



TM

# GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

# Partners

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## HOW MY GUIDE DOG CHANGED MY LIFE

The mission of Guide Dogs of America isn't just to raise great dogs but to change the lives of people who live without sight. Of course, that's exactly what a well-trained guide dog does. So *Partners* asked our graduates to tell us how having a guide dog from GDA has changed their lives. Their answers fell into three categories; all contained themes of freedom and love.

### Independence

**David Bates about Stanley:** "I get around faster, more confidently, and with less effort. I am less dependent on my wife, which she likes a lot. So do I. My posture has improved, so I breathe better, and my back hurts less often. Stanley makes me laugh. Showing up blind in public can be socially awkward. Showing up with a

*well-behaved, handsome, and friendly dog can be a great social ice breaker."*

**Glenda Hodapp about Vadar:** "Having Vadar changed my life because I knew Vadar would take me to the right bus. I could walk with my head held high and feel the freedom of my confidence in him. I could go anywhere, anyplace, anytime I wanted. I knew he could find a bathroom, find an elevator, find the bus, and I would always get home safe. I never thought I would feel this way again."

**Nikki Jeffords about Nia:** "Having a guide dog has given me the confidence to live a full and independent life. It has helped me to overcome my own fears, vulnerabilities, insecurities, and misperceptions. I used to think my life would be limited due to my blindness. Now, I realize I can have a fulfilling, "normal" life with

[continued on page 2](#)



## Reserve Your Place At Our THIRD ANNUAL RIDE FOR GUIDES

GDA's Third Annual *Ride for Guides* takes place on **Sunday, May 21, 2006**. We'll begin at GDA and complete an 80-mile round trip. At special stops along the way, riders will draw a card for a poker hand and meet guide dog puppies in-training. To top it all off, we'll have a great barbecue at the end of the day.

All makes of motorcycles are welcome, and we're expecting twice as many riders as last year, so get your registration in early by going to [www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org) and clicking on the calendar link, or by calling Lorri Bernson at (818) 833-6431. Register by April 28 and you'll get a free ticket for our Harley-Davidson motorcycle raffle. The Ride promises to be fun, so join us for a great time and help support Guide Dogs of America 🐾





## PARTNERS NEWSLETTER

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## New Faces at GDA

We're pleased to welcome these new, enthusiastic dog-lovers to GDA.

- Grace Cohan – Outreach Director
- Burt Pittler – Kennel Tech
- Teri Roveda – Kennel & Nursery Assistant



*How my Guide Dog Changed My Life continued from page 1*

*the same happiness and joy that my sighted counterparts enjoy.”*

**Pat Franklin about Kate:** “Having Kate, my guide dog, has given me greater confidence in going about daily activities. Shopping in malls, keeping appointments, attending church, in general facing life with joy and anticipation instead of dread. We have ‘full out’ fun together every single day. She is perfect for me.”

### Mobility

**Karla Westjohn about Dreamer:** “Having a guide dog means walking at the pace I prefer, not accommodating my walking speed to the limited reaction time that a cane affords. Guide dogs, unlike canes, can detect overhead obstructions. They avoid puddles, mud piles, and other nasty stuff that I don't want on my shoes. In short, with my guide dog, getting there is really half the fun.”

**Sharlene Wills about Shyla:** “I hold down a full-time job in downtown Los Angeles, am active in social and athletic activities. Without Shyla, my German Shepherd guide dog, none of this would be very likely, simply because she takes away so much of the stress of having to get around alone as a blind person in this ever-increasing, traffic-clogged, rush/rush city.”

**Paul Dang about Marshall:** “The use of my guide dog makes me feel younger due to the ability to do more things. Now I walk more within the city, in place of using public transportation. There is no comparison to the use of my cane around obstacles and the use of my guide dog. In order to understand the difference, for those who drive, it's like steering through heavy traffic and enjoying the ‘open road.’”

### Self Confidence

**Gennie Phillips about Annie:** “Annie has been my best co-therapist and healer to my patients when I was running therapy groups. She ignited humor and softness from an audience, making me feel less tentative as I was giving lectures at a conference. Every day, she gives me a reason to get up in the morning. What a gift and an honor for me to have this most precious dog in my life!”

**Sharon Hutton about Kodak:** “Having a guide dog had given me more self confidence. I have been able to do things I had not known were possible such as attending our local community college at 45 years old.”

**Paul Jordan about Rawhide:** “Rawhide has increased not only my physical but also my emotional confidence to a level I never thought I would be able to achieve after my sight was impaired. My self assurance with him at my side has given me a whole new outlook on life.”

Finally, we leave you with the thoughts of Mark Grimes, who believes his dog Aslan has made him lovable again.

**Mark Grimes about Aslan:** “In my hands THE CANE was a lethal weapon! Light posts, fire plugs, shrubbery, newsstands, fruit stands, not to mention any humans who deigned to cross my path or traverse the space in front of me. Aslan has made me loved again! I am no longer known as swashbuckling Grimes. The peace of mind that Aslan gives me is priceless. I can be what I want to be with pride and confidence.”

These vignettes from our graduates remind us how the precious puppies we breed, raise and train go on to perform miracles in the lives of some determined men and women who live without sight. 🐾

## Remebering a Dear Friend

Motorcycle runs have become a significant part of GDA's fundraising efforts. That wouldn't be true if not for **John Massetti**, a great friend of GDA who passed away last fall.

Though he was not a motorcycle rider himself, as Past President of the Minnesota Chapter of Guide Dogs of America, John was instrumental in creating the first Hawgs for Dogs run in 1989.

The many rides for GDA have totalled more than a million dollars to help provide guide dogs for people without sight. Building on that accomplishment, John also helped start what is now an annual golf tournament for GDA in Minnesota. Golf was a passion of John's, so it's fitting that the tournament he started will now be called the **John Massetti Memorial Golf Tournament**. John also served in the past on GDA's Board of Directors. We will truly miss his energy and commitment to GDA and we offer our best wishes and condolences to his family.





# GRADUATION



## Class #349

Seated from left to right –

Dorothy Van Dyke and **Klover**; Tina Thomas and **Nina**; Maxine Alexander and **Levi**; Larry Barbee and **Nitro**; Sherri Annis and **Bruce**; Veronica Hernandez and **Nilsson**; Cookie Ivester and **Schroeder**; Mark Hanohano and **Livingston**; Natalie Castro and **Petra**

**Instructors (standing from left to right):** Dave Ponce; Wendy Roof; Steve Burkman

**Puppy Raisers (not pictured):**

**Klover**–The Apollonio Family;  
**Nina**–Lisa Fletcher; **Levi**–Gail

Leonard; **Nitro**–The Beydler Family; **Bruce**–Glyn Judson; **Nilsson**–The Brimberry Family;  
**Schroeder**–Kathy Tallent & Art Richardson;  
**Livingston**–Shonnie & Clinton Jones; **Petra**–Rachel Conway 🐾



Class #349

## Partners in Trust

Just as blind men and women place their trust in their guide dog partners, GDA's friends and supporters express their trust in our work by joining the **Partners in Trust Society**. We are proud to welcome our newest members and are grateful for their thoughtful generosity.



- Jerry Hager
- Barbara Heacox
- Darlene Kaiser
- Peggy S. Mueller
- Gene Smith
- Kathy Tallant
- Anonymous

You can become a member of the **Partners in Trust Society** by naming GDA in your will or trust. If you have already designated GDA or plan to, please call Rhonda Bissell at (818) 833-6432 to make certain that you are thanked and recognized for your support.



## Debutantes Committed to GDA

The National Charity League (NCL) is an organization of mothers and daughters dedicated to raising money and providing volunteer help to worthy charities. GDA is honored to be one of the San Fernando Valley Chapter's volunteer efforts.

On November 26, 2005, the Chapter honored 11 young women at its Annual Charity Ball. The Ball's theme, **A Celebration of Commitment**, acknowledged the Chapter's 50th anniversary of volunteer service to charitable organizations.

Over the past year, the mothers and daughters provided over 4,000 volunteer hours to GDA and other local charities. GDA counts on the mother and daughter teams to man our merchandise tables at Open House, make and serve refreshments at our Graduations, and pitch-in wherever they are needed throughout the year. Their graciousness and genuine good hearts are tributes to NCL and blessings to GDA. 🐾

## IN MEMORY

Guide Dogs of America has recently lost some wonderful dogs.



### Guide Dogs

- Gus – Class #304
- Houston – Class #336
- Meeko – Class #314
- Miles – Class #309

### Breeding Dog

- Halley



# SILVER IN LAS VEGAS!

## OUR 25th ANNUAL FUNDRAISING WEEKEND

For 24 years, our annual fundraising weekend in Las Vegas has been an important way to raise money to help provide guide dogs to people who live without sight. This year, we celebrated the Silver Anniversary of this wonderful event.

### Romance in Winter

The highlight of the GDA Las Vegas weekend every year is the William P. Winpisinger Charity Banquet. This year, for our Silver Anniversary Banquet, the theme was Romance in Winter, and 1,100 people came out in their finest on November 19th for a formal dinner in the magnificent ballroom of the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas.



R. Thomas Buffenbarger (far right), 13th President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM&AW), was recognized for his leadership in continuing the IAM&AW's more than 50 year commitment to supporting GDA.



GDA President Jay Bormann was honored to present three 2005 Gift of Sight Awards.



Mark Eagen (far right), President and CEO of K & R Industries, was acknowledged for his company's longstanding commitment to the American labor movement, and for his generous work with GDA.



Kevin Kelly (far left), an IAM&AW member and President of Kelly Press, was recognized for his company's support of GDA's mission and for the generous gift of printing the GDA Christmas cards each year.

### Records Were Broken – What A Challenge For Next Year ...

Overall, the weekend was a huge success, breaking all records for attendance and money raised for guide dogs and the partners they serve. It's going to be a great challenge to top this next year. Be sure to put the weekend of November 16 - 18, 2006 on your calendar today!



### MOTERING Through the Desert

The weekend began with the 6th Annual Desert Tortoise motorcycle run on November 17th. Almost 50 riders left Las Vegas on their bikes, and rode 150 miles through some of the most amazing desert scenery in the world, including Joshua Tree National Park. The ride included a Poker Run, and other contests, lots of prizes, a great lunch and the wonderful camaraderie of good people out in the sun and clear desert air raising money for a good cause.





## Silver Anniversary Golf Tournament

The Revere Golf Course, nestled between the foothills of the mountains and the city of Henderson, welcomed GDA to their amazing golf course, complete with a gorgeous waterfall in the desert. The event attracted 280 men and women out for a great day of golf and as befitting a 25th Anniversary event, it raised more money than ever.



### GDA wishes to thank our generous sponsors:

- Allied Office Products
- Delta Dental of California
- Mark & Shelly Eagan
- Fox Printing
- General Dynamics
- Goldman Sachs
- Dale & Robin Hartford
- IAM Crest
- IAM&AW Local Lodge 63
- IAM&AW Local Lodge 1432
- Jones & Granger
- K&R Industries
- Kelly Press
- Landmark Partners
- Meteka Investment Group
- Helen Morton
- Morton Foundation
- Northern Capital Management
- Pacificare Behavioral Health
- Quest Investment Management
- Rainer Investment Management Inc.
- Rexham Beverage Co.
- The Altig Agency/American Income Life
- Unite States Sugar
- Voyager Asset Management





# WISH LIST

We're wishing and hoping that some of our friends will be able to donate some of the following items.

## For our Dormitory:

- Braille Games (available at [www.braillesuperstore.com](http://www.braillesuperstore.com))
- Talking Alarm Clocks with large number display
- Portable AM/FM/Cassette/CD players

## For our Grooming needs:

- Trimming Blades #4, #7 and #10 and Attachment Combs 1/2", 1/3", 1/4" (to fit Oster clipper #A-5)

## For our Kennels:

- Rectangular Quilted Pet Throw [48" x 58"]. Available at Costco ("Kirkland Signature" Brand) [www.costco.com](http://www.costco.com)
- Toys (always needed!): Kongs, hard rubber toys, sterilized bones, compressed rawhide bones, Nylabones. (All in LARGE sizes)

## Special Wishes

If your generosity inspires you to contribute one of these items, please call Lorri Bernson at GDA, (818) 833-6431. We know you'd want your gift to meet our needs.

- Quilt Stand and Carrying Case (available at [www.clotilde.com](http://www.clotilde.com))
- Commercial Outdoor Heaters
- Combination VCR and DVD Player

## GDA RAFFLES – WIN ALL THREE!!

If you were an incredibly lucky person and won all three GDA raffles, you could ride your new 2006 Harley-Davidson Street Glide FLHX to GDA for "A Day With the Trainers" and then relax later, warmed by your Handmade Quilt.

It's not likely anyone will win all three, but if you want to enter any – or all – of these raffles, you'll have a chance to win and even if you don't, you'll help provide guide dogs for people without sight.

### Raffle One –

#### 2006 HARLEY-DAVIDSON STREET GLIDE FLHX.

Members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 98, Local Lodge 175 who work at the York, Pennsylvania Harley-Davidson factory lovingly built this unique motorcycle. It'll be the star at any motorcycle run. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20. Drawing to be held by Labor Day, 2006 on the "On the Road with Harley-Davidson" TV show.



### Raffle Two –

#### A DAY WITH THE TRAINERS.

This has become one of the most coveted prizes of the year at GDA. You'll get an inside look at how guide dogs are trained, and a revealing opportunity to experience life without sight – and how much a guide dog can improve it. Winner must be 18 years of age, able to walk 4-5 miles in one day, and available for Training Day on June 27, 2006. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20. Drawing to be held at GDA on June 13, 2006.



### Raffle Three –

There's nothing warmer than **A QUILT** made with love. Whether it's



for you, or for your most pampered pet, you'll have a chance to win one of two beautiful lap quilts made and donated by friends of GDA to help raise money for guide dogs. Tickets are 1 for \$2 or 6 for \$10. Drawing to be held at GDA

Open House on June 10, 2006.

**You don't need to be present to win. Take a chance and support GDA by filling out the Raffle Ticket below.**

## GDA RAFFLE TICKET

Please complete this ticket, indicate the raffle(s) you wish to enter, enclose the correct amount and mail to GDA using the enclosed envelope.

| Ticket Type/Ticket Price   | Quantity | Subtotal  |
|--|----------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street Glide FLHX Motorcycle<br>1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20 |          |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day with a Trainer<br>1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20           |          |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2006 Quilts<br>1 for \$2 or 6 for \$10                  |          |           |
| <b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:</b>  |          | <b>\$</b> |

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Check: Please make payable to Guide Dogs of America.  
 Credit Card:  Visa  MasterCard  Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? call Louise Grimm (818) 833-6429.

# Groovin' with the Guides...

It's that time of year again, time to mark your calendar with the date of GDA's Open House,

**Saturday, June 10, 2006.** If you've been before, you know our Open House is a great day for adults and kids to see our campus, meet working guide dogs, and see our puppies-in-training compete. If you've never been to a GDA Open House, you're in for a treat. You'll love our famous Puppy Trials. There will be pet-related booths, raffles, crafts, and an exciting

silent auction. You can take a tour of the campus, and learn how we train guide dogs. And you'll eat great food available at nominal cost.

Our theme this year is *Spend a Groovy Day at GDA*, so we encourage you to come in 60's style: love beads, tie-dyes, flower power, big sideburns, bell-bottoms, granny glasses and all that "hip" stuff. The doors are open from 10:45am - 4:00pm, with a host of activities scheduled from 11:00am - 2:30pm. 🐾

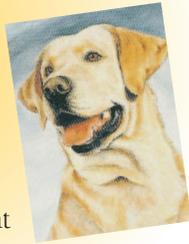
**GDA Open House!**  
Come and groove with the guides!



## Fly a Flag of your Friend

Wonderful outdoor flags feature your beloved canine friend.

- 37" x 26" fits standard poles
- full color with permanent dye printed on all-weather taffeta
- machine washable and fade resistant
- pole not included



Cost: \$20.00 each plus \$5.00 shipping & handling for up to three flags

## Spring Shopping AT GDA

### GDA 2006 Pin Lapel Pin

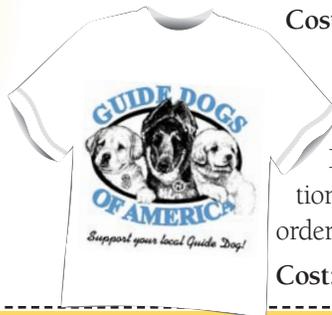
This 1" x 1" lapel pin of a handsome German Shepherd is #4 in a series of 5. (See order form for pins 1, 2 and 3.)



Cost: \$8 with FREE shipping & handling

### GDA T-shirt

You'll enjoy wearing this American-made, 100% cotton T-shirt. Message under illustration of dogs: Support your local Guide Dog! See order form for sizes.



Cost: \$18 with FREE shipping & handling

### SPRING SHOPPING FORM Mail this entire form with your payment in the enclosed envelope.

| Item  | QTY | Price    | Subtotal |
|---|-----|----------|----------|
| Flag (indicate breed and quantity) <input type="checkbox"/> Black Labrador <input type="checkbox"/> Chocolate Labrador <input type="checkbox"/> German Shepherd<br><input type="checkbox"/> Golden Retriever <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Labrador<br>(available, but not pictured) <input type="checkbox"/> Bischon Frises <input type="checkbox"/> Dachshund <input type="checkbox"/> Pug<br><input type="checkbox"/> Rottweiler <input type="checkbox"/> Westie <input type="checkbox"/> Yorkie |     | \$20 ea. | \$       |
| 2006 GDA German Shepherd Lapel Pin  |     | \$8 ea.  | \$       |
| 2005 GDA Chocolate Lab Lapel Pin  |     | \$8 ea.  | \$       |
| 2004 GDA Golden Retriever Lapel Pin   |     | \$8 ea.  | \$       |
| 2003 GDA Black Lab Lapel Pin  |     | \$8 ea.  | \$       |
| GDA T-shirt (indicate size and quantity) <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL  |     | \$18 ea. | \$       |

#### PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Credit Card  VISA  Mastercard  Discover Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Check (Please make your check payable to Guide Dogs of America.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Shipping and Handling  | \$ |
| <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED:</b> | \$ |

|                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>*Shipping &amp; Handling</b>      |          |
| FLAGS                                |          |
| 1-3 flags                            | Add \$5  |
| 4-6 flags                            | Add \$10 |
| For custom rate call (818) 833-6474. |          |

Your purchases help support the work of Guide Dogs of America.  
**THANK YOU!**

Questions? call (818) 833-6474.



## Puppy Corner

We're proud to welcome three dozen new Labradors to the GDA family who will soon be going home with some puppy raisers. If you would like to be a puppy raiser for one of these future guide dogs and live on the west coast, call Louise Henderson at (818) 833-6441.

- 9/29/05 – 7 yellow & black Labradors
- 10/20/05 – 10 yellow & black Labradors
- 11/3/05 – 6 black Labradors
- 11/10/05 – 6 black Labradors
- 12/14/05 – 7 yellow & black Labradors



## GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

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## NOTICE: New GDA Phone System



By the END OF MARCH 2006, GDA will have a new telephone system in place to improve communications between GDA and the colleagues, graduates, volunteers, sponsors, vendors and friends who help us carry out our work. Each GDA staff member will soon

have their own direct telephone numbers that will be posted on our website or available by calling our existing phone number 818-362-5834. Next time you call your favorite person at GDA, make sure you get their new direct number!

## Lessons From Katrina – What To Do Before The Worst Happens

Thinking about Hurricane Katrina and other disasters where pets suffered has led animal welfare experts to conclude that a little advance planning can alleviate, and maybe prevent, problems for the pets you love:

- **Evacuate early.** Voluntary early evacuation means you can take your pal with you.
- **Identification.** Make sure your pet's identification tags are current, and its collar fits properly. Microchipping your pet and registering with a national database means your pet can always be identified and returned to you. But when you give an alternate contact, use someone outside your area, not a neighbor who may also be affected by the disaster.
- **Emergency Supplies.** Store a proper size crate for each pet in an easy to

access location with all parts and hardware. Write your Emergency Contact info, cell phone, veterinarian, etc. directly on the crate. Keep a leash and a picture of your pet for possible "Lost" posters with your crate. And store 7 days of food and medication in sealed plastic bags. Replace them twice yearly when we change our clocks.

Lastly, it's a good idea to think proactively, and talk to your neighbors and relatives about what to do when emergency strikes. It's so much easier to follow a plan worked out in advance. Hopefully, you and your pet will never face a natural disaster or home emergency, but a little preparation can help make sure you will all be okay and together if the worst happens. 🐾

## Shop and Give At The Same Time

Several retail charitable contribution programs offer shoppers an easy way to help our dogs. When on your way to Amazon.com, for example, go to [www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org) first. Click on the Amazon.com link on the right side and a percentage of your purchase will come back to GDA. You can also designate GDA to receive a portion of your purchases when using your Ralph's Club Card or Albertson's/Savon/Osco Card. Just call us at (818) 833-6438 with your name, phone number, address, and membership number, and we'll set it up from there. Then, whenever you shop, you'll also support GDA! Thanks! 🐾