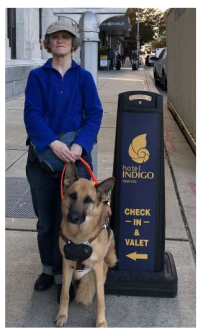
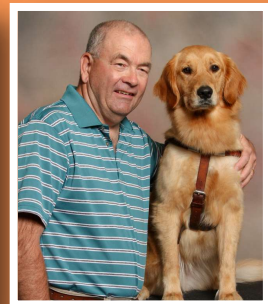


PARTNERERS

TALES FROM THE SEEING EYE





“ The *sky* is the limit.

You can do *anything*

that you want to do with a

Seeing Eye® *dog* at your side.

There is nothing you can't *accomplish!* ”

- *Norma Kraiczar*

WE ARE PROUD TO SHARE THESE AMAZING STORIES.



*H*i, I'm Glenn Hoagland, President and CEO of The Seeing Eye. The photo shows me holding a yellow Labrador retriever puppy named Patrick.

What has impressed me most about The Seeing Eye is our clarity of purpose. Every person at The Seeing Eye, directly or indirectly, helps fulfill our mission: To enhance the independence, dignity, and self-confidence of blind people through the use of Seeing Eye® dogs.

Whether it is a college student or a retiree, someone in the workforce or a stay-at-home parent, our graduates come from all walks of life and from across the United States and Canada. They take many different paths to get here, but when they leave they do so with the confidence and mobility to travel safely anywhere in the world.

By supporting The Seeing Eye, you make this possible. In the following pages, you will read stories of just a few of the thousands of partnerships we have created at The Seeing Eye. And thanks to your continuing generosity, The Seeing Eye is creating new stories of amazing partnerships every day.

VANESSA LOWERY & Fiona



Vanessa Lowery of Lutherville, Maryland, took a trip through the Southeastern United States last year, and one of her stops was the birthplace of The Seeing Eye!

The photo shows Vanessa with her Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Fiona, standing in front of a historic marker in Nashville, Tennessee. The sign reads: "The Seeing Eye. Independence and dignity since 1929. The Seeing Eye, the world-famous dog guide training school, was incorporated in Nashville January 29, 1929, with headquarters in the Fourth and First National Bank at 315 Union St. Morris Frank, a 20-year-old blind man from Nashville, and his guide dog Buddy, played a key role in the school's founding and subsequent success. It was Frank who persuaded Dorothy Harrison Eustis to establish a school in the United States."

Vanessa visited Nashville with her father and brother. "My brother and dad were having a hard time keeping up with me and Fiona, so finally I just said, 'I'll see you there!' and off we went."

Vanessa said Fiona is "an extremely versatile dog."

"She can guide in any kind of environment. If I'm in a residential area, she can handle it. My brother is in a more rural neighborhood, and she's fine with country work. If I'm in a city, she loves it. Fiona takes charge when traveling by plane, train, light rail, bus, or even a carriage ride in Charleston, South Carolina. She is just a perfect pup."

AMAN GILL & Robin



“*I* just can't imagine life without her,” says Aman Gill of her first Seeing Eye dog, a black Labrador retriever named Robin. “On the rare occasions I've gone out without her, I feel like a part of me is missing.”

Aman, who has a bachelor's degree in psychology, is studying to become a voice major in the music program at Capilano University in North Vancouver, British Columbia. “My hope is to become a music therapist, and I will be applying for the music therapy program this year,” she said. “Robin is definitely the star at school! She may not be able to sing or play an instrument, but her cuteness and spunky personality are such a draw for people, and she makes an excellent therapy dog on long, difficult days.”

The photo shows Aman with a proud smile as she stands next to Robin, whose brown eyes are staring straight at the camera.

Given Aman's busy schedule, Robin has to be adaptable... and she is! “She remains a little trooper no matter what sort of situation we are in. Nothing seems to phase her,” she said. “From busy streets to being on stage among musicians, she takes it all in stride.” She even proved she could be an “office dog” when Aman had a summer internship at a nonprofit.

“It's amazing how a year has gone by so fast, but this is only the beginning and I'm looking forward to many more years together filled with more adventures and new places to visit with Robin by my side.”

PAT MCKENNA & Finn



Seeing Eye graduate Pat McKenna has a lot of experience with dogs and horses... and now he can add hawks to his list!

Pat, who is the director of employment services for the Employment Development Guidance and Engagement (EDGE) program, has been working with Seeing Eye dogs since 2001. The resident of Highland Park, New Jersey, was matched with his current dog, a yellow Labrador retriever named Finn, in 2016.

For many years, Pat participated in equestrian events -- including show jumping. "A lot of places got really nervous when a blind rider showed up for the event, but if something went wrong, I would just do what every other rider does -- you collect yourself, you catch your breath, you calm the horse down... and then you get back up there."

But in this case, it wasn't dogs nor horses but birds! Pat and his family went to The Falconry Experience in Hershey, Pennsylvania, to learn how to work with hawks and falcons. The photo shows Pat, wearing a green shirt with an image of a raven on it, with Finn, in harness, standing next to falconry expert Jack Hubley, who is holding a Harris's hawk -- a large dark bird with reddish-brown shoulder patches -- on his arm.

Falconers traditionally put a small bell on the bird's leg. That proved to be useful for Pat, who said he could track the bird's location by the sound of the bell!



Emily Bowe began classes at Arizona State University with a friend at her side: Hennig, her first Seeing Eye dog.

“I know with Hennig I’ll be safe,” Emily says. “She can see things I can’t see.”

Hennig, a black Labrador/golden retriever cross, proved her loyalty on a recent trip to New York City, when she quite literally saved Emily’s life. Just as Emily was about to cross the street, the loud New York subway rumbled beneath her toes, impairing her hearing and masking the sound of traffic. Emily thought it was safe to cross but Hennig wouldn’t budge -- keeping Emily safe from an oncoming car.

“I feel safer with a Seeing Eye dog than with a human guide,” Emily says. The photo shows Emily sitting on stone steps with her arm around Hennig, who is in her harness.

As Emily prepares for a new life at Arizona State University, she is excited to have Hennig by her side. She plans to study both elementary education and special education all while continuing her passion for the flute and piccolo. However, the best part is feeling like she’s truly on her own, all because of Hennig. “When you have a dog, people are more likely to say good morning. That window opens up.” Emily says. “I think for myself and know what I want.”

TRISH WESTBY & *Granger*



*T*rish Westby calls herself a cowgirl -- and she's the real deal! The photo shows Trish, wearing a cowboy hat, vest, blue shirt, jeans, and of course cowboy boots, standing in a stable with an enormous black horse standing behind her and her Seeing Eye dog, a big German shepherd named Granger, at her side.

Trish lives with her husband Rygh on a ranch in Sedona, Arizona, where she rides and trains horses and raises cattle. Given her dawn-to-dusk rugged lifestyle, it's clear that Trish loves a good challenge. But with Granger, the challenge has gotten easier.

"Granger and I are great partners," says Trish, who reports she weighs in at 112 pounds... compared to Granger's 90! She says Granger is watchful and protective, but he knows to sit on the sidelines as Trish rides the even bigger horses.

One of Trish's most memorable times with Granger was at a religious event in Phoenix, where this photo was taken. There were 20,000 delegates at the convention and the authentic covered wagon ride was part of the entertainment. "Granger was a great sport," she proudly says, "as the wagon rocked and bumped its way along the road."

ROGER THOMAS & Zesty



*R*oger Thomas lives in Clarksboro, an unincorporated community in Gloucester County, New Jersey, settled in the 17th century. It still retains much of its historic charm, including many areas without sidewalks.

"I do a lot of country work, which means working in areas without a sidewalk, or sometimes even without a curb. The dog follows the edge of the road, keeping you away from the traffic," said Roger, who is retired after working as a purchasing manager for a glass manufacturer. "But even when there is a sidewalk, there might be a car sticking half out of a driveway, a tree branch down, a bicycle... there's all kinds of things that might be in your path. A Seeing Eye dog gives me the independence to go wherever I need to go."

The photo shows Roger smiling as he hugs his current Seeing Eye dog, a golden retriever appropriately named Zesty. "She is nice and peppy," Roger said. "Life's a lot better with a dog!"

DAVID RABINSKY & *Harry*



*I*f you're curious about what it's like to work in the world of hospitality and hotel management, David Rabinsky is the guy to ask. He's been doing it for decades at his home base in Cleveland, Ohio. Right now, David is the Director of Sales for The Ritz-Carlton, Cleveland in the heart of the city. And he couldn't do it all without his Seeing Eye dog, Harry, a handsome Labrador/golden retriever cross. The photo shows the distinguished twosome. David, wearing a dark suit, is seated in a chair and leaning forward with his chin on Harry's head. Harry is elegantly dressed as well, with a bow tie on his collar!

Before his stint at the Ritz, David had been a full-service caterer in Cleveland Heights for 16 years. His upbeat personality, great aesthetic sense, and passion for good food earned him respect and success. But at the age of 37 he began to lose his sight to a genetic condition known as retinitis pigmentosa, and within a short time he had to close his business. However, the same great credentials that built his career enabled him to quickly land a job as at the Ritz-Carlton where for the past 10 years he takes pride in making dream events come true!

DOLORES CRIMINI & Dora



Dr. Dolores Crimini is the director of the State University of New York-Albany's Center for Behavioral Health Promotion and Applied Research. She has twice accepted awards at the White House for her research, mentorship, and advocacy efforts; the photo shows her holding up the U.S. Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring with her first Seeing Eye dog, a Labrador/golden retriever cross named Dora, sitting by her side.

While Dr. Crimini's life is in a good place now, she's no stranger to its challenges. In high school, she lost most of her eyesight, and a guidance counselor gave her little hope of getting into a high-ranking college.

But Dolores proved her counselor wrong. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology with honors and was admitted to Phi Beta Kappa at Columbia University's Barnard College. Dolores went on to graduate school at UAlbany, where she again overcame resistance from those who doubted her ability to compete against sighted peers. However, her mastery of the subject matter, her positive outlook, and her exceptional drive again proved the naysayers wrong. In 1985, Dolores earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology and was offered a position in the university's counseling center.

Dolores said being matched with Dora was "a game changer." She said Dora has given her "confidence, dignity, and sense of safety" that she couldn't do without.

She praises The Seeing Eye as "the best school that exists today."

BRIAN BOROWSKI *& Bea*



*B*rian Borowski of London, Ontario, estimates he walked about 40,000 kilometers -- that's 25,000 miles -- with his first two Seeing Eye dogs, Valerie and Capri. That's enough to go around the world!

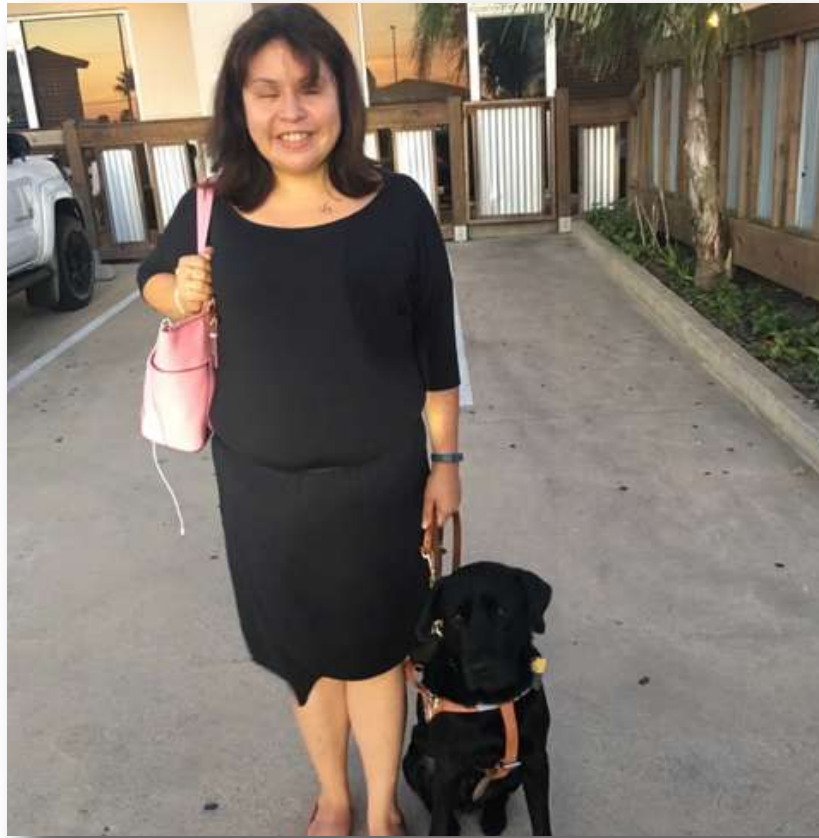
"Now I'm working on going around again," Brian says. He said he and his third Seeing Eye dog, Bea, average about 12,000 steps a day... or about 140 to 150 miles a month.

"We walk through all kinds of weather," says Brian, who is a computer programmer and network specialist at the University of Western Ontario. "Rain, snow, all kinds of stuff. In February we had a really bad snowstorm, it was probably -10 or -15, which would be about 7 or 8 degrees on the Fahrenheit scale. The wind was really blowing and I couldn't hear a thing. But I knew Bea knew where she was going. I can totally rely on her in any environment."

When it gets that cold, Brian says, he has Bea wear booties to protect her paws from ice and road salt. "At first she doesn't like them, but then she gets used to them. I think she understands it's actually more comfortable to wear them when it's that cold outside."

The photo shows Brian smiling as he stands with his arm around Bea, a sable-coated German shepherd with her ears straight up. He said she loves to play, usually chasing a ball in the backyard. But she also loves to work.

"I just let her do her job," Brian says. "There have been times I've gotten lost, really lost, and I start to feel panic, and then I think... 'I'll just let the doggie figure this out.' And she does. It's really cool what they can do!"



With a name like Schultz, it's no surprise to learn that Danielle Trevino McCann's Seeing Eye dog has a personality straight out of Peanuts. When he's off harness, Danielle says, he's always happy. But take him for a walk, or to work, or on a plane and he's all business! Schultz is totally adaptable, too. The photo shows Danielle in a black dress -- matching Schultz, a black Labrador retriever in harness and ready to lead her on another adventure.

For professional reasons, Danielle and her husband have moved several times in the past three years until they found work at Industries for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Wisconsin. Through it all, this handsome black Lab was a trooper, going with the flow.

Schultz is Danielle's fourth Seeing Eye dog and her first male. In fact, she said, she was hesitant about getting "a guy." But she credits Seeing Eye instructors for matching her with the right dog at the right time.

"I have a really special bond with Schultz," she said. "He completely won my trust and my love."

COLLEEN CONNOR & Joplin



*A*fter graduating from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. with a bachelor's degree in musical theater, Colleen Connor, decided to use her performance background to start an inspirational and educational podcast, Blind Inspiration Cast.

"I didn't just want to use the podcast to talk about what it's like to be blind," said Colleen, who is shown in the photo with her left arm around Joplin, a yellow Labrador/golden retriever cross. "Life is too short not to be honest about our experiences. I figure if somebody listens to my podcasts or YouTube videos and I can enlighten even just one person, I have succeeded."

Colleen also educates people about, and advocates for, audio description. Just as closed captioning helps people who are hearing impaired, audio description is a way for people who are blind to watch television, movies, or live performances. A narrator, usually on a separate audio track, describes the action that's happening on the screen.

Colleen, who lives in Chesapeake, Virginia, said she and Joplin truly are a team. "She helps me get up in the morning and has improved my life drastically. I think the importance of the relationship between myself and Joplin is that you get out of the relationship what you put into it. That's why I groom her every day, that's why I brush her teeth every day, and play with her every day. I know what's best for her just like she knows what's best for me. I constantly tell Joplin, 'I will always take care of you because you take care of me.'"

INSPIRING STORIES

The difference The Seeing Eye makes in the lives of people who are blind is best explained by the graduates of our program – people whose lives are enhanced by their daily experiences with their dogs.

The Seeing Eye is the world's oldest guide dog school. We breed, raise, and train our world-famous Seeing Eye® dogs, and every month bring blind men and women from across the United States and Canada to our campus in Morristown, New Jersey, to learn how to care for and work with these amazing dogs. We are a charitable organization supported solely by donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Please help us bring life-changing independence, and dignity to individuals who are blind and visually impaired by visiting www.SeeingEye.org/SupportUs or by calling (800) 539-4425.





The Seeing Eye
1 Seeing Eye Way, Morristown, NJ 07963
800-539-4425
info@seeingeye.org