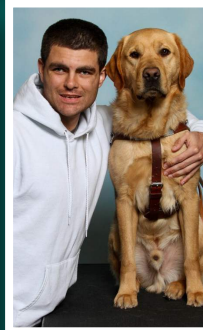
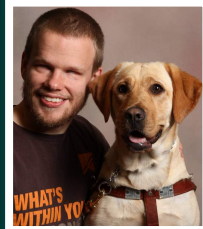


PARTNERS

TALES FROM THE SEEING EYE





“ *As* long as I can walk, I’m sure I will
always have a *Seeing Eye* dog.

I can’t thank The Seeing Eye and the puppy raisers

enough for the freedom and *independence*

that owning a Seeing Eye dog has given me. ”

- Kathy Brack & Koinu

WE ARE PROUD TO SHARE THESE AMAZING STORIES.

GLENN HOAGLAND, SEEING EYE PRESIDENT & CEO



*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.



SHARON BALLANTYNE & Echo



The Rev. Sharon Ballantyne, Ph.D., was recently matched with Echo, her fifth Seeing Eye dog. The photo shows Sharon standing proudly alongside Echo, a black Labrador retriever.

After graduation they returned to Ontario, Canada, where Sharon is pastor at Dunsford United Church. “Echo is sensitive, caring, eager, and keen to please. She is loved by all wherever she goes,” Sharon said.

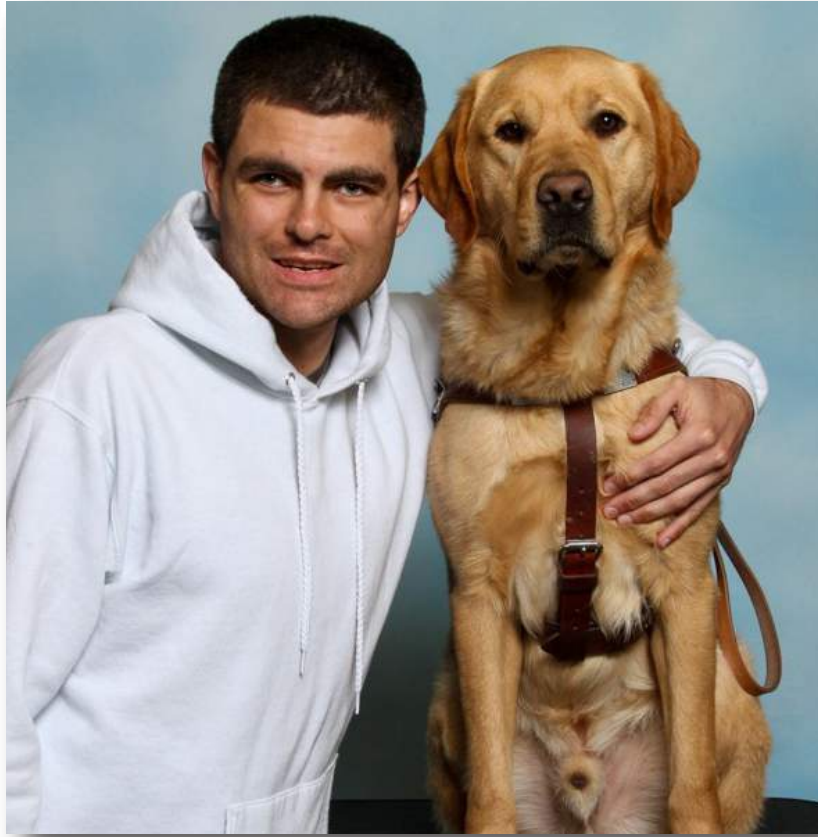
“When not in her harness, she loves to play. A ball or a stuffie, a kong, or her bone, she noses me to remind me when it’s time for breaks. Echo is a very animated black lab. She is gleeful, wiggling from her head to her tail, and so adorably sweet, extending her invitation to play, to go outside, to explore in her fenced dog play yard or go for a walk.”

Echo frequently snuggles with her “mentor” – Sharon’s retired Seeing Eye dog, a black Labrador retriever named Wilson.

“Every day is a dog’s day of blessing,” Sharon said. “Thank you Seeing Eye!”



ALEXIS ROMAN & Chaz



*A*lexis Roman was matched with his first Seeing Eye dog, a yellow Labrador/golden retriever cross named Chaz.

“Getting a Seeing Eye dog has been one of the best decisions I’ve ever made and I encourage anyone thinking about getting one to do so,” Alexis said. “It really is a life changer.”

Alexis, who is a technical adviser for Apple, recently moved to North Carolina. He and Chaz are enjoying exploring their new surroundings.

“Chaz is a fast learner when it comes to learning new routes,” Alexis said. “He’s so careful when guiding me around obstacles.”

When Chaz is out of harness, he loves to cuddle... and to play! Alexis said “the laughs are endless” when it comes to Chaz’s playful antics.

“The love I have for him isn’t something I can put into words,” he said.





Beth Finke came to The Seeing Eye from her home in Chicago to be matched with her fifth Seeing Eye dog, a black Labrador retriever named Luna. The photo shows Beth, wearing a black coat over a dark blue blouse with a colorful scarf, smiling as she stands next to Luna, in harness. Soon after Beth returned home, her husband had to be hospitalized due to COVID-19.

“Luna was a Godsend during the time Mike was in the hospital,” Beth said. “Always there at the side of the bed when I woke up, she would give me her paw to reassure me, petting her – and her giving me her paw to urge me to keep doing so – calmed me down, so I didn’t feel alone. I had her to talk to.”

Beth’s husband recovered, and Beth and Luna are now busy exploring Chicago together. “Luna and I are out, out, out, every day. She takes me on two 45-minute walks a day, we head to downtown Chicago so she can practice street crossings, and her enthusiasm is contagious. She keeps my head and my body in shape,” she said.



DAVID SZUMOWSKI & *Speedwell*



*L*ieutenant David Szumowski was blinded by shrapnel while commanding a tank in Vietnam. He came to The Seeing Eye to be matched with his first Seeing Eye dog in 1969; more than 40 years later, he returned to be matched with his sixth, a golden retriever named Speedwell.

The photo shows David, wearing a green button-down shirt, smiling as he stands with his arm around Speedwell, in harness. David, who was awarded the Silver Star for his heroism, earned a law degree from the University of Denver, then became an attorney and later a judge. He retired as a Superior Court judge for the County of San Diego in 2016.

“I had a great career. I was very fortunate,” David said. “Life gives you opportunities, but you have to be ready to take advantage of them.”

Now that he’s retired, David said, he can focus on his golf game. “I never miss the ball, and I can drive it pretty good,” he said. “Just point me in the right direction.”



ROSEMARY MARTIN *& Kato*



*R*osemary Martin of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, came to The Seeing Eye to be matched with her third Seeing Eye dog, a black Labrador retriever named Kato. The photo shows Rosemary, wearing a black dress and sitting on a large rock, bending over to get a kiss from Kato.

“I like to think that the secret of The Seeing Eye is in the magic of the match,” Rosemary said. “Kato is the perfect combination of my first two guides. He has the confidence and diligence of Jordan, the affection of Star, and is as loyal as both.”

Rosemary is a contract specialist for a federal agency and works on a military base. “My building holds about 800 people, and Kato was able to locate my cubicle after only a few trips with little direction from me. I’m not sure who will be more excited to go back into the office once COVID-related restrictions are lifted,” she said.



TRISHA EBEL & Dawson



*T*risha Ebel of Secaucus, New Jersey, was matched with a German shepherd named Dawson. The photo shows Trisha, wearing a blue, purple, and white dress, smiling with her hands on her hips and Dawson sitting in front of her. They are standing on the tarmac of a small private airport in Lincoln Park, New Jersey, with parked planes visible in the background.

Trisha said Dawson, in addition to being an excellent guide, is quite the handsome boy! “He is five different colors, black and four shades of browns and tans, and when the sunlight hits his head it is almost reddish. He is a beauty!”

Trisha said she and Dawson very quickly formed a strong bond. “He is so intelligent and so conscientious of my well-being. He is loyal, a hard worker, and a big goofball all rolled into one! He is always at my side.”



JONATHAN GOODMAN & Phelps



*J*onathan Goodman of Somerdale, New Jersey, was 18 years old when he was matched with his first Seeing Eye dog. In January, he returned to The Seeing Eye to be matched with his fifth, a black Labrador/golden retriever cross named Phelps. The photo shows Jonathan smiling as he hugs Phelps at his side. Jonathan works in Regional Commercial Banking Business Development for TD Bank.

“I’ve been blessed with five amazing partners from The Seeing Eye, but I’ve never been locked down so much because of what is going on in the world,” said Jonathan, who moved into his own home in March.

“It is good to start getting out and living again now that stuff is opening up a bit. Before, we got out when we could, and we stayed home and played a lot and worked on obedience, but it’s good to be out again. I am used to being much more active than we were able to be,” he said. “I really do live a better quality of life because of my furry partners.”



CATHERINE GETCHELL *& Miles*



Catherine Getchell is the director of the Office of Disability Resources at Carnegie Mellon University. She also is a hiker, a kayaker, a tandem bicyclist, and a member of three ensembles as a trumpet player!

The photo shows Catherine and her Seeing Eye dog, a yellow Labrador/golden retriever cross named Miles, standing next to the rushing waters of a river in Ohiopyle State Park in Pennsylvania.

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,” Catherine said. “I’d do that now, though! Going away to college and getting a Seeing Eye dog really helped me build that confidence.”



TIFFANY BAYLOR & Ginger



Tiffany Baylor of Tallahassee, Florida, came to The Seeing Eye to be matched with her first Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Ginger. The photo shows Tiffany and Ginger standing next to the statue of Morris Frank and Buddy on the Morristown Green.

“Ginger has really changed my life,” said Tiffany, who is coordinator for the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. “I have had progressive vision loss for quite some time, but when I began to lose my hearing as well, I realized how much I depended on my hearing to accommodate for my waning vision. I was losing my confidence in the skills that I had spent my entire 54 years learning to master. I noticed that I began limiting my activities outside of my home because I was becoming ‘blind’ all over again. I eventually just stopped leaving the house.”

“With Ginger, I began to regain the confidence that I had lost because there was a ‘safety net’ if you will, to call me on any possible misreadings of my environment. With Ginger, I know that I have a backup there to alert me if I do a miscalculation. Also, Ginger is very good at encouragement – she believes in me!”



TERRY GARRETT & Hazel



Terry Garrett of Aurora, Colorado, enjoys working out, fixing things around the house, and playing with computers... and he's been asked so many times how he can do so many things as a blind person that he has a YouTube channel explaining how he does it!

Terry is working with his second Seeing Eye dog, a yellow Labrador retriever named Hazel. The photo shows Terry, wearing a T-shirt that reads "What's within you is stronger than what's in your way," leaning close to Hazel, who is in harness.

Terry and his wife recently bought a new home. Terry says getting to know his new area is a challenge he thinks Hazel is looking forward to. "She is soon turning 8 and she is still as happy to work like when she was 2," he said. "Especially now since we have a new house, we have a lot more new paths to learn, and new public transportation options to explore, and I know she will enjoy that a lot."



KATHY BRACK & *Koinu*



*K*athy Brack of Raleigh, North Carolina, was matched with her first Seeing Eye dog, Twiggy, in 1970; she was matched with her eighth in 2020. The photo shows Kathy smiling with her arm around her current Seeing Eye dog, a black Labrador retriever named Koinu. The name means “puppy” in Japanese!

“I really think each dog was well matched to meet my needs in each stage; of my life. Koinu is the first dog that I have had without being in school, having children at home, or working, all of which Twiggy experienced. I was a little concerned about this, but those concerns have vanished. Koinu is very adaptable, and our bond is already strong enough that she will go along with whatever I ask of her,” she said.

“As long as I can walk, I’m sure I will always have a Seeing Eye dog. I can’t thank The Seeing Eye and the puppy raisers enough for the freedom and independence that owning a Seeing Eye dog has given 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.





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