



GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND MONTGOMERY REGION

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Featured Stories

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Raiser of the Month

March-April 2019

Eros...“our Lab-Adore Christmas Miracle”

A Christmas blessing came to our home on December 23, 2017 in the form of an adorable golden fur ball. The timing was perfect.

Our daughter was home from college, Gunner, our first GEB pup, had left to join our co-raiser in NYC after 5 mos., and we had a death of our pet lab, Oakley, of 14 years. Our hearts were open. Eros arrived ready to love and be loved. A Christmas miracle!



Given that Eros was our first GEB dog to raise from 8 weeks to 17 months, I have pondered the many lessons learned from this beloved canine. From Yorktown Heights to Baltimore to Kensington to DC, his journey to our home was long and he whimpered on my lap all the way to our doorstep. What must he had been thinking? Where was he going? I snuggled him tight on that cold night away from everything familiar.

Our role as raisers is to love so as to create some path toward service. The lessons of discipline, playfulness, security, forgiveness, trust, belonging, loyalty, companionship, and peaceful settling are mutually learned by dog and raiser alike. But, the foundational task for our service pup is grounded in mutual love and adoration. With that comes the even greater lesson of learning to accept loss.

Many folks who know how much we love our pet dogs ask “How can you raise a guide dog and let him go”? I suppose the answer is bound up in the question “How can you ever give up love”? As a hospice nurse, I appreciate the profound and relentless aspects of grief from loss. My response which I try to live into more fully is ... “It sucks to say goodbye to a dog you love but it sucks more to be blind.”



Eros all grown up and visiting an athletic training camp with Dixcy’s son

Eros, if he achieves his training goals, will navigate a dark world for a human being. It is the highest of skills. This is his true purpose in life...to use his olfactory nerves, his curiosity, his vision, his strong body and his deep sense of devotion. And if loving him into service has helped him achieve these goals, we are content.

Eros is a truly lovable dog...our lab-adore!!!

Dixcy and Family

Nothing better than a nice long nap after a romp in the woods



Welcome New and Repeat Raisers

Montgomery Region welcomes 8 month old Linden. He will be working with Jean and John to improve his skills, attending classes and participating in region activities. Welcome Linden!



Montgomery Region welcomes first-time raiser Pollyanne and daughter raising Dixie, a beautiful black female lab.



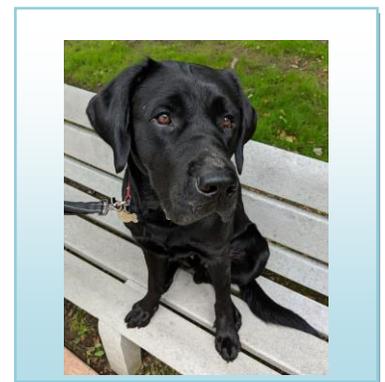
Repeat veteran raiser, Terri, is doing a puppy-start with adorable Euro for the Colorado Region.



Guiding Eyes Dogs Run a New York Marathon

We did it! History was made on March 17 when three Guiding Eyes dogs, specially trained to guide-run with a blind runner, participated in a New York Half Marathon event with one dog aiming to cross the finish line and receive the team medal. The team ran to bring awareness to the Guiding Eyes mission: providing world-class guide dogs at no cost to people who are blind or visually impaired. The following write-up is taken directly from the Guiding Eyes website article about the event.

Meet Running Guide Dog Westley, a member of the New York City Half Marathon Training Team. Westley may be a big boy, but this goofy “Moose” has both strength and speed.



Dear Volunteers,

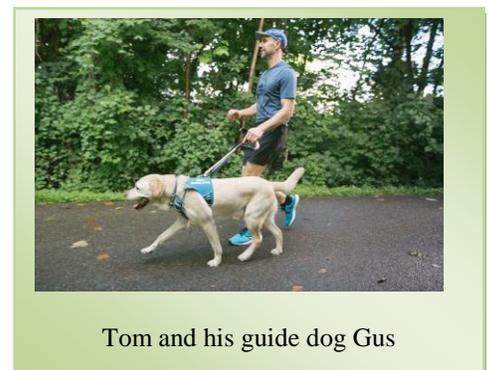
I'm extending a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped Guiding Eyes make history with the completion of the NYC Half Marathon!

After months of training, our Running Guides Relay Team of three dogs led me 13.1 miles from Brooklyn's Prospect Park to Manhattan's Central Park. Westley was the first to start the race; he was a solid runner covering the first 5 miles. Westley handed off to his sister, Waffle, who was “on fire” on FDR drive, taking off like a rocket! Gus, team anchor and seasoned veteran, finished the last 3 miles, guiding me one last time before his retirement at the Finish Line - an emotional moment I will never forget. I honestly didn't know for sure that I had crossed the finish line until Gus stopped running and turned as if to say, “Hey, stop following me already, my puppy raiser is here!”

Tom on a practice run with Waffle who is suited up in Ruffwear high-visibility harnesses and boots.



Thank you,



Tom and his guide dog Gus

Thomas Panek
President and CEO
Guiding Eyes for the Blind

Visit links to media coverage posted on GuidingEyes.org

Training Dogs and Ambassador Visit School

At the request of our veteran teen raiser, Blythe, an invitation was extended to our dogs-in-training to do a presentation to the *Girl Lead Club* taking place at the North Bethesda Middle School on March 19. The *Girl Lead Club* is a small group of young women who, themselves, are leaning the importance of being a future leader as they, in turn, learned what it takes to be a volunteer puppy raiser. The girls presented the dogs with handmade rope toys... Thank You!

Thanks to Blythe for organizing the visit for our GEB trainees Linden, Vesey, Celine, Ellie, Lark, newest pup Euro and ambassador Napa.



Fun Places to Go

Let us know where you like to take your pup for outings



Lark, in training, along with Ambassador Whim, enjoying a great exercise and fun-time on the C&O Canal



“Lucky Linden”

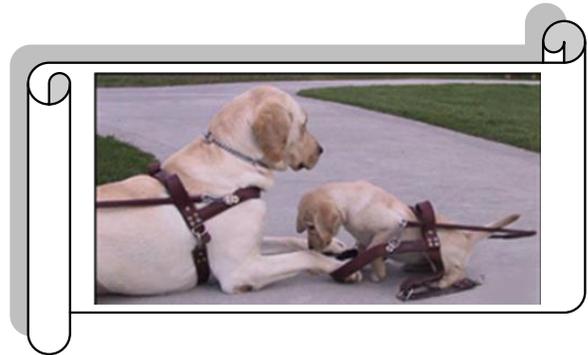


Orchard visiting the art museum

Really! My first day in class and look what they make me do.



Fundraising in our communities Will help me grow into this harness!



The Montgomery Region is highly dependent upon donations and the monies received support class space, crates, medications and other items for our pups in training. In order to maintain this support for our volunteers and pups in training, monetary contributions are always needed.

So, how can you help? Take the time to look around your community, or inquire at your place of work or worship. You may be able to identify a business, organization or individual looking to either sponsor or contribute to a worthwhile non-profit organization.

- Restaurants – Many local restaurants will partner and host a non-profit lunch/dinner
- Retail stores – Many stores will host a shopping event
- Place of work – Is your place of work looking to make a tax deductible contribution, or already has a matching charitable contribution program
- Financial organizations, grocery stores, sororities and fraternities...can they donate
- Yard sale –Is there a yard sale in your community in which we can participate
- GEB is on the national list of non-profit participating agencies for the Combined Federal Campaign #10248

Reach out to the Region's management team, Jeanyne and Jean, with your ideas.

Listed are contributions to date for 2019

- *A Memorial Donation made by Montgomery Region Volunteer Families for support of Region pups in training*

*Deadline for
submission of articles
is the 1st of each month*



Your articles will be included in future issues
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