

Lions of District 4-L4 Endorsed Service

Beyond Blindness

Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. (GDB)
“Harnessing the Power of Partnership”

1 Project description

Guide Dogs for the Blind was incorporated in May 1942 and began training students in a rented home in Los Gatos, California. One of the first trained dogs, a rescued German Shepherd named Blondie, was paired with Sgt. Leonard Foulk — the first serviceman to graduate from the new school.

In 1947, the organization moved to its current 11-acre campus in **San Rafael**, and in 1995 expanded with a second campus in **Boring**.

Since 1942, more than **10,000 guide dog teams** have graduated.

Both campuses provide exceptional residential training facilities, including:

- Dormitory housing
- Dining facilities
- Exercise rooms
- Libraries and computer labs
- Social areas
- Real-world training environments from rural settings to congested city streets and public transportation

Mission:

To empower lives by creating exceptional partnerships between people, dogs, and communities.

Vision:

A world with greater inclusion, opportunity, and independence by optimizing the unique capabilities of people and dogs.

Guide Dogs for the Blind is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
Federal ID# 94-1196195

2 HOW THE PUBLIC CAN GET INVOLVED WITH LIONS CLUBS

The public can support this life-changing work by partnering with their local Lions Club.

Ways to engage include:

- 🐶 Support a local puppy raiser through donations
- ❤️ Contribute to the cost of guide dog training
- 🎤 Attend Lions-hosted informational programs
- 🎉 Participate in club fundraisers benefiting guide dog programs
- 🔔 Help Lions Clubs spread awareness about service dog partnerships

Donations can be sent directly to a local puppy raiser in your area, benefiting your own community.

For local chapter information, contact:

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District Chair

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(Huntington Beach Host Lions)

When the public partners with Lions, support stays local while contributing to a nationally respected organization.

3 CALL TO ACTION FOR LIONS CLUBS

Lions of District 4-L4 — this is vision service in action.

Guide dog partnerships represent independence, dignity, mobility, and opportunity — core values aligned with the global mission of Lions.

Now is the time to:

- ✓ Host a Guide Dogs for the Blind presentation at your club
- ✓ Sponsor a puppy-in-training
- ✓ Adopt a local puppy raiser as a club partner
- ✓ Organize a district fundraising challenge
- ✓ Promote guide dog awareness during vision-focused service events

This is a high-impact, visible service opportunity that directly reflects Lions' long-standing commitment to sight and independence.

🐶 District 4-L4 Lions — let's continue harnessing the power of partnership and help create more life-changing actions