

November2024



Diabetes Awareness Month

November is Diabetes Awareness Month, a time to celebrate the resilience of the millions living with diabetes and to honour the incredible Diabetes Alert Dog Guide teams that support them every day. Since our program began in 2013, over 80 dedicated teams have graduated from LFCDG, each committed to making a meaningful impact in the lives of those they serve.



This month, we honor the achievements of our graduates and the transformative partnerships they've forged. As we look back on these incredible journeys, we're excited to share the inspiring story of our very first Diabetes Alert Dog and her well-deserved retirement.

Hero's Journey and Well-Earned Retirement

After years of dedicated service, it's time for Nettle, the first-ever Diabetes Alert Dog at LFCDG, to enjoy a well-deserved retirement! Nettle has been more than just a loyal companion to her clients, Jade and Brooke—she's been a true guardian, providing life-saving alerts and peace of mind to the twins every single day.

Trained to detect subtle changes in blood glucose levels, Nettle's finely tuned senses allowed her to sense dangerous shifts even before symptoms appeared. She was trained to alert their father, Terry, when either twin's blood sugar was dropping, guiding him to the one in need. Nettle's contributions go beyond alerts; she has been a steadfast friend, offering comfort on

tough days, bringing joy to their lives, and strengthening their connection to the community. Her hard work and heart have touched not only her immediate family but also everyone who has witnessed her unwavering commitment to Jade and Brooke's well-being.

Now, it's Nettle's time to relax. Whether it's leisurely strolls, endless belly rubs, or simply soaking up the sun in the backyard, her retirement will be filled with the same love and care she has given her entire life. Jade and Brooke are happily adopting her and won't be applying for another DAD until she passes away, ensuring that Nettle will always have a loving home.

Thank you, Nettle, for your remarkable service. LFCDG wishes you a relaxing retirement filled with joy and love!



Graduate Corner

Fall Graduation

On November 4th, LFCDG proudly celebrated another in-person graduation! We're incredibly proud of the teams who graduated in our Vision, Hearing, Diabetes Alert, Service and Facility Support Programs. We look forward to seeing them begin their journeys together.

LFCDG Happenings

Giving Tuesday- A Name, A Story, A Life Transformed

Choosing the perfect name is no small task- it carries the promise of a journey, a story, a life transformed.

Join us on Giving Tuesday (December 3rd), as we aim to raise \$175,000 in 24 hours to support the cost of five life-changing Dog Guides. For every \$50 donation, you can submit a name for a future Dog Guide that will be raised and trained to transform someone's life. With a \$20,000 matching donation from Lexus of Oakville, your gift will go even further.



Let's give these future heroes a name and a purpose.

Western Financial Group Communities Foundation, through CanadaHelps, is giving away \$100,000 to 10 deserving Canadian charities! We have a chance to be one of them.

Here's how you can help:

1. Visit Western Financial Group's Facebook page before November 27th: <https://www.facebook.com/westernfinancialgroup>
2. Post a heartfelt story: Share about the incredible impact of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Highlight the life-changing work we do, and how our dogs transform the lives of people with disabilities.
3. Use the hashtags: #100KforGivingTuesday and #GivingTuesdayCA
4. Tag us on Facebook: Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

Remember: The more nominations we receive, the better our chances of winning!

Rally your friends and family to support our mission.

Become a Puppy Pal!

Join the Puppy Pal Program and symbolically adopt a litter of future Dog Guides! For a donation of \$10,000, you'll help cover essential costs like breeding, veterinary care, training, and socialization for these golden puppies.

As a Puppy Pal, you'll receive a Certificate of Adoption and updates on your litter's progress at 16 months. Please note that you won't be able to name the puppies or choose the litter, and not all will graduate as service dogs. However, those that don't will still find loving homes through our Career Change program.



Make a difference today—every puppy deserves a chance to shine!

Exciting News: The DAD Program Waitlist is Now Open!

We're thrilled to announce that the [DAD \(Diabetes Alert Dog\) Program waitlist](#) is now open! If you or someone you know is looking to be matched with a trained Diabetes Alert Dog, now is the perfect time to sign up. Diabetes Alert Dog Guides are trained to assist Canadians (16 years or older) diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes with hypoglycemic unawareness by providing specific tasks and advanced scent work. These Dog Guides are trained to detect sudden drops in their handler's blood sugar and alert them. Take the first step toward having a life-changing companion by your side!

Additionally, if you or someone you know is between 5-16 years old with Type 1 diabetes and lives within 2 hours of Oakville, we invite you to reach out to our client services department for more details on eligibility for our new pilot program.

Don't wait—get on the list today!

The Difference a New State-of-the-Art Training Space Makes!

A new national training school for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is exciting in every aspect. From offering clients improved spaces to stay while they train with their Dog Guides to having expanded play and care areas for future Dog Guides, the new training school will allow for more Dog Guide matches to be made in a purpose-built facility.

A highlight of the new school is its increased training capacities, particularly with the construction of a mock streetscape. By creating a custom-built, indoor street complete with a variety of terrains, LFCDG will offer improved training experiences and efficiency. The streetscape will increase available space and lessen weather-dependency meaning training with real curbs and sidewalks can continue even if the weather outdoors would not allow it. This safe and controlled environment, located in the underground level of the new school, aims to improve the confidence, comfort, and security of clients and future Dog Guides while they are training.

In order to make ambitious spaces like this a reality, Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides launched the largest fundraising campaign in its history earlier this year. The Difference campaign needs support to reach its \$50 million goal. If you are interested in helping make a difference at LFCDG for years to come, please contact thedifference@dogguides.com or call (905) 842-2891 / (800) 768-3030 ext. 218. Visit The Difference website to learn more about this exciting phase of LFCDG history.



Events

A Big Thank You!

Thank you all for helping us get through a busy and productive October! We couldn't do it without the incredible support of our fosters, volunteers, and community—your dedication truly makes all the difference.

Recent Events & Cheque Presentations:

Sparky's Dog Days of Summer: Cheque presentation of \$5,735 in support of Dog Guides.



Hexagon Awareness Event: Cheque presentation of over \$2,000 thanks to Hexagon for matching employee donations.



Hot Yoga & Pilates, Downtown Oakville: Tails & Treats event with a \$1,440 cheque presentation in support of Dog Guides.



RBC Mortgage Leaders: 600-person presentation and \$5,000 cheque presentation in support of Dog Guides.



Year End & Holiday Season Event Planning:

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 to set your event up!

2025 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides:

The recent Pet Valu Walk town hall for volunteer walk organizers was a success! If you're interested in learning more about the campaign, you can find the recording on our YouTube channel.

Oakville and Toronto Walk Committee roles are now open—check volunteer opportunities on our website.

For questions, please reach out to walk@dogguides.com.

Important Safety Reminder: Speed Limit on Breslau Property

A reminder for anyone visiting our Breslau property: please be mindful of your speed when driving down the laneway and up the driveway. With staff crossing from the kennel to the nursery and animals on the property, it's important to drive at a slower speed for everyone's safety. Thank you for helping us keep the property safe and secure for everyone!

Donor Recognition

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides: Generous Donation from Ladysmith Lions Club & Bosley's

We are thrilled to announce a generous donation of **\$5,070.26** to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, thanks to the Ladysmith Lions Club and **Bosley's by Pet Valu** at Coronation Mall. Throughout June, Bosley's encouraged customer contributions under the leadership of manager Jennifer, with all proceeds supporting our cause.

The Ladysmith Lions Club has kindly forwarded this donation on behalf of both the club and Bosley's team, who also played a key role in the success of our Walk for Dog Guides event in May. Their support continues to make a significant impact in helping provide service dogs for Canadians with disabilities.

A huge thank you to everyone involved for their generosity and dedication!

Community Partners Driving Lasting Impact

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is extremely grateful to have the support of community partners throughout Canada. As a charity that relies solely on donations, we cannot do our work without them.

Thank you to these organizations, whose financial support will help us to raise, train and match more Dog Guides for Canadians living with disabilities, allowing them to navigate their world with confidence and independence.

\$12,000 donation from Order of the Eastern Star – Saskatchewan Chapter

Tour and \$3,000 donation from the Canadian Council of the Blind Club 60 Barrie

In-person presentation with donation from Vineland United Mennonite Church

- Facility Tours with donations:
- Escarpment Probus Club Milton
- Cooksville Probus Club

Volunteer Corner

A Heartfelt Thank You & Exciting Foster Opportunities Ahead!

We are truly thankful to our amazing foster families and sitters! Your enthusiasm and unwavering support for our puppies make a real difference, and we are so grateful for your dedication to our mission.

In January, we expect about 45 puppies to be ready for placement in our foster program. If you're interested in becoming a foster for the first time, [learn more and apply](#), to start the onboarding process:

Current fosters can reach out to the Puppy Program directly.
(puppyprogram@dogguides.com)

Volunteer Appreciation: The Reception Coverage Team

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides couldn't achieve what we do without the dedication of our incredible supporters and volunteers. This month, we're thrilled to spotlight our amazing Reception Coverage Team! These dedicated, friendly, and resourceful volunteers step in to help us during lunch hours and whenever Lauren, our Receptionist, is away or unwell. Their warm smiles and positive attitudes brighten our day and keep everything running smoothly. A big thank you to our Reception Coverage team for all that you do! Please give them a warm hello when you see them around.



Litter Updates

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

- **T Litter:** Fernie (cream poodle) and Jaguar (cream poodle) – 9 puppies born September 28, 2024 – 4 cream/apricot females and 5 cream/apricot males
- **U Litter:** Rockette (black lab/golden X) and Cartier (black lab) – 4 puppies born October 17, 2024 – 3 black females and 1 black male
- **V Litter:** Hovis (yellow lab) and Alix (yellow lab/golden X) – 7 puppies born October 22, 2024 – 2 yellow females and 5 yellow 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

