

SUPPORT A LIFETIME OF INDEPENDENCE

Volunteers are crucial to the success of Leader Dogs for the Blind. They serve in important roles throughout our organization, both on and off campus. We have over 900 volunteers, and we're always looking for more help. The following are ways you can help support our programs and services.

Volunteer Puppy Raiser

Puppies are placed in host homes for a year until they are old enough for formal guide dog training. Puppy raisers teach basic obedience, house manners and socialize the dog in the community.



Volunteer Breeding Host

Leader Dog's sophisticated breeding program relies on volunteers to house dogs on a continual basis. Families that host female breeding stock also care for their puppies during whelping and the first seven weeks of life. Hosts may adopt the dog upon its retirement from breeding.



On-Campus Volunteer

Volunteers work in every department on Leader Dog's campus by caring for dogs, answering phones, assisting clients and more.



Giving Opportunities

Leader Dog is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that receives zero funding from the government or insurance companies. We rely entirely on donations from individuals, foundations, corporations and service groups, such as Lions clubs.

In order to provide all programs free to our clients, including travel, equipment, and meals and housing during training, we need the support of thousands of individuals. There are many options available to make a financial gift, including recurring donations, memorial donations and planned giving.

To donate and help make people unstoppable, please visit LeaderDog.org.

Contact Us Toll-Free: **888.777.5332**

FOLLOW THE LEADER     



LEADER DOGS
FOR THE BLIND

PROVIDING FREE
TRAINING AND SKILLS
FOR A LIFETIME OF
INDEPENDENT TRAVEL
TO HELP MAKE PEOPLE
UNSTOPPABLE.



FOLLOW THE LEADER
    
LeaderDog.org

LEADER DOGS
FOR THE BLIND

BLINDNESS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

For people who are blind or visually impaired, the loss of sight is only the beginning of a life-changing reality. As everyday tasks become daunting, these individuals often become isolated and depressed.

Sadly, the number of people who are blind or visually impaired grows every year.

In the United States:



1,300,000

people are legally blind



75,000

people become blind or visually impaired every year



90%

live in low-income settings



60%

of those who are working age are unemployed



43%

live with depression



10%

travel independently with a cane or guide dog

How does Leader Dog help?

Leader Dog programs empower people who are blind, visually impaired or Deaf-Blind with the skills they need for a lifetime of safe and independent travel that increases their confidence, health, reconnects them with their community and opens doors to education and meaningful employment.



CONFIDENCE & INDEPENDENCE

By learning how to travel with a white cane or guide dog, people regain their sense of independence and confidence.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

After completing white cane or guide dog training, it is easier for our clients to live a healthy lifestyle.



EMPLOYMENT

With the confidence to go to school or use mass transit to get to a job interview, our clients are positioned to join the workforce or advance their careers.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY

When people who are blind can travel safely and independently, the burden of care lifts from family and friends and peace of mind is restored.

We believe everyone deserves the opportunity for independence and mobility, that is why **all of our programs are provided 100% free of charge.**

PROGRAMS OFFERED

Because each client's needs are different, training is personalized to ensure everyone gets the most out of their experience.



Guide Dog Training

Since 1939, Leader Dog has offered a highly respected and innovative guide dog program. This free training is open to people who are legally blind, at least 16 years old, are able to care for a dog, and have effective orientation and mobility (O&M) skills. Training options include: on-campus, Deaf-Blind, in-home delivery, warm weather and urban.

We are the only guide dog organization to provide free HumanWare GPS devices to clients from the U.S. and Canada. This equipment helps expand our clients' range of travel and increases their independence.



Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Training

O&M skills are crucial to becoming an independent traveler. Our free on-campus program focuses on how to use a white cane, maintain orientation while traveling and overall safety. This week-long training is provided on an individual basis and is customized for each client whether they are a first-time cane user or a seasoned user who wants to further develop their O&M skills.



Summer Experience Camp

This free program combines fun activities like ziplining and tandem biking with leadership skills training and building friendships with peers facing similar challenges. Campers receive a free HumanWare GPS to help increase their travel independence and spend a day with our guide dog mobility instructors and Leader Dogs in training to learn about living and working with a guide dog. Open to teens ages 16 and 17.

