

OUR MISSION

Guiding Eyes for the Blind provides guide dogs to people with vision loss. We are passionate about connecting exceptional dogs with individuals for greater independence.

Guiding Eyes is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with all services provided completely free of charge. At Guiding Eyes, we rely upon the contributions of our generous donors to fulfill our mission.

We work out of our Headquarters and Training Center in Yorktown Heights, New York; our Canine Development Center in Patterson, New York; and our Urban Training Center in White Plains, New York.

Guiding Eyes is an accredited member of the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF), the organization that establishes worldwide standards for the breeding and training of guide dogs.



BY THE NUMBERS

It can cost up to **\$50,000 annually** to train and care for a guide dog throughout its working lifetime with a person who is blind. Here's a look at some of the facts and figures that make it all possible:

70+ years of experience (founded in 1954 by Donald Kauth)

More than **500 pups** born annually:

90% Labrador Retrievers

10% German Shepherds

More than **10,000 graduated** guide dog teams

Approximately **900 active** guide dog teams

150 guide dogs placed annually

Over **2,000 volunteers** supporting our mission

FUNDRAISING

All our services are provided free of charge to people with vision loss.

Guiding Eyes receives little to no government funding. Our support comes almost entirely from generous individuals, corporations, and foundations.

There are many ways to designate gifts to specific areas of our work at Guiding Eyes:

**\$500 to
\$2,000**

Personalize a leaf or stone from our "Honor Tree" for a beloved pet or person.

**\$1,000 to
\$2,500**

Dedicate a "Paw" on our "Paws of Fame" wall to honor a loved one.

\$7,500

Special Name a Guiding Eyes puppy and follow their journey.

\$10,000

Sponsor the On-Campus or Home Training of a guide dog team.

\$50,000

Sponsor one guide dog from birth to career.

Partner with us:
Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities Available!

BREEDING, PUPPY RAISING, FOSTERING, & SOCIALIZATION

At the **Canine Development Center**, established in 1966, we "purpose breed" Guiding Eyes dogs for the health and temperament suited for guide work. **More than half of the puppies raised become guide dogs, service dogs, or join our breeding program.**



Puppy Raising

Volunteer Puppy Raisers take pups into their homes at approximately 8 weeks old and teach them basic obedience and house manners while socializing them to everything the world has to offer! Puppy Raisers return the dog at 16-18 months, and our senior breeding and training staff determine whether the dog is ready for guide dog training or more suited for another career.

Potential Raisers attend orientation sessions to learn the skills they'll need to start training puppies. Raisers attend region classes and local outings throughout the time they have their pup.

Puppy Raising Regions span 14 states: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, and Colorado.

NEW! Volunteers outside our regions now have the opportunity to join our **Remote Raising Program** with virtual lessons and support.

Brood & Stud Fostering

Volunteer Fosters offer permanent homes for Guiding Eyes brood and stud dogs. These volunteers provide a safe and loving home environment, keeping the dog on leash when outdoors, and ensuring daily exercise. Brood and Stud Fosters receive training in dog handling, care, and obedience, as well as regular check-ups from our veterinary staff.

Home & Early Socialization

Home Socializers bring two puppies (ages 6-9 weeks) to their home for 3 days to expose them to new sights, sounds, and people, with training and equipment provided by Guiding Eyes.

Early Socializers introduce Guiding Eyes pups to new environments and experiences in our Early Socialization Room for 2-hour periods once per week. These repeated positive experiences help build the puppies' confidence.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Guiding Eyes offers a range of volunteer opportunities at home or on campus. On-campus volunteers must be at least 18 years old. Youth under 18 can participate in most off-site opportunities with the support of their family. For the most up-to-date information, please visit [GuidingEyes.org](https://www.guidingeyes.org).



SUCCESSIVE TRAINING & ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

Guiding Eyes uses a **relationship-based approach** to raising and training our pups, utilizing play and food rewards to build a spirit of cooperation and willingness. Dogs raised through this program display significantly increased confidence and focus.



VETERINARY SERVICES

Guiding Eyes has a **full-service veterinary hospital** at both our Yorktown Heights and Patterson campuses, with licensed Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians on staff.

Every dog in our program receives exceptional, comprehensive veterinary care because their health and well-being are essential to the life-changing partnerships they make possible. Dogs near our campuses are cared for in our on-site hospitals, while those farther away receive coordinated care through a trusted network of veterinary partners, ensuring a consistent, high standard of care regardless of location.



GUIDE DOG TRAINING



Our guide dogs spend **approximately five months undergoing formal harness training** with a professional instructor. They learn the skills needed to safely guide a person with vision loss, such as indicating changes of elevation and navigating around obstacles.

Did You Know?

Each guide dog is carefully matched with their handler based on pace, pull, personality, and other critical factors.

Guide dogs do not know when to cross the street. Their handlers listen to traffic sounds and determine when it's safe.

Guide dogs are trained in **'intelligent disobedience,'** giving them the ability to refuse a command that could put the team in danger.

RELEASED DOGS

Guiding Eyes spends months getting to know our puppies and dogs to ensure they are suited for guide work. **Just like people, dogs have different personalities and want different careers.** For some pups, that means a career as a pet!

Dogs that aren't suitable for guide or other service work are **released from our program and placed in loving homes through public adoption.** These loving, impeccably-bred puppies and dogs are in high demand but are well worth the wait.



STUDENT TRAINING PROGRAMS



Guiding Eyes for the Blind is proud to offer a variety of programs, so our students can receive the training that best suits their needs.

On-Campus Training

Students spend two weeks at our Yorktown Heights campus learning how to care for and travel safely with their new guide dogs. While living on campus, the teams train in a wide range of environments selected to support their individual needs, from small towns such as picturesque Cold Spring to urban settings including White Plains and Manhattan.

Specialized Training Program

Our Specialized Training Program provides custom trained guide dogs for people who have vision loss as well as additional challenges such as hearing loss or balance issues.

Running Guides

Guiding Eyes is the only guide dog school to offer Running Guides, training guide dogs to run alongside their handlers. Dogs are specially trained to perform running guidework in addition to their standard harness training.

Home Training

This program is designed for students unable to travel to our campus or would be better served training in their own environment. A Guide Dog Mobility Instructor travels to the student's hometown, providing the team with flexible, individualized training.

GRADUATION

Graduation is the culmination of training for our guide dog teams. These heartfelt ceremonies celebrate newly matched guide dog teams and are an opportunity for the entire community of volunteers, staff, graduates, and supporters to share in the festivities.

Graduation ceremonies are held twice a month on Fridays at our Yorktown Heights, NY campus. Head to [GuidingEyes.org](https://www.GuidingEyes.org) for more details and upcoming dates.

