

Fall 2013 | Volume 79, Number 2

# The Seeing Eye® GUIDE

A MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS OF THE SEEING EYE



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## A Seeing Eye Perspective

The Seeing Eye has had many amazing accomplishments throughout its storied history – first and foremost, the increased dignity and independence our Seeing Eye® dogs bring every day to people who are blind or visually impaired; our innovative dog training and groundbreaking research into canine health and genetics; and our rich history as the pioneer of the guide dog movement and equal access laws. But everyone agrees that our most adorable accomplishments are our puppies.



More than 400 families throughout New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware participate in our puppy raiser program. These volunteers play a critical role for The Seeing Eye: they welcome our puppies into their homes, where they teach them basic obedience, proper socialization around people and other animals, and good “house etiquette.” These puppy raisers make many sacrifices for The Seeing Eye. As a former Seeing Eye puppy raiser myself, I know that puppies bring a lot of joy, but also occasional frustration, sleepless nights, and maybe even a chewed shoe.

And then, after 14 to 16 months, just when the puppy is beginning to mature and settle in, our amazing puppy raisers make the biggest sacrifice of all: the family returns the puppy to The Seeing Eye to begin the next step in their training toward the goal of becoming a Seeing Eye dog.

Puppy raisers hold a special place in my heart not only because of all they do for The Seeing Eye, but for all they’ve done for me by raising my eight Seeing Eye dogs, including my newest partner, Vegas.

The love our puppy raisers show for our dogs is at the heart of our mission at The Seeing Eye. Our dogs aren’t rewarded with treats, but with hugs and praise. Our students form a special bond of camaraderie, with each other and with their instructors, that lasts for many years after they graduate. But most of all they love their dogs and their dogs love them, too.

And many thanks go to you too for the love you have shown for our mission – breeding and training the world’s best guide dogs to enhance the independence and dignity of people who are blind or visually impaired – through your generous support. Your generosity has touched the lives of many people – and many puppies.

Sincerely,  
**James A. Kutsch, Jr.,**  
*The Seeing Eye*  
President & CEO

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### ON THE COVER:

This adorable German shepherd is one of the many great photos our puppy raisers took for the 2014 Seeing Eye Puppy Calendar! To order yours, check out the story on Page 8.

*Photo courtesy Caring Eyes Puppy Club of Bergen County, New Jersey.*

### Dear Seeing Eye:

I have had the absolute honor and privilege of adopting two Seeing Eye dogs who didn't quite "make the program" to become guide dogs for someone visually impaired. First was my beautiful German shepherd, Onassis, who I adopted in September of 2000 and who passed away in April of 2009, and now, our German shepherd, Yukon, who we've had since August of 2009.

Whenever anyone meets Yukon, just as they did with Onassis, they always compliment me on what a great dog I have and how well-behaved and well-mannered he is. I usually stand like a proud mother and pretend to take all the credit... but just for a moment. Truth is, I would love to take all the credit, but that just wouldn't be right.

The Seeing Eye, with its volunteers, puppy raisers, trainers, and countless, cream-of-the-crop individuals, who were there from their first moments on earth, are the ones truly responsible for these miracle dogs. I just happen to be one of the lucky ones to be able to give these boys the forever home they so deserve. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

*Gina Kensler-Brunda*

### Dear Seeing Eye:

Hi and Aloha from Honolulu!

I want to extend my sincerest and deepest appreciation to The Seeing Eye for the remarkable program you provide to we blind individuals who choose to travel with such companions.

My Seeing Eye dog Libby celebrated her 10th birthday in July with lots of smiles, rubs behind the ears, gentle strokes down her shoulders, soft kisses on her head, and lots of good words. She has been a very good companion for the last eight years – reliable, respectful, calm, and just a fountain of beauty. Libby is included in everything – she will soon get to experience a catamaran ride! She's also been on a Ferris wheel and even attended Lantern Floating Hawaii with me. She is very healthy, mentally sound, relaxed... she is simply wonderful!

Mahalo to each of you at the school for trusting her life to me. Aloha.

*Sagi McCleary*  
Seeing Eye Graduate

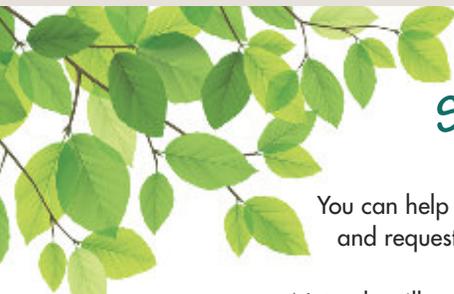
### Dear Seeing Eye:

My Seeing Eye puppy, Norden, returned to The Seeing Eye for training in June. Though he was the last puppy I will raise for a few years, being a puppy raiser for The Seeing Eye has changed my life and I am so honored to be a part of its mission. On June 8th, I graduated from high school with honors and have continued on to Liberty University to be educated in psychology.

The Seeing Eye has taught me many things about life and my own passions. My goal is to help others, and I thank you for helping me in the process of achieving those goals. By awarding me with The Seeing Eye Puppy Raiser scholarship, you have helped to lighten my financial load and realize my dream of helping others.

Thank you again so much. This experience has been inspiring and I hope that one day I may have the chance to help a student achieve their goals as well.

*Anna Paules*



## Save A Tree! Sign Up to Receive the Guide Via Email!

Show your green side by subscribing to the email version of the Guide magazine. You can help The Seeing Eye reduce the number of print copies of the magazine by emailing [news@SeeingEye.org](mailto:news@SeeingEye.org) and requesting the email version of the magazine, ensuring that more of our donations go toward our mission.

Not only will you still get the same wonderful stories and photos, but your participation will accomplish the following ...

- Help The Seeing Eye save money on print and postage.
- In addition to the Guide, you will also automatically receive our digital newsletter.
- Be the first to receive Seeing Eye news via email
- Share Seeing Eye news with friends and family by simply hitting "forward".
- Expand your "green" horizons by going digital!

## Seeing Eye grad now heads National Library Service



*Karen Keninger, Director of the National Library Service, and her Seeing Eye dog, Jimi.*

Karen Keninger, like most Americans who are visually impaired, grew up using the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Library of Congress. Now she serves as its director.

Keninger, who was partnered with her first Seeing Eye dog in 1970, is the first blind person to direct NLS, which provides books, magazines, and other materials in alternative formats to people who are unable to read printed books due to vision loss or physical disability. Prior to becoming the director in March 2012, she served as director of the Iowa Department for the Blind, regarded as one of the country's top providers of vocational rehabilitation and independent-living programs and library services for people who are visually impaired, and earlier as director for the Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

"I started using NLS when I was 7," Keninger said. "I got my first books as soon as I learned to read Braille, in the summer after second grade. They also offered talking books on 16 2/3 RPM records, these big heavy platters."

NLS still offers Braille, but the records have been replaced – first with cassettes, and now with digital cartridges and audio downloads. And NLS is about to offer the next technological advance, with an app for iPhone (one for Android also is in development) that can be used to download audio directly to a smartphone. There also are downloadable Braille books, which work in conjunction with a refreshable Braille device – each line of the text is "printed" on the device, which has Braille dots that rise and fall to spell out words.

"The dream I have for our Braille readers is a device that would allow you to read books very much like a sighted person would read on a Kindle," she said.

Even with the advent of talking computers and smartphones, Keninger said, it's important that children who are visually impaired learn Braille. "There is a perception that a child can get by with audio and not need to learn Braille, but I think that's

a mistake. If audio is better, why do our sighted children need to learn to read? Literacy is reading, not listening.”

Keninger was teamed with her seventh dog, a Labrador/golden retriever cross named Jimi, in December 2011. But she still remembers the thrill, 41 years earlier, of walking with her first one.

“It was just... magic,” she said. “That very first walk at The Seeing Eye, and I remember it so well, was euphoric. I could stroll down the street and not worry about anything.”

Keninger moved from Iowa to Washington, D.C., after she was hired at her new job, and Jimi has quickly made the adjustment to life in the city.

“He loves the Metro, the trains, the escalators, the activity, the people. He loves all the goings on around him,” she said. “He really thrives in that environment.”

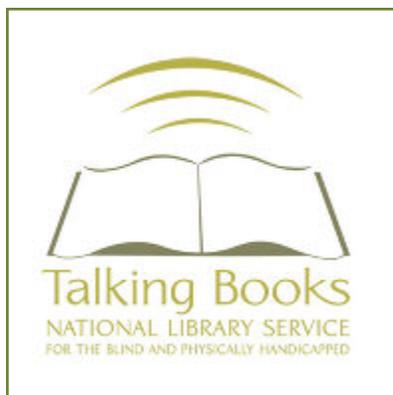
Keninger has a hectic travel schedule – this year she’s already been in Oregon, Pittsburgh, Boston, and both the

National Federation of the Blind national convention in Orlando and the American Council of the Blind conference and convention in Columbus – and her Seeing Eye dogs have made that a lot easier.

“I’ve had to travel with and without a Seeing Eye dog, and I vastly prefer to travel with one,” she said. “It makes it so much easier – getting on and off the plane, navigating the hotels, getting to where I need to go. I can do quite well with a cane, but for me, there’s a higher stress level.”

The day after Keninger was partnered with Jimi, she had her job interview at NLS. “I came home on Wednesday and I went to the interview on Thursday. Just one day after leaving The Seeing Eye, I didn’t know if he’d be ready for that,” Keninger said. It typically takes about six months or even longer before a Seeing Eye team really begins to mesh.

“I brought him and he just sat down and was very quiet throughout the interview, and of course, everyone loved him,” she said. “He did very well in the interview – I guess we both did, because they hired me!”



## NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

**The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, which is a part of the Library of Congress, administers the talking-book and Braille program, a free library service for Americans whose vision, physical handicap, or certified reading disability makes reading printed books difficult or impossible. NLS provides digital audio players and audio or Braille versions of books, magazines, and music instructional materials at no cost. For more information, go to [www.loc.gov/nls](http://www.loc.gov/nls) or call 1-888-NLS-READ.**

*A Seeing Eye puppy watches as cyclists pass.*



## A Doggone GREAT RIDE

Approximately 2,000 cyclists participated in the Gran Fondo NJ on September 8 in Morristown. The bicycle tour – not a race – raised money for local non-profits, including The Seeing Eye. The ride has four routes through the hilly Highlands region of New Jersey: the 107-mile Gran Fondo, with five rest stops, four timed hills, and 9,108 feet of climbs; the 63-mile Medio Fondo, with three rest stops, two timed hills, and 5,470 feet of climbs; the 43-mile Piccolo Fondo, with one rest stop, one timed hill, and 3,679 feet of climbs; and the 18-mile Breve Fondo, with one rest stop and 1,416 feet of climbs.

All told, about 70 people rode for The Seeing Eye, including instructors Kim Geczi, Drew Gibbon, Jim Kessler, and Tom Pender, and graduates Trish Ebel, Kathleen Gallagher, Tiffany Jessen, and Ginger Kutsch.

Puppy Development Coordinator Jill Jaycox rode the 43-mile Piccolo Fondo with a team of Seeing Eye puppy raisers. “Our team had been doing practice rides as soon as the weather got nicer. We did pieces of the ride, but not the whole 43 miles until the day of the Gran

Fondo,” she said. “We knew it would be a challenge! But we finished all together and felt very proud of ourselves. Some of our members are already practicing for next year!”

The Seeing Eye was represented at the opening ceremonies by two Seeing Eye puppies – Jamis, a black Labrador/golden retriever cross, and Xenith, a yellow Labrador retriever. The puppies were named for bicycle models by the event organizers after the 2012 event, and were invited to participate in the opening ceremony with Gran Fondo Grand Marshal George Hincapie, who has ridden in 17 Tours de France.

The cyclists were invited to fundraise for one of four participating charities, and more than \$50,000 was raised for The Seeing Eye! The top individual fundraiser was Jessen, who raised nearly \$7,000 in memory of her first Seeing Eye dog, Pauline. The Alcatel-Lucent Foundation, with 35 members riding for The Seeing Eye, raised approximately \$6,800.

“I ride because I will always love The Seeing Eye,” said Jessen, who rode the Piccolo Fondo on a tandem bicycle with

friend Ayesha McGowan. “I attribute a lot of the good changes in my life to having Pauline and the confidence she brought me. I miss and think about her every day. I thought a lot about her while I was doing this ride, and nothing I do will ever repay the organization for what she has done for me.”

The Seeing Eye staffed the first rest stop with employees, volunteers, and puppy raisers. The puppy raisers even brought their puppies along to cheer on the riders.

“We’ve been a part of the Gran Fondo since the first year, and it’s been great to grow with it,” said Jim Kutsch, President & CEO of The Seeing Eye and a multi-time Gran Fondo rider. “After the first year, the organizers donated \$5,000 and named a puppy Fondo. That puppy is now in service with a Seeing Eye graduate. I would like to thank all those who rode, fundraised, or volunteered for The Seeing Eye, and also to the organizers for including us in another great event.”



**1.** A rider greets a Seeing Eye puppy at The Seeing Eye rest stop.

**2.** A Seeing Eye puppy at The Seeing Eye rest stop.

**3.** George Hincapie, this year's Grand Marshall of the Gran Fondo NJ, holds Seeing Eye puppy Xenith, who was named courtesy of a donation from the proceeds of last year's Gran Fondo.

**4.** A pack of riders, each sporting the bright yellow and sky blue Seeing Eye cycling jersey, pass under the Gran Fondo NJ start banner.

**5.** A Seeing Eye puppy at The Seeing Eye rest stop.

**6.** A volunteer hugs Seeing Eye puppy Jamis on Pioneer Plaza in Morristown, where the concluding ceremonies were held.

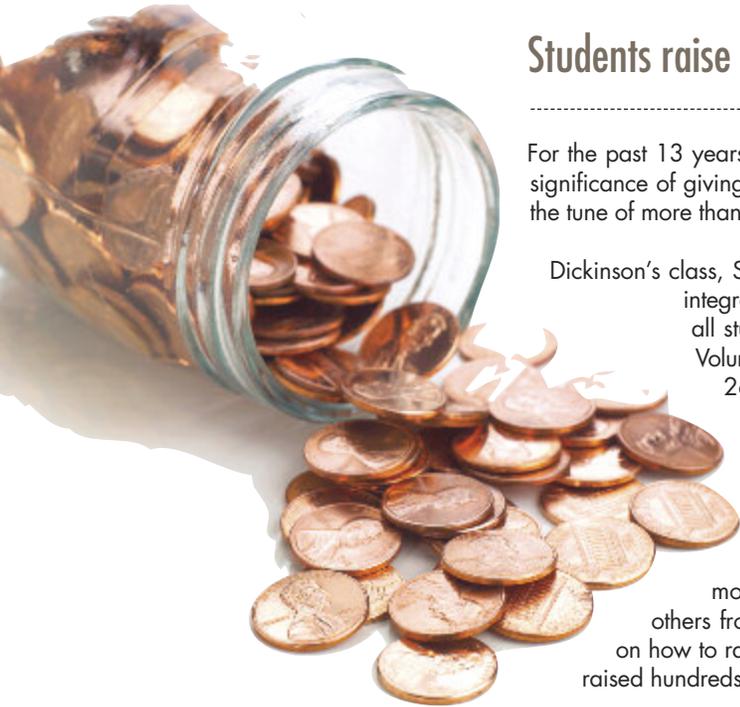
**7.** Tiffany Jessen and her captain Ayesha McGowan smile as they ride their tandem bicycle.

**8.** A rider pets a Seeing Eye puppy at The Seeing Eye rest stop.

## LONG VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

# Pennies Add Up!

## Students raise more than \$20,000 for The Seeing Eye



For the past 13 years, Janet Dickinson of Long Valley Middle School in New Jersey has taught the significance of giving back. During the 2012-13 school year, her students indeed gave back... to the tune of more than \$20,000 for The Seeing Eye.

Dickinson's class, Service and Community, focuses on learning about and helping others. As an integral part of the class taught each year to more than 900 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, all students selected a service project to complete during the 25-day cycle course. Volunteering, collecting, and fundraising of all types were chosen by the students, with 264 selecting The Seeing Eye and its Pennies for Puppies® program.

"It is important that we don't just sit around talking about helping others, that we actually do something, that we fulfill a need," Dickinson said. "For those who selected the Pennies for Puppies program, some raised money by collecting in their neighborhoods, others from friends and family. Each student decided on how to raise money. Some raised a few dollars; others raised hundreds."

Collectively, the 264 students raised \$20,035.46!

Coincidentally, a graduate of Long Valley Middle School is now working with a Seeing Eye dog. U.S. Marine Lt. Tim Fallon was severely injured by an IED while serving in Afghanistan in 2010. Fallon was blinded by the blast but continued giving orders to the 75 men under his command until the situation was brought under control. In 2012, Fallon was partnered with his first Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Orson.

Dickinson said that Fallon returned home and visited all of the district's schools in 2011. He talked to the students about his experiences, which may have influenced so many students to select The Seeing Eye as the organization for which they wished to raise funds.

Combining the 2012-13 total with school-wide collections from previous years, Long Valley Middle School students have contributed a total of \$31,678.80 to The Seeing Eye.

"Never underestimate what teenagers can do when they set their sights on a mission to accomplish," Dickinson said.



*U.S. Marine Lt. Tim Fallon with his wife, Sarah, and his Seeing Eye dog, Orson. After being blinded in Afghanistan, Fallon returned to his alma mater, Long Valley Middle School, to talk to the students about his experiences. The students raised more than \$20,000 for The Seeing Eye.*

**Every Coin Counts!** The Pennies for Puppies® program is an educational community service program aimed at school-age children – classrooms, Boy and Girl Scout troops, religious youth groups, and so on. (The Dollars for Dogs® program is available for adult groups.) Participating groups receive an array of educational materials explaining how Seeing Eye dogs make a difference in the lives of people who are blind. They can then raise money – by collecting coins, holding a bake sale or car wash, or any other idea – for The Seeing Eye. Some groups raise a few dollars, while others raise thousands! Depending on the location, a representative from The Seeing Eye may be able to visit to talk about the program. For more information, go to [www.seeingeye.org/pennies](http://www.seeingeye.org/pennies).

## 2013 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

# LESSONS *for a* LIFETIME

FIFTY-FIVE STUDENTS WERE RECOGNIZED WITH PUPPY RAISER SCHOLARSHIPS AT A SPECIAL EVENT HELD ON THE SEEING EYE CAMPUS IN AUGUST.



The students are all college-bound high school seniors who raised at least two puppies for The Seeing Eye, including one during their junior or senior year, and who attended at least 70 percent of their puppy club's meetings and activities.

Many of the scholarships were made possible by gifts in the names of Josephine Aresty, Anton and Augusta Birkel, Edward A. Bragaline, Emma Kate Brunskill, Katherine Ann Engleking, Sally A. Jumper, Toni Stabile, Vincent A. Stabile, Bernice Barbour Foundation, David M. Crowley Foundation, Fludzinski Foundation, Bruce J. Heim Foundation, Hermione Foundation, Michael J. Kosloski Foundation, Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation, PETCO Foundation, and Sandy Hill Foundation.

The scholarship is not based on academics, but rather on community service.

"In the application, they have to write what they got out of the program by being a puppy raiser, and what they're going to take with

them into their adult lives," said Kathy Daly, the Linda Feinne-Roth Manager of Puppy Development. "These students learn patience, they learn fortitude, they learn about giving back, and they also learn that it's not about you. It's about taking care of something else, for the benefit of someone else."



*Seeing Eye President & CEO Jim Kutsch and his Seeing Eye dog, Vegas, with Sandy Hill Foundation scholarship award winner Anna Paules.*

Rowen Altenburger  
Jenna Baitler  
Katelyn Baumgartner  
Jacob Becker  
Janey Bernstein  
Matthew Bishop  
Matthew Blauvelt  
Ethan Bloomer  
Madison Brubaker  
Julia Chirls  
Brianna Cosgrove  
Mary Catherine Curran  
Leigh Ann D'Alessandro  
Tim Devine  
Timothy Dugan  
Jeffrey Dynof  
Madi Emenheiser  
Haven Ginter  
Cara Grassano  
James Hanuman  
Bryan Harr  
Vincent Heller  
Kiira Herring  
Colton Hoff  
Julia Hutnik  
James Ivers  
Liam Keller  
Jillian Kelly  
Dustin Lee  
Erin Ludlow  
Jessica Lukaszek  
Christopher Makosiej  
Samantha Mancuso  
Deanna Maslanik  
Hannah McIntyre  
Sara Melson  
Madeleine Overholt  
Anna Paules  
Brian Poet  
Grace Poet  
Jessica Post  
Sarah Rivkin  
Hannah Rock  
Madison Marie Sabol  
Natalia Sachs  
Luke Shannon  
Danielle Sherman  
Kristen Short  
Julie Stokes  
Aparna Sundaram  
Mitch Weaver  
Rachel Weisel  
Emily Whitaker  
Laura X. Williams  
Mitch Zahner

# news highlights

Seeing Eye graduates Jordan Walters Gist, front, and Jennifer Armbruster combine to make a stop in a goalball match held in 2012.

## Next stop: Finland!

The U.S. Women's Goalball team – which has two Seeing Eye graduates, Jen Armbruster and Jordan Walters Gist – won the gold medal at the Pan American Games and has qualified for the 2014 World Championships, which will be held in June in Finland.

The U.S. team beat Brazil, 2-0, to win the gold medal. Canada won the bronze.

A strong performance in the World Championships would punch the team's ticket for the 2016 Olympics, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"The goal is to win an Olympic gold medal," said Armbruster, who has been to six Paralympics since she made the team as a 17-year-old in 1992.

"Winning Pan Am is the first step in the journey to Rio," she said.



Armbruster is teamed with a German shepherd named Vail and Gist is teamed with a German shepherd named Plato.

Goalball is a game designed for people who are blind or visually impaired. The court is about the size of a volleyball court and has a net, about shoulder height and the width of the court, on the

back line. The ball, about the size of a basketball and weighing about three pounds, has bells inside so the players can determine its location. There are three players on a side, and they score by bouncing or rolling the ball into the other team's goal. The other team defends their goal by catching the ball or diving in front of it to stop it.

## Now Available From The Seeing Eye

Get a jumpstart on 2014 with an adorable calendar featuring Seeing Eye puppies! Each month features an adorable puppy with an important destiny: to become a Seeing Eye dog for a person who is blind. For \$14, including shipping, you can receive one of these cute and cuddly puppy calendars. All the proceeds will benefit our puppy raiser clubs. Visit our website at [www.SeeingEye.org/calendar](http://www.SeeingEye.org/calendar).



Also, the 2013 Holiday Cards are available. The photo for this year's card was taken by Seeing Eye employee John Keane and shows a woman walking with a Seeing Eye dog through snow past a small home (it's actually the Wick House at Jockey Hollow inside Morristown National Historic Park). The inside of the card reads,

in print and in Braille,  
*May the joy of the holiday season guide you into a Happy New Year!*  
The card can be ordered on our online store at [SeeingEye.org/store](http://SeeingEye.org/store).

You can also order either item by calling us at (800) 539-4425.



## Find Us On Facebook!

The Seeing Eye is on Facebook! You can find us at [www.facebook.com/SeeingEye](http://www.facebook.com/SeeingEye).

In the month of October, The Seeing Eye is recognizing Blindness Awareness Month by profiling one of our Seeing Eye teams each day of the month. Read about how these amazing dogs help change lives!

Nearly 25,000 people already follow us on Facebook... do you?

# Alcatel-Lucent is proud to support The Seeing Eye

and their mission to enhance the independence,  
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blind and visually impaired people.



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Alcatel-Lucent   
Foundation



The Seeing Eye is proud to recognize our  
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independence for people who are blind or  
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If your company would like to get involved,  
please visit [SeeingEye.org/Partner](http://SeeingEye.org/Partner) for more  
information.



[www.SeeingEye.org](http://www.SeeingEye.org)

## Thanks for leading the way.

Bausch + Lomb shares The Seeing Eye's commitment  
to helping the visually impaired.



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## We're Having a Party...

...and you're invited!

Save the date! The Seeing Eye is celebrating its 85th birthday on May 16, 2014, with a gala.

More information will be coming in our next issue of The Guide.



Photo courtesy of Caring Canines 4-H Club of Burlington County, New Jersey.

### The Seeing Eye

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### Registered Canadian

**Charity Number** 89100 8690 RR 0001  
**ISSN** 0037-0819  
**Publication number** 488580



The Seeing Eye produces the Guide® magazine in print, audio, Braille, and electronic versions. Copies are available by request. This issue and past issues also are available on our website.

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The Seeing Eye follows the guidelines recommended by the Council of U.S. Dog Guide Schools for the humane care and training of dogs to be guides, and the instruction and graduate services offered to people who are blind or visually impaired.

The Seeing Eye is an accredited member of the International Guide Dog Federation.

The mission of The Seeing Eye is to enhance the independence, dignity and self-confidence of people who are blind, through the use of specially trained Seeing Eye dogs.

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