

## Leader Dog Report January 2025

A reminder of some of the training Leader Dog provides - At Leader Dogs for the Blind, training

is catered for client needs or disabilities that may be physical or intellectual and here are some

examples of ways we are able to adapt training: Train a dog to work on the right side for someone who has experienced a stroke, has a prosthetic hand or has lost a limb. Identify and

train a sturdy dog for someone with an uneven gait due to cerebral palsy that can offer a little

counterbalance and be easier to control. Provide one-on-one instruction at a gradual pace for

someone who has experienced a traumatic brain injury. People who are both deaf and blind can

find navigating the world to be challenging. After working closely with DeafBlind clients, we

began offering guide dog training in 1992 using American Sign Language (ASL) as the main

method of communication. A guide dog working with a person who is DeafBlind must be extremely mature. Their training stresses partner awareness because they receive all commands

from their handler via hand signals. Much attention is placed on traffic awareness and proper

street crossings since these can be extreme safety issues for people who are DeafBlind.

In November there was a Light Up Leader Dog event at the Downtown Rochester facility which

included fireworks. In collaboration with the Rochester Downtown Development Authority's

Lagniappe event, they served free coffee, hot cider and donuts to all who attended, and they had

a photo booth. They also launched the Leader Dog Pledge Challenge during the event.

Our

goal is to engage 500 generous donors to help us raise \$10,000 to support people who are blind

or visually impaired.

The December Leader Dog newsletter included heartwarming guide dog client story about

navigating life after a hurricane and the intense walk the client and his dog had,

navigating to his

sons bus stop, so his son could go to school. There was so much debris in the way, it was very

frightening for him, but with his guide dog, he made it through.

A Year in Review: Leader Dog reached our \$2.3 million goal, which was reforecast to \$2.34

million. Final revenue goal from Lions: \$2,413,171!! The completed Top Dog Club list is here.

Top billing goes to the New Bern Lions in North Carolina. This gift is from the estate of a friend of a New Bern Lion. Just like Tullahoma Lions, Tennessee, for the past two years, secured this prestigious spot because of an estate gift, also not from a Lion but a person who seemingly had no connection to Lions or Leader Dog. What that says is, Lions and Leader Dog are well known and trusted in your local communities. Bravo to ALL clubs for their support!

Leader Dog in Numbers –  
200 client/dog teams graduate annually  
Dogs work in 49 states, 7 provinces, and 39 countries  
440-500 puppies are raised annually  
Approx. 100 breeding stock Host homes

#### 85th Anniversary Note

As we celebrate the 85th anniversary of Leader Dogs for the Blind, we send you our gratitude for your commitment to the growth and evolution of our mission. From our humble beginnings in 1939 in a rural farmhouse surrounded by an apple orchard, we have become one of the largest guide dog and orientation & mobility services organizations in the world.

Our community of clients, volunteers, supporters and Lions club members are unified by a common purpose and are a vital part of our mission and growth.