

THE SEEING EYE®

GUIDE

A MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS OF THE SEEING EYE

*Peggi
Howard*

*Our New
President & CEO!*





A Seeing Eye Perspective

I have been writing to you as Interim President & CEO since December 2021, but now it is my pleasure to do so without the "Interim."

We are often asked how we match people with dogs here at The Seeing Eye. Before we know which Seeing Eye® dog is right for which person, we do what's called a Juno walk. An instructor walks with the person who is blind, determining the walking speed and amount of pull in the harness the person requires to be safely guided, in order to facilitate the perfect match.

The nine months I served as Interim President & CEO were something of a Juno walk for me.

Having served on the Board of Trustees since 2009, I knew a lot about The Seeing Eye and our life-changing mission, to breed, raise, and train the world's best guide dogs, and to instruct people who are blind or visually impaired in their care and use.

But it's one thing to know about it, and another to experience it. To work alongside our dedicated staff members, to watch the progress the students make every

day as they learn how to work with these amazing dogs, to talk to puppy raisers about their selflessness and patience, and to hear from all of you, our generous donors, about why you give... very quickly, I have found The Seeing Eye to be the most rewarding experience of my career.

In Seeing Eye terms: This was a good match!

On September 15, the Board of Trustees voted to offer me the position, and I was delighted to accept.

Thank you for joining us on our mission to make the world a better place, one match at a time!

Sincerely,

Margaret E.L. "Peggi" Howard, D.Litt.
President & CEO
The Seeing Eye

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ON THE COVER: On September 15, The Seeing Eye Board of Trustees named Peggi Howard as its President & CEO. The photo shows Peggi standing in the front driveway of The Seeing Eye with a yellow Labrador retriever in harness. See story on Pages 2-3.

Photo by Instructor Assistant Dan Hedden.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Seeing Eye,

For the past six years, I have been raising Seeing Eye puppies with the Franklin County 4-H Seeing Eye puppy club. Throughout those six years, I have been able to learn, grow, and experience things that at the beginning of my journey in the club I would not have imagined possible.

Growing up, everyone is taught values in different ways. Whether it's through family, books, church, or experiences, our values are what shape us as humans. Some of the most important values I have learned were through raising Seeing Eye puppies. They have taught me how to give without asking for anything in return because all I want is to see them change someone's life. That joy that the dog I raised gives their person is the greatest reward I could ask for. Being selfless is what my puppies taught me and it is a very important value to have. I have learned to be patient with my puppies. It takes time to train them, for them to listen, and for them to become ready to be a guide dog. And that patience has translated over to how I treat the people around me. Not everything is going to happen exactly when I want it to, and being able to accept that has led to a greater amount of gratitude.

Raising Seeing Eye puppies has helped me realize that I want a career working with animals. I am going to become a vet and I am going to take everything I learned from my experience and apply that to my education. As a vet, I will not only be working with animals, but with their owners too. I am going to be patient with them and treat them with kindness. I am going to apply the values of self-discipline, compassion, and responsibility that I learned as a puppy raiser.

Maria Klein



Dear Seeing Eye,

Throughout my years, I have been involved in several groups and programs, but only one program has had a significant and lasting impact on my life. The Seeing Eye Puppy Raising Program has brought me great joy and taught me values that have and will continue to influence me throughout my life.

As I continued to raise my puppies, a desire to do more to help the visually impaired has developed. Although I love the puppies immensely, my passion to work with people needing these dogs has multiplied. This desire has driven my choice to major in Rehabilitation and Human Services, and even the location of the college I chose to attend, Penn State Lehigh University. My hope is to volunteer at The Seeing Eye while in college, so I chose Penn's campus that was between my house and The Seeing Eye. I also hope to pursue a job after graduating where I can work with the visually impaired, possibly at The Seeing Eye. This was an unexpected outcome of my puppy raising that I am excited to pursue. Being part of this program has been an amazing experience that will forever impact my future.

Elijah Randolph

Editor's note: Maria and Elijah each received The Seeing Eye Service Scholarship. See story on Pages 6-7.

Seeing Eye^{Way}

Peggi Howard Named President & CEO

*The first woman to lead
The Seeing Eye
since Dorothy Harrison Eustis!*



Dr. Margaret E.L. "Peggi" Howard has served as The Seeing Eye's Interim

President & CEO since December. On September 15th, the Board of Trustees voted to remove the "Interim" tag.

"I can't imagine a person better suited than Peggi to lead The Seeing Eye toward its 100th anniversary," Board Chair Tom Duffy said. "Over the last nine months, she has been implementing strategic initiatives to carry out The Seeing Eye's mission of breeding, raising, and training the world's best guide dogs, and instructing people who are blind or visually impaired in their care and use."

Peggi first came to The Seeing Eye in 2009 as a member of its Board of Trustees. A resident of White House Station, N.J., Peggi served as Vice President of Administration and University Relations at Drew University from 1990 to 2014. Prior to that, she was New Jersey Gov. Thomas H. Kean's Deputy Chief of Staff and Cabinet Secretary from 1984 to 1990. She has a doctor of letters from Drew

University, a master's degree in social work from Rutgers University, and a bachelor's degree from Kenyon College.

"The Seeing Eye is an incredibly rewarding place," she said. "The staff, the graduates, the puppy raisers, the volunteers, the donors, and of course, the dogs, have welcomed me with open arms or, in some cases, wagging tails. It is an honor to join this team."

Being at The Seeing Eye during the nine months she served as Interim President & CEO, Peggi said, convinced her to stay on.

"At The Seeing Eye, you see it every day. People here not only love the mission, they live the mission," she said. "When you see that graduate walk out with that dog, knowing how many hands went into that match. From the breeding station, and before the breeding station with our outstanding genetics program, to our puppy raisers, our kennel staff, our instructors, our veterinarians, all the people behind the scenes who work so hard to make it all happen... it's impossible to see that graduate walk out with his or her dog and not to feel a little awe, and a lot of pride."

Peggi is the 11th president in the 93-year history of The Seeing Eye, but the first woman to hold that title since Dorothy Harrison Eustis, who founded the non-profit organization in 1929 with Morris

Frank, a college student and insurance salesman.

Dorothy was a native of Philadelphia who had opened a facility in Switzerland to train German shepherds for the Swiss police and military.

While visiting Germany, Dorothy observed dogs being trained to guide war veterans blinded by poison gas, and she wrote about the program in an article titled "The Seeing Eye" for The Saturday Evening Post. Morris, a Nashville resident, wrote to Dorothy and said if she had a dog trained to guide him, he would open a school in America to train dogs to do the same for others.

Dorothy had only seen dogs being trained to guide people, but her facility had never done it. She spoke with her head trainer, Jack Humphrey, who designed his own program to train the dogs to carry out this challenging task.

Morris traveled to Switzerland where he was matched with a female German shepherd named Kiss. Morris renamed her Buddy, and returned to the United States. On January 29, 1929, he incorporated a non-profit organization called The Seeing Eye, named after Dorothy's article.

Dorothy, who provided the dogs as well as the funding, would serve as the organization's first president, overseeing its move from Nashville to New Jersey, until her retirement in 1940.



Above: Peggi Howard with a Seeing Eye dog in training in the front lobby of The Seeing Eye. Photo by Dan Hedden.



Left: Peggi in front of a Seeing Eye minivan with a Seeing Eye dog in training. Photo by Dan Hedden.

BIG COUNTRY

Jim Sadecki's always been an outdoorsy type of guy. While in the U.S. Air Force, he was stationed in Honolulu – but his paradise was back home, 5,000 miles away.

“To me, it was just New York City on a tropical island,” he said. He couldn't wait to get back to the woods.

After serving in the Air Force from 1994 to 2004, Staff Sergeant Sadecki returned home to Connecticut to care for his aging parents as well as his adolescent children. Just two weeks later, while working on a construction site, a steel cable snapped.

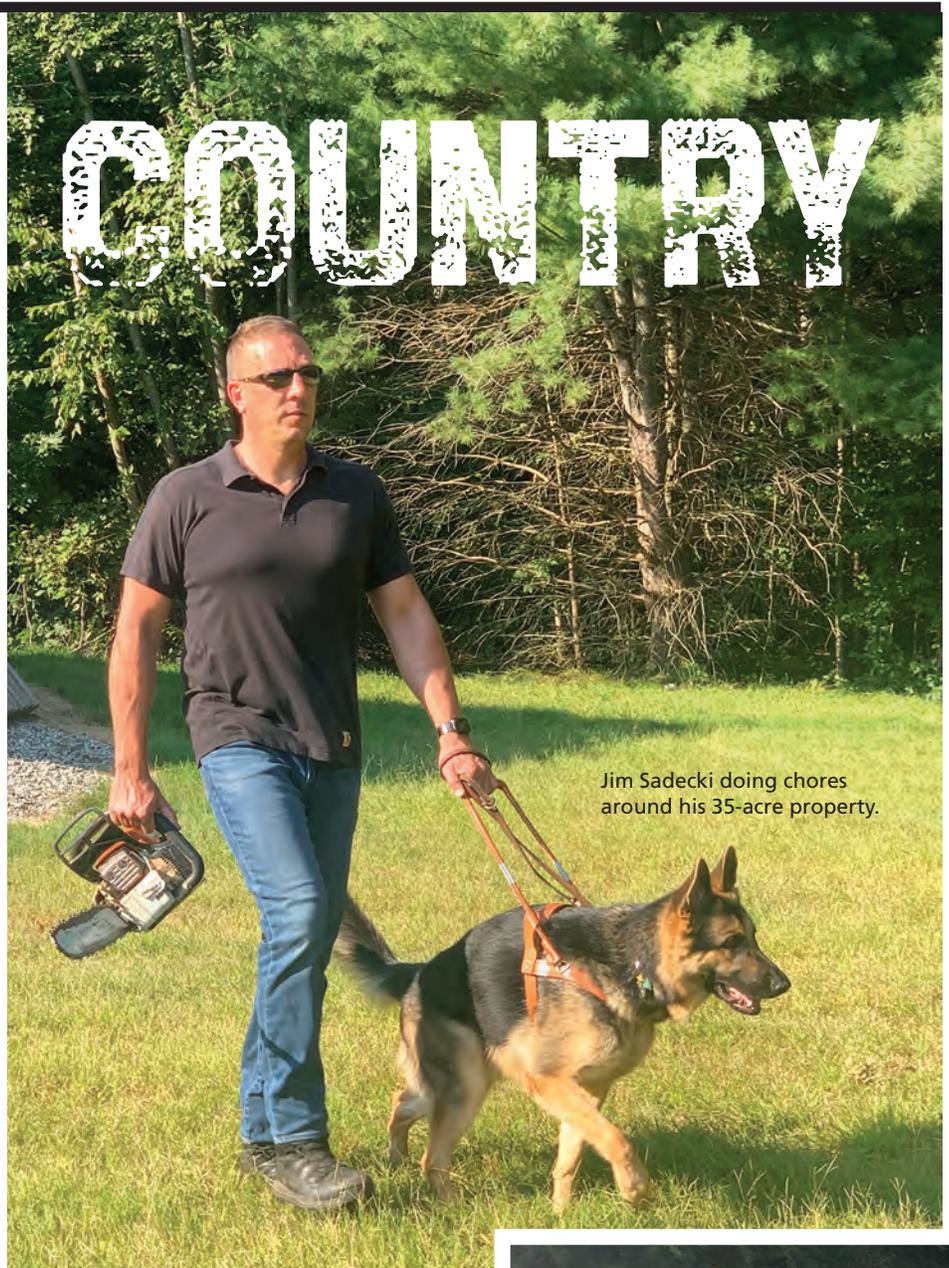
“It hit me across the bridge of my nose and lacerated both my eyes,” Jim said. “It instantly turned out the lights.”

After recovering, Jim purchased a 35-acre wooded property and built a home on it.

“I love the outdoors, and I wanted to teach my kids a work ethic, so I bought this property and I put them to work!” he said. “They're 22 and 20 now, and I think it was a success.”

There's always something to do, Jim said. “I have a couple of cows that graze in the fields, so I need to make sure the fences are good. I do the weed whacking, tree limbing, cut up downed trees with a chainsaw. Sometimes I get people to help, but it's what I grew up doing. I pretty much built everything, so I know how it's all supposed to be.”

The property also has, about a quarter of a mile away from his home, a cabin. “It's my vacation home, I just don't need to fly

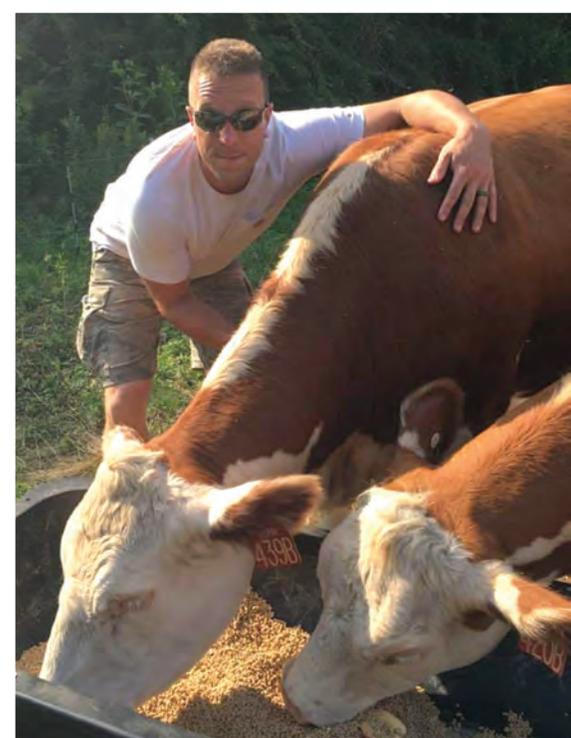


Jim Sadecki doing chores around his 35-acre property.

to it,” he jokes. “It's surrounded by forest. It's peaceful and quiet.”

Jim first came to The Seeing Eye in November 2013, when he was matched with a German shepherd named Mayo. He returned in February 2021 to be matched with his second Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Titan.

“Obviously, with 35 acres, there's always a lot going on,” Jim said. “Titan helps



Above: Jim being guided by his previous Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Mayo, while carrying a chainsaw. Right: Jim feeds the cows. Photos courtesy of Jim Sadecki.

me get to the cows, to the cabin, or wherever I need to be. I could get around with my cane, but with Titan, it's a lot easier. I can get there at full speed."

Titan also helps Jim keep busy with his hobbies, which include archery and competitive target shooting.

"When I lost my sight, I was determined to stay active and keep doing the things I loved to do, but also to try new things," Jim said. "Shooting was one thing I had enjoyed doing very much that I thought I'd never be able to do again. Then early in 2019, a buddy of mine called and said, 'Hey, they're doing this blind shooting thing at the Olympic Training Center, you should check it out.'"

Just a few months later, in July 2019, he placed fourth in the World Shooting Para Sport World Cup in Croatia; in October 2019, he took the bronze medal at the World Shooting Para Sport Championships in Australia. "You're shooting at a target, 10 meters away, with an air rifle," Jim said. "The bullseye is about the size of a period. It is such a precise event, even my heartbeat can affect the shot."

Jim's shooting partner is fellow Seeing Eye graduate Jason Pepper, who was in the U.S. Army. "With both of us having a military background, we work well together," Jim said.

But just as Jim was getting into the sport, COVID shut it down. "It's slowly getting back on track," Jim said. He's hopeful the sport will be in the 2028 Paralympics in Los Angeles.

Jim also loves playing blind ice hockey. His team is the Hartford Brailers.

"I never feel more independent than I do when skating on ice, feeling that cold air on your face," Jim said. "You can go as fast as you want, you can hear the walls as you get close, and you have enough pads on just in case. I took ice skating lessons with my son, and hockey was the first sport we could play together."

When Jim was matched with Titan last year, he arrived the day before a huge snowstorm hit Morristown. "It was really interesting to work a dog in snow that was almost as high as the dog, but it was good training for the winters here," Jim said. "Just like in the military, the harder you train, the better you're prepared."

When he's not working, Jim said, "Mr. Titan is quite the character."

"He loves sticks and playing fetch, and we've got plenty of those," he said. "He likes to sing. He howls to the song 'The Joker' by the Steve Miller Band."



Top: Jim practicing with an air rifle. An audio signal guides him in aiming. Photo courtesy of Jim Sadecki.

Middle: Jim relaxing with Mayo, his previous Seeing Eye dog. Photo courtesy of Jim Sadecki.

Bottom: Jim gets a kiss from Titan, his current Seeing Eye dog. Photo by Seeing Eye Senior Training Manager Tom Pender.

Thank You, Puppy Raisers!

For the first time since 2019, The Seeing Eye welcomed back hundreds of puppy raisers and their families to our Washington Valley campus for Family Day.

"This day is really all about you, all about thanking you as families, as individuals, for raising the greatest dogs in the world. The Seeing Eye dogs!" said Seeing Eye President & CEO Peggi Howard in welcoming the 894 attendees on Saturday, August 13, 2022.

Puppy raisers volunteer their time, energy, and love to raising our puppies. Ranging in age from 9 to adult, the puppy raisers bring 7-week-old puppies into their homes and raise them for the next 14 to 16 months, teaching them good house manners, basic obedience, and socialization. Then they return them to The Seeing Eye for four months of training as Seeing Eye dogs.

The puppy raisers in attendance heard presentations from our admissions department, veterinarians, and kennel staff. They



Seeing Eye Instructor Kristen Oplinger watches as puppy raisers greet a Seeing Eye dog in training at Family Day. On the next page, Master Instructor Barbara Del Tufo gives a dog training demonstration to attendees; the clinic inside The Seeing Eye Vincent A. Stabile Canine Health Center; and puppy raisers show off their face paint. Photos by Michelle Barlak and Dan Hedden.

learned about our "career change" dogs who go into law enforcement or other service, and about how to groom dogs. They also met with Seeing Eye graduates Timothy Fallon, Alexis Roman, Wendy Sherid, Victoria Vreeland, and Chelsea White. And saw dog training demonstrations by Seeing Eye instructors.

The Bittering Family, the Schaney-Chambers Family, Jeanne Kollmer, and Joan Maloney were recognized with the 21 Club Award for raising at least 21 Seeing Eye puppies, and Joan Maloney also was recognized with a 20 Year Leader Award.

In addition, 30 students were recognized with The Seeing Eye Service Scholarships. All 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 must submit an essay about what being a puppy raiser meant to him or her.



The Seeing Eye thanks Helen Skiba-Powell for sponsoring Family Day 2022. Also making donations were Judy and Rich Dolinko, Best Provisions, Sysco, Plainfield Produce, and Kayser's Dairy.

If you're interested in raising a puppy for The Seeing Eye, go to our website at <http://www.SeeingEye.org/raise> or call us at (800) 539-4425 ext. 1769.

PUPPY DEVELOPMENT'S 2022 SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Lydia Alheidt

Marywood University
*The Bernice Barbour Foundation
Scholarship and
The Toni Stabile Scholarship*

Matthew Alter

Rowan University
*The Edward A. Bragaline
Scholarship*

Gehrig Blanchard

Lycoming College
*The David M. Crowley Foundation
Scholarship and
The Claudia Tirello Memorial Puppy
Raiser Scholarship*

Alex Bohensky

Rowan University
*The Fludzinski Foundation
Scholarship and
The Toni Stabile Scholarship*

Christian Bonczek

Brookdale Community College
The Sally A. Jumper Scholarship

Emma Burke

Louisiana State University
*The Bruce J. Heim Foundation
Scholarship and
The Toni Stabile Scholarship*

Jackson Chiappa

Colgate University
*The Edward A. Bragaline
Scholarship and
The Vincent Stabile Scholarship*

Caleb Christensen

Shippensburg University
*The Toni Stabile Scholarship
and The Radcliff Family Memorial
Scholarship*

Sofia Coba-Horvath

University of Delaware
*The David M. Crowley Foundation
Scholarship and
The Toni Stabile Scholarship*

Ethan Daly

Boston College
*The Edward A. Bragaline
Scholarship and
The Vincent Stabile Scholarship*

Philip Fancher

SUNY College at Cortland
*The Bernice Barbour Foundation
Scholarship, The Aaron & Rachel
Meyer Foundation Scholarship, and
The PETCO Foundation Scholarship*

Alyssa Gillner

Indiana University of
Pennsylvania
*The Hermione Foundation
Scholarship and
The Vincent Stabile Scholarship*

Noah Grunder

Cedarville University
*The David M. Crowley Foundation
Scholarship, The Sandy Hill
Foundation Scholarship, and
The Anton and Augusta Birkel
Foundation Scholarship*

Eve Hearn

Bucks County
Community College
*The Edward A. Bragaline
Scholarship, The Fludzinski
Foundation Scholarship, and
The Sally A. Jumper Scholarship*

Alexander Horbacz

Bentley University
*The Aaron & Rachel Meyer
Foundation Scholarship and
The Vincent Stabile Scholarship*



Katherine (Katie) Jeanes

York College of Pennsylvania
*The Edward A. Bragaline
Scholarship*

Maria Klein

Wilson College
*The Vincent Stabile Scholarship
and The Anton and Augusta Birkel
Foundation Scholarship*

Zoe Klein

Shippensburg University
*The Edward A. Bragaline
Scholarship and
The Aaron & Rachel Meyer
Foundation Scholarship*

Willow Macagnano

Monmouth University
*The Josephine Aresty Scholarship,
The Fludzinski Foundation
Scholarship, and The Aaron & Ra-
chel Meyer Foundation Scholarship*

Abigail Newgent

Carroll Community College
*The Edward A. Bragaline
Scholarship, The Sally A. Jumper
Scholarship, and The Aaron &
Rachel Meyer Foundation
Scholarship*

Elijah Randolph

Penn State Lehigh Valley
*The Edward A. Bragaline
Scholarship, The Michael J.
Kosloski Foundation Scholarship,
and The Benebone Scholarship*

Giovanni Ricupero

Case Western Reserve
University
*The Edward A. Bragaline Schol-
arship and The Fludzinski Foundation
Scholarship*

Francesca Russo

University of Tampa
*The William Heady Memorial
Scholarship*

Madeleine Saraisky

Dartmouth College
*The Edward A. Bragaline
Scholarship and The Claudia Tirello
Memorial Puppy Raiser Scholarship*

John Shubeck

Seton Hall University
*The Josephine Aresty Scholarship
and The Edward A. Bragaline
Scholarship*

Emily Snyder

Penn State Schuylkill Haven
*The Fludzinski Foundation
Scholarship*

Ethan Snyder

Penn State University
*The David M. Crowley Foundation
Scholarship*

Ella Stiso

University of Alabama
*The David M. Crowley Foundation
Scholarship, The Sandy Hill
Foundation Scholarship, and
The Katherine Ann Engleking
Scholarship*

Rebekah Thompson

University of Scranton
*The PETCO Foundation Scholarship
and The Seeing Eye Puppy Raiser
Service Scholarship*

Gillian Waksmunski

Boston University
*The Michael J. Kosloski Foundation
Scholarship, The Aaron & Rachel
Meyer Foundation Scholarship, and
The Emma Kate Brunskill Memorial
Puppy Raiser Scholarship*

First Lady Pat Nixon Visits The Seeing Eye

Fifty years ago, First Lady Pat Nixon visited The Seeing Eye, where she would meet Morris Frank and other graduates, Seeing Eye staff and Trustees, and puppy raisers.

The First Lady came to our Washington Valley campus on September 15, 1972. The highlight of the visit was going for a “blindfold walk” with a female German shepherd named Winnie.

“This is for real!” she said excitedly as the shepherd led her down the front driveway, flanked by a gaggle of reporters, Seeing Eye staff, and Secret Service agents.

Mrs. Nixon also met with George Wertz, Jr., who served as Executive Vice President from 1950 to 1975; Elliott Averett, who served as President and Board Chair from 1970 to 1981; and Dick Krokus, who joined The Seeing Eye in 1946 as an instructor and retired in 1988 as the Director of Instruction and Training.

Mrs. Nixon was presented with a Buddy Award and a framed portrait of Buddy, the first Seeing Eye dog.

Morris Frank, 64 years old at the time, was then working with the fifth of the six German shepherds he named Buddy. He gave

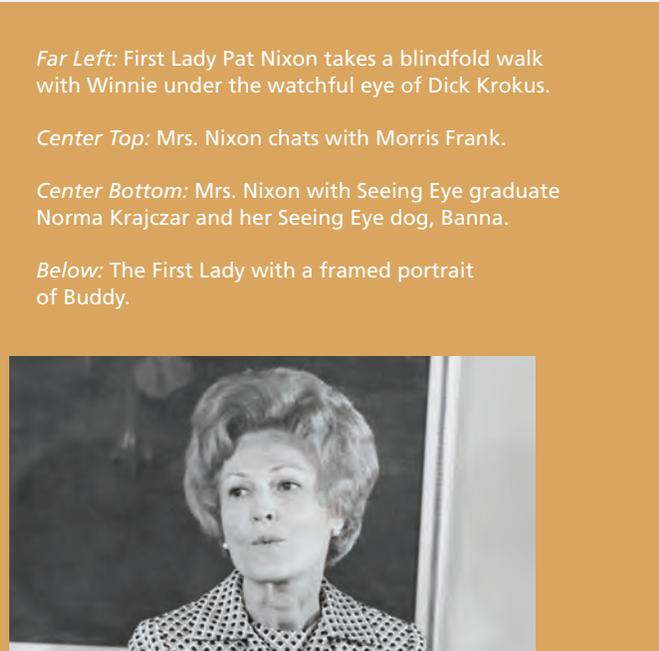
to the First Lady his book, *The First Lady of The Seeing Eye*. (The “first lady” in the title was Buddy.)

Also in attendance was Elizabeth Cahill, the wife of New Jersey Governor William Cahill, who arrived by a helicopter which landed on The Seeing Eye’s front lawn!

The Fall 1972 issue of *The Guide* reported that Mrs. Nixon’s visit was “shown on nationwide television and photographs appeared in newspapers across the country.”

Pat and Richard Nixon had several dogs throughout their lifetimes, most famously a black-and-white cocker spaniel named Checkers. The Nixons had received the puppy as a gift from a traveling salesman in Texas, who had heard Pat Nixon say on the radio that her adolescent daughters longed for a dog. In a famous speech in 1952, vice presidential candidate Nixon said he’d never taken a gift while in office... except for Checkers, and he wasn’t going to return him. Checkers died in 1964 at the age of 13.

While in the White House from 1969 to 1974, the Nixons had three dogs: a Yorkshire terrier named Pasha, a miniature poodle named Vicky, and an Irish setter named King Timahoe.



Far Left: First Lady Pat Nixon takes a blindfold walk with Winnie under the watchful eye of Dick Krokus.

Center Top: Mrs. Nixon chats with Morris Frank.

Center Bottom: Mrs. Nixon with Seeing Eye graduate Norma Krajczar and her Seeing Eye dog, Banna.

Below: The First Lady with a framed portrait of Buddy.

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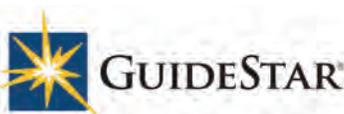
The Seeing Eye

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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.