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THE SEEING EYE[®]

GUIDE

A MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS OF THE SEEING EYE





A Seeing Eye Perspective

A little more than one year ago – September 30, 2019 – I started at The Seeing Eye.

What a year it has been!

Over the last 12 months, we've faced an unprecedented public health

crisis, nationwide social unrest, and an uncertain economy. For five months, we put our classes on hold – though we continued to carry out all our other functions, including providing support to graduates working with their Seeing Eye® dogs – as we complied with local, state, and federal guidelines designed to limit the spread of COVID-19. Finally, on August 24, we welcomed back our first class since March, serving graduates who live within driving distance of The Seeing Eye in order to abide by quarantine restrictions concerning out-of-state travel.

It's been a year unlike any other in our 91-year history. And as we have met these challenges, and continued to persevere, while engaging in strategic planning to strengthen our resilience and adaptability over time to a rapidly changing external environment, I've been reflecting on how our dogs handle all the changes in their lives.

Seven weeks in the breeding station... then 14 to 16 months in the home of a puppy raiser... then four months in our kennels training to be Seeing Eye dogs... then, on average, eight to 10 years guiding a person who is blind.

With each new stop along the way, there are new commands to learn, new environments to explore, and new chew toys to squeak. And with every change, every new set of circumstances, our dogs carry on with wagging tails. Every day is a new adventure, and they meet it with happy eagerness in their journey to their special destiny to become Seeing Eye dogs.

We could all learn a lot from dogs!

Our Seeing Eye staff works with the same determined focus and unified purpose toward our mission. On September 28, the second class of students arrived. Slowly but surely, we're getting back to... maybe not normal, but closer to it. Some of our staff continue to work remotely, but those who have returned to campus are observing strict safety precautions, including wearing masks, frequent handwashing or sanitizing, thorough cleaning of surfaces, and maintaining social distance.

It hasn't been easy. But we know there is, more than ever, a tremendous demand from blind and visually impaired individuals to be matched with our specially-trained dogs. And thanks to your support, we are prepared to meet it.

Thank you for continuing to be a friend of The Seeing Eye, and please join us as we greet whatever lies ahead... with wagging tails.

Glenn Hoagland
President & CEO
The Seeing Eye

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ON THE COVER: Catherine Getchell with her Seeing Eye dog, a yellow Labrador/golden retriever cross named Miles, hiking in Ohiopyle State Park in Pennsylvania. Photo courtesy of Catherine Getchell



Dear Seeing Eye,

Over the past three years, I have raised three puppies for The Seeing Eye. From teaching them to sit, rest, and ignore, to watching them complete their town walks and mature into Seeing Eye dogs, I have found that raising puppies is an unforgettable experience. However, my favorite part of this whole journey was meeting the puppy for the first time. I loved the moment where my area coordinator would pull into my driveway and open the car door to reveal the purest puppy I have ever seen. At first, the puppy would be scared after just having a long car ride, but that fearful look diminished at the first glance we shared. It was at that moment I knew we would become each other's family and stay glued at the hip for the next year and a half together.

I know that in the future, the qualities that I have learned through The Seeing Eye will be prevalent in my everyday life. In college, it is important that I know time management and prioritizing, as I will be taking many classes, participating in clubs and organizations, and socializing with my new friends. Then, as I am looking for a job, it is important that I understand dedication. It is not likely that I get every job I apply for, so being dedicated to keep moving forward and find the perfect job is vital.

Watching the panel of blind speakers at The Seeing Eye's Family Day for the past couple of years has given me new understanding into how my impact and raising these dogs has affected others. This event showed me how my daily adventures that went along with puppy raising – like training the puppy to sit on bus trips, rest quietly in a classroom, and walk through crowds of people ignoring them – ultimately made these individuals' everyday activities so much simpler. Overall,

the selflessness that I have learned from being a puppy raiser is a quality that I will carry on in the next chapters of my life.

Colleen Williams

Editor's note: Colleen was recognized with a Puppy Raiser Scholarship for her dedication to The Seeing Eye program. See story on Page 5.

Dear Seeing Eye,

In my younger days (I am now 89), I raised 17 puppies for The Seeing Eye.

I recently received my issue of The Seeing Eye Guide and was able to read about all your staff at The Seeing Eye did and are doing as a result of the corona virus.

I continue to be proud to have been associated with The Seeing Eye and wish you continued success.

Jo-Anne Brooks

Miles Away!

With her Seeing Eye dog, Miles, Catherine Getchell explores the world

Photo by Jay Manning/PublicSource



Above: Catherine Getchell and Miles hiking in Ohiopyle State Park in Pennsylvania. Photo courtesy of Catherine Getchell



Right: In a photo taken in 2017, Catherine speaks with Shernell Smith of Carnegie Mellon's Division of Student Affairs. Photo courtesy Carnegie Mellon University

After more than 20 years of working with Seeing Eye dogs, Catherine Getchell can go almost anywhere – whether it's traveling overseas for work, or hiking and kayaking in the great outdoors, or even onto a stage to play the trumpet!

And as the director of the Office of Disability Resources at Carnegie Mellon University, she's determined to ensure she and others have that same level of access in the digital world.

Catherine recently wrote an essay for ADAPittsburgh.com about the importance of accessible design for web pages, apps, electronic documents, and other digital media.

"Accessible design is not difficult," Catherine wrote. "It just takes a little bit of basic knowledge by developers and designers – knowledge that is typically not taught in web development and digital media classes."

The Americans with Disabilities Act has removed many barriers for Americans with disabilities, but because the law was passed in 1990, it did not address digital content. While there are some widely used standards for digital accessibility, known as the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, or WCAG, there are no legal requirements as there are with, for example, buildings.

Therefore, Catherine noted, while the ADA requires a pizzeria to be accessible to a person with a disability, that same pizzeria has no such obligation to provide an accessible website. In the age of COVID-19, with all of us relying on contactless delivery, that's more important than ever.

“The best way to ensure a website or another product is accessible is to design it that way,” Catherine said. “It’s much more difficult to retrofit something.”

In her job as the director of the Office of Disability Resources, Catherine ensures that students at Carnegie Mellon University are allowed equal access to materials. And the need is growing – since she took the job four years ago, Carnegie Mellon University has seen a 91 percent increase in the number of students with disabilities – from 550 in 2016 to 1,050.

“There are some really challenging areas, such as in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) courses, where so much of the content is presented in a visual way, with graphs, diagrams, and so on,” she said. “You need to get creative and do some adaptive solutions, such as 3-D printing and drawing with puff paint.”

When she’s not working, Catherine enjoys spending time outside, particularly with her third Seeing Eye dog, a yellow Labrador/golden retriever cross named Miles.

“Even if I don’t necessarily have anywhere to go, part of what’s great about having a Seeing Eye dog is I’ve got to get Miles out just for exercise and to keep his skills up,” Catherine said. “Which means I get outside for exercise, too, which is helpful. We walk a couple of miles a day. I know the streets in my neighborhood better now than I ever did before.”

She also plays the trumpet in three ensembles – a band, an orchestra, and a brass quintet! COVID-19 has put an end to most in-person performances, though the quintet is small enough they can get together outdoors while maintaining social distance. “And I still practice in my basement just about every day,” she said.

Catherine’s latest project is she’s been learning Arabic. She traveled to Qatar last September, to visit Carnegie Mellon University’s campus there.

“It was an amazing experience,” she said. “While I was there,

I made contact with a local blindness organization, the Qatar Social and Cultural Center for the Blind, and they gave me a copy of the braille alphabet in Arabic. Then I decided to take a class to learn a little bit of the language. And I’ve just kept going with it. I’m not fluent, but I could have a basic conversation about my day.”

Catherine was matched with her first Seeing Eye dog – Christine, a black Labrador retriever – in 1998, when she was an undergraduate at Yale University.

“Before my first Seeing Eye dog, I wasn’t the type of kid who would grab my cane and get on a bus and go to the mall by myself,” she said. “I’d do that now, though! Going away to college and getting a Seeing Eye dog really helped me build that confidence.”

After receiving a bachelor’s degree in linguistics from Yale, she earned a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Pittsburgh, then worked as a rehabilitation counselor and later an administrator at the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. For most of that time she was working with her second Seeing Eye dog, a black Labrador/golden retriever cross named Bonnie. She was matched with her current Seeing Eye dog, Miles in 2014.

“I’ve had three fantastic dogs,” Catherine said. “All my dogs have had really good work, but his work is stellar. He’s amazing with obstacles, traffic checks, trash cans, road signs, whatever.

“Some dogs don’t think, they just react. Miles thinks. You can tell when he’s faced with an obstacle, he views it as a problem to solve. He loves interesting trails and new challenges. He’s not the type of dog who wants the same routine every day. He’s a dog who loves adventure.”

When Miles is off duty, he enjoys running laps – inside the house! “The way my house is set up, you can do a lap around the living room, the dining room, the kitchen, the front hallway, and then back to the living room, and he will do that lap a million times with a ball in his mouth,” Catherine said.



Far Left: Catherine Getchell kayaking on the Allegheny River with Miles.

Left: Catherine plays the trumpet during a performance at Pine Street United Methodist Church.

Photos courtesy of Catherine Getchell

*The Seeing Eye Innovates to Recognize
Our Puppy Raisers*

A Virtual Family Day

Every August, The Seeing Eye invites more than 1,200 people from more than 500 families to our campus to thank them for doing what some consider to be the most difficult volunteering job of all: Welcoming a seven-week puppy into their home, raising him or her for 14 to 16 months, and then giving the puppy back to The Seeing Eye to be trained as a Seeing Eye dog!

“We know giving the puppies back is difficult, but it’s the most unselfish act one person can do for another,” said Jill Jaycox, the Linda Feinne-Roth manager of Puppy Development at The Seeing Eye. “It’s an anonymous gift, an act of love, from a family to a stranger, who with that dog will enjoy independence, dignity, and self-confidence.”

But with social gathering restrictions in place due to COVID-19, The Seeing Eye had to find a new way to celebrate and recognize our Puppy Raiser families. The solution was to have a “virtual” event on August 15, complete with opening ceremonies; a training demonstration by Senior Manager of Training & Instruction Walt Sutton, narrated by Senior Specialist for Canine Development Kristen DeMarco; a virtual tour of the campus hosted by Instructor Kristen Oplinger; advice on how to keep puppies healthy and happy by Seeing Eye Attending Veterinarian C. Kyle Quigley, D.V.M.; and closing remarks by Seeing Eye President & CEO Glenn Hoagland, who also noted that earlier this year, New Jersey designated The Seeing Eye dog as its official state dog.



Photos of Seeing Eye puppies, taken by their puppy raisers!

In addition, there was an “Ask the Experts” panel with Dr. Katy Evans, the Jane H. Booker Chair in Canine Genetics; Peggy Gibbon, director of Canine Development; Dave Johnson, director of Instruction & Training; and Seeing Eye graduate Melissa Allman, senior specialist for advocacy and government relations.

Seeing Eye Area Coordinator Kimberly Winnington was recognized with the 20-Year Leader Award for serving as the puppy club leader for the University of Delaware’s PROUD Puppy Raiser Club, and the Pepperman and Theurer families were presented with “21 Club” awards for raising 21 puppies for The Seeing Eye.

Puppy Raiser scholarships also were awarded to 33 students.

The recipients are college-bound high school seniors who raised at least two puppies for The Seeing Eye, including one during their junior or senior year, and who attended at least 70 percent of their puppy club’s meetings and activities. Each applicant also submitted an essay about what being a puppy raiser meant to him or her. Many of the students reflected on the themes of responsibility, patience, and of course, love.

Special thanks to The Allergan Foundation and Helen Skiba-Powell for sponsoring Family Day 2020, and to John Higham for filming and editing the video presentations.

If you live within driving distance of The Seeing Eye and are interested in becoming a Seeing Eye Puppy Raiser, go to www.SeeingEye.org/raise or call us at 800-539-4425 and ask for Puppy Development.

Kimberly Winnington was presented with the 20-Year Leader Award for serving as the puppy club leader for the University of Delaware's PROUD Puppy Raiser Club.



The Pepperman family was inducted into the 21 Club for raising 21 puppies for The Seeing Eye.

The Theurer family was inducted into the 21 Club for raising 21 puppies for The Seeing Eye.



The Birth of a Puppy Raising Program

In 1942, with the war effort making a demand for dogs for military use, The Seeing Eye began its own breeding program. Rather than having the puppies raised in kennels, The Seeing Eye wanted these puppies to be with families, where they could explore the world, meet new people and animals, and build the confidence and problem-solving skills they would need to be successful Seeing Eye dogs.

The Seeing Eye partnered with the national youth organization, 4-H, to put dogs into the homes of local families.

Lewis Guerin Jr. was one of the first to raise a puppy for The Seeing Eye. It was 1942, and Lew was about 14 years old, living on his father's dairy farm in Ironia (now Randolph Township), a few miles from The Seeing Eye's current headquarters in Washington Valley.

"One day, unexpectedly, a man stopped by the house saying he had received the boy's name from the 4-H leadership and he wanted to present him with an opportunity that was different from anything the boy had seen or heard of, and had nothing to do with 4-H or dairy cows," wrote Lewis son, Scott, for *Renaissance* magazine in 2012.

"And as the man concluded his presentation he

mentioned something that really got the boy excited.

The Seeing Eye was starting a Puppy Raising Program and they needed a few qualified volunteers to take puppies into their homes and raise them until they were old enough to begin training. The volunteers needed to have experience caring for animals and, most importantly, have a love for dogs that would provide a solid emotional base for the pups as they prepared for their lives of service. No thought was required for this boy. It was a done deal from all angles!"

From that day forward, Lew fostered several puppies for the program and continued to have dogs in his house for many years after, passing his love for them onto to his children.

Lew died 41 days after the passing of his wife of 72 years, Flora. Both succumbed from complications due to COVID-19. They were survived by four children, 12 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, he asked that donations be made to The Seeing Eye.



Lew and his wife, Flora, after he enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

Brendan Armstrong
Boston College
Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Brooke Bates
Montserrat College of Art
David M. Crowley Foundation Scholarship

Larisa Bohensky
Moravian College
Fludzinski Foundation Scholarship

Patrick Boland
Rutgers School of Engineering
Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Brenna Borgstede
Stockton University
Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation Scholarship and Emma Kate Brunskill Memorial Puppy Raiser Scholarship

Jack Buckard
University of Central Florida
Sally A. Jumper Scholarship

Tiffany Chan
Rutgers University
Josephine Aresty Scholarship and Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation Scholarship

Aidan Daly
Boston College
David M. Crowley Foundation Scholarship

Tyler Devitt
University of Delaware
William Heady Memorial Scholarship

Kevin Field
Rowan College at Burlington County
David M. Crowley Foundation Scholarship

CJ Franke
Rutgers University
David M. Crowley Foundation Scholarship

Orrin Frederick
Community College of Baltimore County
Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Samantha Gildenberg
University of Delaware
Sally A. Jumper Scholarship

Nate Giordano
County College of Morris
PETCO Foundation Scholarship

Lydia Glover
Samford University
Bernice Barbour Foundation Scholarship and Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation Scholarship

MJ Green
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Prescott
David M. Crowley Foundation Scholarship and Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation Scholarship

Mary Keenan
Penn State University
Fludzinski Foundation Scholarship

Emma Lowman
Wilson College
Fludzinski Foundation Scholarship and Sandy Hill Foundation Scholarship

Alexander Macintyre
University of Arizona
Fludzinski Foundation Scholarship

Elizabeth Marshall
National K9 Learning Center
Bruce J. Heim Foundation Scholarship and Eleanor Twomey Charitable Trust Scholarship

Allison Martin
University of Connecticut
Anton and Augusta Birkel Foundation Scholarship

Allyson Maya
University of Miami
Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Reyana Menon
University of California – San Diego
Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation Scholarship and Eleanor Twomey Charitable Trust Scholarship

Katherine North
Kutztown University
Hermione Foundation Scholarship and Anton and Augusta Birkel Foundation Scholarship

Christian O'Rourke
Fairfield University
Sally A. Jumper Scholarship and Eleanor Twomey Charitable Trust Scholarship

Matthew Pak
Vanderbilt University
Eleanor Twomey Charitable Trust Scholarship

John Petersen
Rutgers Business School, Newark
Michael J. Kosloski Foundation Scholarship and Bernice Delmont Memorial Puppy Raiser Scholarship

Chiara Ricupero
Belmont University
Fludzinski Foundation Scholarship and Michael J. Kosloski Foundation Scholarship

Brooke SanTERS
University of Alabama
Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship and PETCO Foundation Scholarship

Joseph Touris
Union County College
Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship and Sandy Hill Foundation Scholarship

Grace Ushay
University of Vermont
Radcliff Family Memorial Scholarship

Colleen Williams
Penn State University
Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship and Eleanor Twomey Charitable Trust Scholarship

Kiah Zimany
Montgomery County Community College
Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship and Katherine Ann Engleking Scholarship



Remembering the Creator of Our Beloved Statue of Morris and Buddy

J. Seward Johnson, Jr., the sculptor of the famous Morris and Buddy statue on the Morristown Green, died March 10, 2020, at his winter home in Key West, Florida. He was 89.

Johnson, grandson of the founder of Johnson & Johnson, was best known for his life-size, meticulously painted bronze statues often depicting everyday people performing their daily tasks. The realistic statues are often at first glance mistaken for a living person.

The statue of Morris Frank and his Seeing Eye dog, Buddy, is one such example, with numerous passers-by doing a double-take as they pass it. The statue, titled *The Way to Independence*, has such details as the buckles on Buddy's leather harness and the folded white handkerchief in the breast pocket of Morris's gray suit. Morris's right hand is sweeping forward as if he's just given the "forward" command, and his left hand is holding the harness handle and leash. Buddy is eagerly pulling forward in her harness, her left front paw off the ground, her mouth open as she pants with excitement at the promise of a new adventure.

Buddy was so aptly depicted, in fact, that at the unveiling ceremony, a Seeing Eye dog gave her a curious sniff!

The unveiling ceremony was held April 29, 2005, on the traffic island off the Morristown Green. It was attended by about 400 Seeing Eye employees, volunteers, trustees, supporters, graduates, and puppy raisers, as well as a number of Morristown officials and residents.

Among the day's speakers were Kenneth Rosenthal, who at the time was The Seeing Eye's president; Jim Kutsch, a Seeing Eye graduate and member of the Board of Trustees who would replace Rosenthal as president a year later, serving until 2019; and Johnson himself.

As Kutsch delivered his remarks, his Seeing Eye dog at the time, a German shepherd named Anthony, began sniffing Buddy's ear. "Is he doing what I think he's doing?" Kutsch asked.

Johnson was the founder of Grounds For Sculpture, a 42-acre sculpture park and museum located in Hamilton Township, New Jersey, and the Seward Johnson Atelier, a nonprofit organization promoting sculpture and public art.

Among his other famous works are *The Awakening*, a 70-foot five-part statue of a giant emerging from the ground; *Double Check*, a statue of a businessman looking through his briefcase, originally located near the World Trade Center and damaged in the 9/11 attacks; *Unconditional Surrender*, a statue depicting the famous kiss between a sailor and a nurse at the end of World War II; and *Forever Marilyn*, a 26-foot statue of Marilyn Monroe's famous scene in *The Seven Year Itch* where her dress is blown upward by a subway grate.





Melissa Allman with her Seeing Eye dog, a yellow Labrador/golden retriever cross named Luna.

The Seeing Eye In The News!

The Seeing Eye was featured on two national news programs in September.

Melissa Allman, Senior Specialist for Advocacy and Government Relations – and a Seeing Eye graduate – and President & CEO Glenn Hoagland spoke about difficulty of a person who is blind or visually impaired to maintain social distance to CBS News. The story was broadcast in many cities and also was featured on Yahoo News.

“It’s very difficult, because unless someone speaks to you or unless you hear some other audible cue coming from them, you don’t know how far away they are from you necessarily,” said Melissa, who was shown working with her Seeing Eye dog, a yellow Labrador/golden retriever cross named Luna.

“If I’m not social distancing from you, I’m not trying to be disrespectful or discourteous. I simply don’t have the visual cues that you have,” she said. “We appreciate and thank you ahead of time for taking the steps on your own to walk to the other side of the street or walk a few steps down.”

More information about avoiding distracting Seeing Eye teams can be found at [GuideDogAtWork.org](https://www.guidedogatwork.org).

In addition, Peggy Gibbon, Director of Canine Development, was interviewed by Lynn Smith of Headline News for her segment “The New Normal.” Peggy spoke about how to prepare pets who have enjoyed having their people around all the time for the day when things go “back to normal.”

Peggy suggested leaving the dog for short periods, such as going for a walk or running errands, before leaving the dog alone for longer stretches, and not making a big deal of it when you return home. Also, she suggested providing the dogs with interactive toys that will keep them busy while you’re gone.

You can play the segment by going to The Seeing Eye’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SeeingEye/posts/10159389560826988>.

Welcome in the new year by ordering a 2021 Seeing Eye Puppy Raiser Calendar, now available from The Seeing Eye's online store. This beautiful 12-month calendar features photos of Seeing Eye puppies, taken by Seeing Eye puppy raisers! **The calendars are available for \$10 (plus shipping) from our online store at www.SeeingEye.org/store.**

You can also order holiday cards from The Seeing Eye. One card features two golden retriever puppies sitting in a little red wagon, decorated with evergreens and a Christmas bow. Inside the card reads, in both print and braille: May you enjoy Christmas to the fullest.

The other card has two yellow Labrador retriever puppies nose to nose as they play in the snow. Inside the card reads, in both print and braille: Friends wish friends joys of the season.

Cards can be ordered as is, through our online store. If ordered by December 1st cards can be personalized with up to two lines of custom text printed inside, with or without return addresses on envelopes. This year since we are still working remotely and our volunteers are not yet back on campus to assist us, we are using our vendor to fulfill and ship all orders directly from their facility to customers.

Non-personalized cards are \$20 (plus shipping) for a box of 20 cards and envelopes. Personalized cards with blank envelopes are \$28 (plus shipping) for a box of 20 cards and envelopes. Personalized cards with printed envelopes are \$35 (plus shipping) for a box of 20 cards and envelopes. Check or credit cards only, please.

To order these cards from The Seeing Eye, please visit our online store at www.SeeingEye.org/store. If you would like your 2020 card personalized with your name, additional message and return address, please email Denise Zangoglia at DZangoglia@SeeingEye.org or call the Donor and Public Relations Department before December 1 at 1-800-539-4425.



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Photo by Seeing Eye Puppy Raiser Mia Furci.

Sea Dog!

Kismit, a yellow Labrador/golden retriever cross, bids farewell to the end of summer. This photo and many more can be found in the 2021 Seeing Eye® Puppy Calendar, now available for purchase from our website at www.SeeingEye.org/store or call us at 1-800-539-4425.



The Seeing Eye

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The Seeing Eye follows the guidelines recommended by the Council of U.S. Dog Guide Schools for the humane care and training of dogs to be guides, and the instruction and graduate services offered to people who are blind or visually impaired.

The Seeing Eye is an accredited member of the International Guide Dog Federation. The mission of The Seeing Eye is to enhance the independence, dignity and self-confidence of people who are blind, through the use of specially trained Seeing Eye dogs.