date for Saturday, April 5th, 2025, because you won't want to miss this exciting day. We're keeping all the details under wraps for now, but you can expect a day full of fun, inspiration, and surprises that will leave you feeling like spring has officially sprung.

Stay tuned for more announcements, we promise it'll be worth the wait!

See you there!



## Introducing Our Inaugural Mother's Day High Tea

We're thrilled to announce a brand-new event happening on Saturday, April 12, 2025—Mother's Day High Tea at Dog Guides. This special gathering will celebrate mothers, mother figures, and dog moms with a lovely morning of tea, sandwiches, and conversation. If you'd like to be notified when tickets go on sale, email [events@dogguides.com](mailto:events@dogguides.com) to join the list.

## Walk for Bright Futures and Countless Possibilities

Join us on Sunday, May 25, 2025, as we kick off a movement to create brighter futures for Canadians living with disabilities.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides. Walks are held right across the country, and we're setting an ambitious goal—raising \$1.6 million to help train and match life-changing Dog Guides, provided at no cost to those who need them.



How You Can Help:

Every step, donation, and share paves the way for bright futures and unlocks endless possibilities. Whether you walk, donate, or spread the word, your support directly impacts the lives of Canadians who rely on Dog Guides for greater independence.

Find a Walk in your community or start one yourself!

[Register Today](#)

## Early Bird Winner

A huge congratulations to Marta Rozman for winning the iPad in our Early Bird Registration contest.

A reminder to all Walk Organizers—if you need support, please reach out to Anna Harris at [walk@dogguides.com](mailto:walk@dogguides.com). There is one final print run for event materials, so be sure to get your requests in.

# LFCDG Happenings

## The Difference Campaign

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides can't wait to welcome guests to the new national training school. The front doors are anticipated to open in Spring of 2026, marking the start of new possibilities and endless potential.

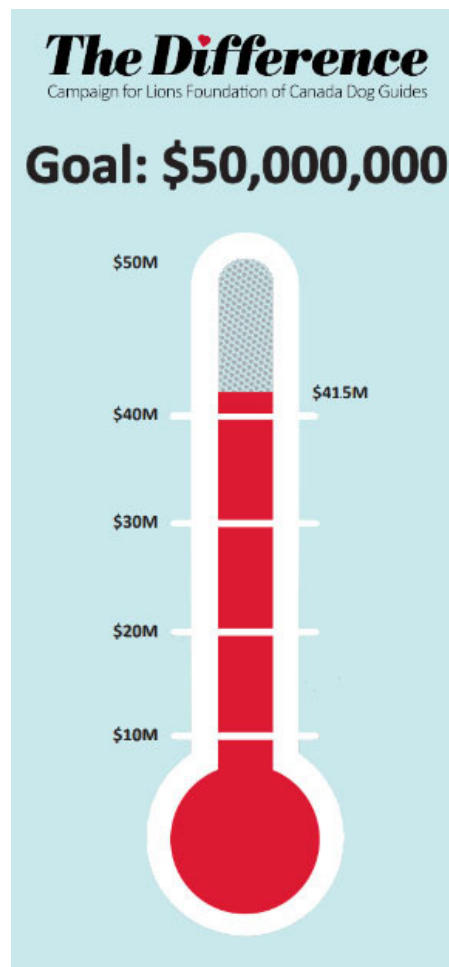
The atrium of the new school will be a starting point for life-changing paths for generations to come. The current training school's entrance can be a challenge with its limited space and staircase. The new school's atrium will offer modern improvements for the experience of all LFCDG visitors, such as elevator access to the entire building and accessible universal washrooms.

The importance of a welcoming and accessible atrium is not just one of functionality. The atrium will be a place of community, where guests can enter the auditorium to celebrate graduations or visit the LFCDG gift shop for something special.

The memories made in the new school's atrium will live on for years to come as Canadians across the country experience firsthand the difference Dog Guides make. Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides would like to express its sincere thanks to Mr. Donald Meehan for his generous donation of \$500,000 designated to the new school's atrium space.

"I am incredibly proud to be able to leave a lasting legacy by giving what I can to support the incredible work of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides," said Mr. Meehan. "Seeing the plans for the new national training facility is very exciting especially knowing it will allow LFCDG to match more people with these life-changing dogs."

Your support can help open the front doors of the new national training school and make more incredible journeys possible. For more information or to donate, visit The Difference campaign website or reach out to [thedifference@dogguides.com](mailto:thedifference@dogguides.com) or call 1(800) 768-3030 or (905) 842-2891 ext. 218.







## Moose Begins His Important Work at the Zebra Centre

Moose, one of our Facility Support graduates, has officially joined the Zebra Child and Youth Advocacy Centre's Facility Dog program in Edmonton. As part of his new role, Moose will provide comfort and support to children who have experienced abuse, offering a calming presence in difficult situations.

Trained since birth for this important work, Moose is already making a difference alongside his fellow Facility Support Dogs. His ability to provide non-judgmental companionship and reassurance is invaluable to the children he supports.

Be sure to check out Moose's feature on Global News to see him in action!

Congratulations, Moose—we couldn't be more proud!

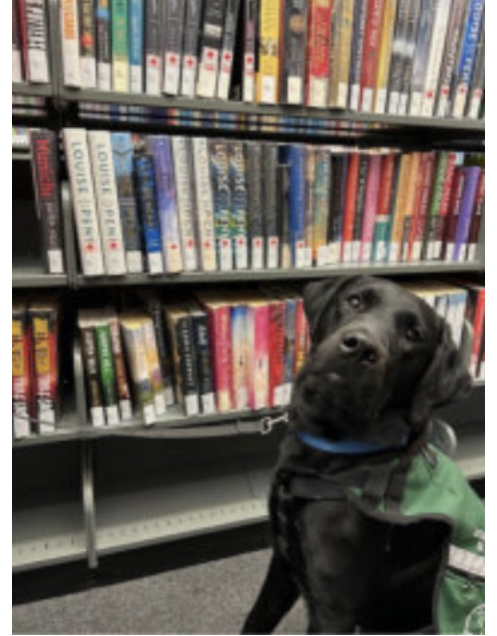


# Updates from Louise Penny and Her

Future Dog Guide, Gabri!

Acclaimed author Louise Penny generously donated \$35,000 to fund a full Dog Guide scholarship. She has been actively following and sharing the journey of her sponsored puppy, Gabri, whose name was chosen by her devoted readers. He's a popular character in several of Louise Penny's novels.

Meet Gabri, one of our future Dog Guides! At 11 months old, Gabri has been thriving in his foster home (a big thank you to Sheri!) and recently visited the Whitby Public Library, where he charmed everyone he met. As he prepares to transition from his foster family to Dog Guide training, we know he'll carry all the love and lessons he's received into this next stage.



## Graduate Corner

On February 25th, LFCDG will proudly celebrate another in-person graduation, recognizing the teams who completed our Autism Assistance and Seizure Response programs.

Congratulations to all! It's inspiring to see these new partnerships take their next steps, and we look forward to the positive impact they will have.

Check out our [YouTube](#) page to watch past graduations and stay tuned for this month's grad ceremony upload!



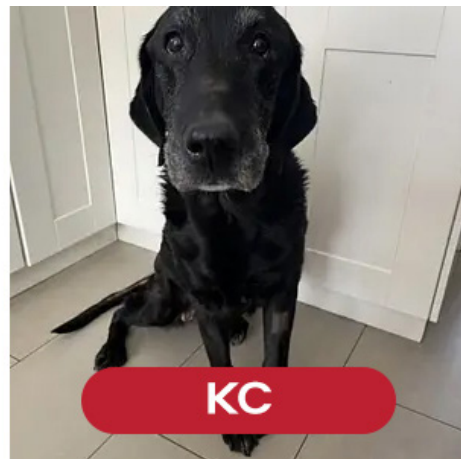
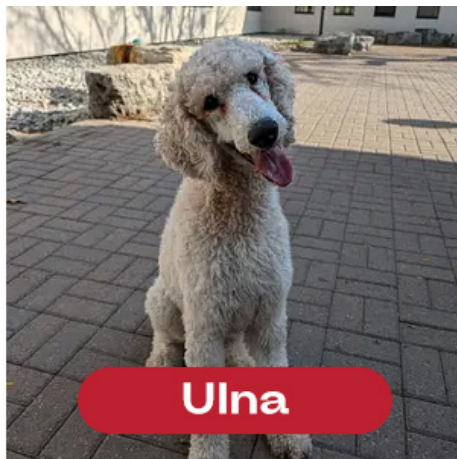


## Career Change Dogs Looking for Homes

Interested in giving a Dog Guide a new home?

Not every puppy is destined for a career as a Dog Guide—some simply aren't the right fit for the demands of the role. Ulna, Atton, and KC are among these amazing dogs who, with their loving personalities, are now searching for their forever homes.

Please visit our [Career Change](#) section on Dog Guides' website to learn more about these wonderful dogs.



## Volunteer Corner

### Day School Volunteers Needed – Breslau Facility

Looking for a meaningful way to support future Dog Guides? If you live in the Guelph, Ontario area, you can join the Day School Program at our Breslau facility!

As a Day School volunteer, you'll:

- Provide a loving home for a Dog Guide in training in the evenings, and on weekends (and some holidays).
- Drop off and pick up the dog at our Breslau training facility Monday to Friday so they can "go to school".

Not every Dog Guide in training thrives in a kennel environment—your home could make all the difference!

Interested in helping a future service dog succeed? [Learn more and apply today.](#)

# Volunteer Spotlights

Yvonne Schmiedendorf

Meet Yvonne Schmiedendorf, a dedicated volunteer with Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides since 2001. Over the years, Yvonne has fostered puppies, served on the Cambridge Walk and Ride for Dog Guides Committees, led the Puppy Partner Program in her area, and is currently a Puppy Partner, puppy sitter, and enrichment provider at the Breslau Puppy Building.



Yvonne's love for poodle puppies, the perfect match for her allergy to furred dogs, inspired her to get involved. She's helped birth puppies, fostered one named Latte, and seen two foster pups graduate as Canine Vision Dog Guides—moments she treasures deeply.

For Yvonne, volunteering is about making a difference for those in need of service dogs. She encourages others to volunteer, sharing how rewarding it is to be part of such a supportive community, all while fostering a new poodle pup each year (with plenty of paper towels!).

Thank you, Yvonne, for your incredible dedication and the lasting impact you've made.

Interested in joining our incredible volunteer community?

[Learn more](#)



# Litter Update

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 12 new LFCDG puppies. Welcome to the Dog Guide world little ones!

**Ojai** (Black Lab) & **Alix** (Yellow Lab/Golden X) welcomed their “E” litter on January 25, 2025—two adorable puppies, one yellow female and one yellow male.

**Geneva** (Silver Poodle) & **Icey** (Black Poodle) introduced their “D” litter on January 15, 2025—ten beautiful puppies: two cream females, four black females, and four black males.

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)

