The Seeing Eye®

GUIDE

A MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS OF THE SEEING EYE

INSIDE:
The Partnership of a Lifetime
Unlike other schools, graduating from The Seeing Eye isn’t a once in a lifetime experience for most students. They will return to class and graduate again several times throughout their lives.

When our co-founder, Morris Frank was matched with Buddy, the first Seeing Eye® dog, he realized immediately that even as great as she was in enabling him to travel independently, at some point, he would need another dog after Buddy.

Unfortunately, even with the tremendous advances made in canine medicine over the last 85 years, dogs do not live as long as humans do. The average Seeing Eye team works about eight years before it’s time for the dog to hang up the harness and begin to enjoy retirement.

When a person who is blind or visually impaired comes to The Seeing Eye today for a guide dog, like Morris Frank, she does not expect it to be her last. She also expects that The Seeing Eye will be here for the follow-up support that our graduates say is the best in the industry.

In short, getting a Seeing Eye dog is entering into a partnership – not only with the dog, but with The Seeing Eye! We understand we need to be here for our graduates not just for their current Seeing Eye dog, but for their next one as well. That means we need to know that when a graduate returns for the next dog, the funding will be here to provide it. Dorothy Eustis, our other co-founder, understood that The Seeing Eye would need to provide successor dogs and in 1937 established our endowment. That endowment helps us serve tomorrow’s students.

Every dollar donated in annual fundraising by our generous supporters goes directly to support our mission: the breeding, raising and training of Seeing Eye dogs and the instruction of the blind men and women who will use them. Each year, funds are removed from the endowment and are added to the amount raised through our annual fundraising efforts. The combination of these provides the funds we need to pay our annual operating costs. Amounts removed from the endowment also pay for our administrative costs. We were fortunate that our endowment enabled us to weather the economic downturn of the past several years without reducing the number of students served. However, this meant we needed to rely on our endowment to fund more than the amounts we would normally consider to be prudent. As a result, the Board of Trustees believes it’s time to strengthen the endowment. Otherwise, over time, the amounts needed to be removed from the endowment to supplement annual fundraising will become not only imprudent, but unsustainable. To that end, we’ve launched what we believe is the first-ever capital campaign in the history of The Seeing Eye.

The goal of our capital campaign is to build our endowment so a 5 percent draw would cover half of our annual costs. To help reach that goal, last year we reduced our expenses by 10 percent. The draw on the endowment, coupled with the continued annual generous support of foundations, corporations, and individuals like you, will ensure that The Seeing Eye can meet the needs of current graduates and future applicants as long as people who are blind or visually impaired need Seeing Eye dogs.

You will read more about our capital campaign in this issue. Over the coming months, we will be asking you to make a donation or pledge to the campaign. Our future is in your hands. I ask you to please give generously to our capital campaign to help continue the legacy of Morris Frank and Buddy.

Sincerely,

James A. Kutsch, Jr., President & CEO, The Seeing Eye
Welcome to

The Seeing Eye Heritage Society

The Seeing Eye Heritage Society was founded in 1989 to recognize and honor those individuals who have taken the important step of including a legacy gift to The Seeing Eye in their financial portfolios or estate plans. Members of The Heritage Society have recognized the importance of the continuation of our work with people who are blind and visually impaired and have expressed a commitment to that end by planning a gift which will help provide for the future success of the school.

Legacy gifts make up a large portion of the donations received by The Seeing Eye each year, for which we are most grateful. Gifts of this nature secure the future of our mission, providing ongoing services to our graduates and new students.

It is very possible that you are eligible for membership in The Heritage Society, but haven’t let us know. If you have created a bequest in your will or trust, or named The Seeing Eye as beneficiary of a charitable trust, a retirement plan, or a life insurance policy, you are eligible to become a member of The Heritage Society! We want very much to be able to say “thank you” and include you in The Heritage Society events.

Please take a moment to inform us of your intention by calling 973-539-4425 x1735 or email donate@seeingeye.org.

The Seeing Eye Heritage Society

Across these pages you will see the names of those individuals who have informed us of their extraordinary commitment to enhancing the independence, dignity, and self-confidence of blind people through the use of Seeing Eye® dogs by providing for The Seeing Eye in their estate plans. Thank you!

Miss Elizabeth Aldworth
Ms. Pauline Alexander
Mrs. Cynthia Allen
Tamara Armstrong
Rana McMurray Arnold
Ms. Murielle Arseneau
Mrs. Rhoda Attanasio
Barbara A. Backer, RN
James & Irene Baranski
Dr. & Mrs. James Barnes
Dr. Michael L. Barnett
Mildred H. Beam
Mrs. Susanna A. Berger
Rita V. Bergerson
Ms. Nancy Conant Berresford
Nanette Boak
Miss Candice R. Bolte
Doris Bowen
Mr. Kenneth Bowles
Fred & Kathy Brack
Carole J. Brand
Mr. Daniel P. Braun
Art & Mary Braunschweiger
Lieutenant General & Mrs. Robert A. Breitweiser
Mr. & Mrs. William Brinker
Barbara Brooks Family Trust
Mr. & Mrs. William Brouillard
Cindy Brown
Carol & Ray Bsarany
Dr. Mari Bull
Ms. Joan E. Burgomaster
Lolly & Jay Burke
Lloyd Burlingame
Mr. H. W. William Caming
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick B. Campbell
Donna A. Carides
Julie H. Carroll, Esq.
Ms. Judith Carson
Ms. Lauren Casey
Mrs. Ann L. Cavalli
Catherine A.M. Cavanaugh
Mrs. Ann Cavellier
David & Marion Chappell
Mrs. Margaret P. Chappell
Mr. Thomas J. Cherry

Dr. Lawrence X. Clifford
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Collin
Mr. & Mrs. Norman F. Comly
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick G. Constantinides
Mr. Alan Conway
Miss Ann L. Corbly
George & Nancy Cottrell
Mrs. Joan Coughlin
Ms. Aline Cowell
Mr. Charles Crawford
Mrs. Lee Crossman
Deborah E. Curtis
Mr. John A. D’Ambra
Mr. Alan Dalton
Craig Davis
Lois N. DeConca
Mrs. Elizabeth Sandra DeGeorge
Lori & Dennis DeMarco
Francis & Karen DelNaro
Doris N. Desher
Ms. Barbara Dicks
Margie Donovan
Dr. & Mrs. George Alexander Doumani
Ms. Michele Drolet
Kenneth Duncan & Patricia Lewis*
Mr. & Mrs. David J. Ebel
Dr. Sylvia Ebert
Dr. & Mrs. James Elston
Ms. Tina Emery
Marcus Engel
Mrs. Susan Etters
Albert & Gloria* Evans
Donna J. Evans
Mr. Paul H. Falon
Mrs. Lorraine R. Filiere
Ms. Eleanor A. Finnin
Mr. & Mrs. James Fitzgerald
Patricia E. Fleming
Betty Foster
Ms. Jane L. Fouarak
Maria Franchino
Ms. Estelle Freedman
Mr. Robert E. Friedman
Ms. Irene M. Gaitley
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Gallagher
Mrs. Frederica W. Gamble
Dear Seeing Eye:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Seeing Eye for the wonderful surprise of presenting me with the Best Friends Award, and for the incredibly flattering remarks of President and CEO Jim Kutsch and Puppy Raiser Area Coordinator Vicki Hennig.

As I tried to express at the time, the reward gained in raising puppies, destined to become guides, is more than enough thanks for anything I have done. The day I became involved with The Seeing Eye changed my life – as I feel that I am finally doing something to repay the debt for the charmed life I have led as a veterinarian. Watching the dogs working with their trainers during the Town Walk at the end of their formal training or with their Miracle Matches during my visits to Morristown never ceases to overwhelm me with their amazing abilities. To see the students moving about with confidence and dignity as their new partners lead them with assurance and love reinforces the sense that whatever the effort in raising puppies and the sorrow experienced when the puppies return to Morristown for formal training, it is all worth it. One knows that the puppies will be cherished by their new partners and that is great solace during a time of mixed pride and sadness.

The four puppies that we raised who became Seeing Eye dogs were perfectly placed with partners well suited to their temperaments and work characteristics. There is Harriet, the extrovert, who is off at college with her young man who values her as a “chick magnet” in addition to her other many talents; there is Nora, working in Cincinnati with a woman who works for an agency providing support for the visually impaired, and serving as an outstanding example of what a guide can do to improve a partner’s life quality; there is Locket, who is helping to raise two teenage daughters and is especially appreciated for her outgoing yet gentle personality; and lastly there is Blossom, raised in the country, who prefers to work at a flat-footed walk, leading her 72 years young, retired college professor around New York City as they busily participate in this lady’s activities! That is not to slight Fay, who was selected as a breeding female and, after producing three litters, is now happily retired with us. Her granddaughter, an energetic female black Labrador retriever with a great sense of humor – including her name, Ivory – is currently being raised by a young lady in our puppy club so we get to watch her develop too.

So as you can see, we are basking in reflected glory, feeling the pride of our previous charges as they carry out their duties and know that they are loved. All of this is thanks a plenty, but we will cherish the Best Friends Award, an etching of the sculpture in front of the main building on the Morristown campus which depicts a young puppy raiser hugging her puppy. We are the first recipients of this version of the award and it seems especially fitting to me that it represents a puppy raiser, which is first and foremost what I am.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my gratitude.

Midge Leitch
Puppy Raiser
The Partnership of a Lifetime

Callie Van Wallendael was matched with her Seeing Eye dog, a female yellow Labrador retriever named Misty, in summer 2011.

“I called it Christmas in July. She’s my angel,” Van Wallendael said. “When I first met her, we immediately had a connection. She was so happy to see me, I just started crying.”

Van Wallendael, who turns 21 in February, will likely work with the 3-year-old Misty for another six or seven years. But while she doesn’t want to think about it now, she knows eventually Misty will retire – and she’ll return to The Seeing Eye for her next dog.

“I’m just focused on Misty right now, but when she retires I definitely will be getting another Seeing Eye dog,” she said. “I won’t go back to what it was like before I got her. Having a Seeing Eye dog has changed my life.”

The Seeing Eye has been changing lives for nearly 85 years. With your help, we will be here for at least another 85... or for as long as blind people need Seeing Eye dogs to live more independently.

Blind men and women travel from across the United States and Canada to our campus in Morristown, N.J., to learn how to work with and care for these amazing dogs. When they return home with their Seeing Eye dogs, our relationship isn’t over. We offer follow-up support for the working life of each team, ranging from answering questions by phone to visits from our instructors to fix a problem. This follow-up support – and the need to replace dogs as they retire after working an average of about eight years – makes The Seeing Eye unlike many other charitable organizations. Our graduates rely on us to be here for every future Seeing Eye dog they will need over their lifetimes.

To ensure we can meet that expectation, The Seeing Eye has carefully maintained an endowment for many years. Now it’s time for us to rebuild the endowment through The Seeing Eye’s first-ever capital campaign.

The capital campaign has a five-year goal of increasing the endowment by $10 million. This amount, coupled with the budget reduction achieved last fiscal year and reasonable annual performance from the investments, will allow The Seeing Eye to fund about half its annual budget from...
the endowment, with the other half raised each year from donations, grants, events, and other fundraising activities.

Every dollar donated by our generous supporters goes directly to support our mission: breeding and training Seeing Eye dogs and instructing blind men and women in how to use them to achieve new levels of independence.

“I wanted a Seeing Eye dog so I wouldn’t have to rely on my parents, or anyone,” Van Wallendael said. “When I’m walking with Misty, I feel like I’m flying.”

Soon after going home with Misty, Van Wallendael was crossing the street to join her mother when a car suddenly came around the bend. “Misty just stopped and turned in front of me so I would stop,” she said. “My mom was trying to come over to help me and I said, ‘Mom, don’t worry – Misty’s got me!’ When I got to the other side, my mom was crying. She had seen it for herself.”

Van Wallendael is a sophomore at Georgian Court University studying social work. After graduation, she hopes to work with children. “I worked at a preschool during my senior year in high school and I really loved working with little kids,” she said. “If it wasn’t for my visual impairment, I probably would have become a doctor or a nurse. I’ve just always wanted to help people.”

As supporters of The Seeing Eye, you are helping make her dreams possible. And by contributing to The Seeing Eye’s endowment, you will ensure that we will be here for Callie not only for her next dog, but for her last one as well.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can help grow The Seeing Eye’s endowment by donating online on our website at www.seeingeye.org/capitalcampaign or enclose a check in the envelope provided and please note that your donation is for the capital campaign. Your contribution will help ensure The Seeing Eye will be here for as long as people need Seeing Eye dogs!
The business began as a painting company. Today, it’s a construction company that can do everything from remodeling jobs to constructing new buildings from the ground up.

Pangere also is a graduate of The Seeing Eye. He was partnered with his first Seeing Eye dog—a female black Labrador/golden retriever aptly named Hope—in April 2010.

“I’m very picky about things like this. I like to do my homework,” Pangere said. “I looked at three different guide dog schools. I read everything I could find out about them and I asked for references from each school. The Seeing Eye, hands down, kept coming out ahead. I knew it was the choice for me.”

Pangere, 62, said he didn’t know what to expect when he first came to The Seeing Eye, but one of the many surprises was the age range of the other students in the class—from 30 years old to 70.

“I don’t know why, but it never dawned on me that people come back for their second, third, fourth dogs,” he said.
Those returning students were a great help to Pangere and the other first-timers in the class.

“You really do learn as much from your classmates as you do from your instructors,” he said. “Their biggest lesson was patience. They kept reminding us first-year handlers that it’s going to take time. For me, it was about six months. Every day, I got a little more comfortable with Hope, and she got a little more comfortable with me. Then one morning I went to step off the curb and Hope turned and blocked me. And I said, ‘What’s wrong with you, Hope?’ And then a car flew by, about 50 miles an hour. I hadn’t heard a thing. That was it! We were a team.”

Hope is all business when the harness is on, but when it’s off she knows it’s time to play. “Hope is pretty smart… maybe a little too smart,” Pangere said. “She loves to play hide and seek. But she cheats! I’ll tell her to wait and I’ll leave the room and go down the hallway so she can look for me. Someone said, ‘Steve, you’re not going to believe this – she’s peeking around the corner to see where you’re going!’”

Pangere is leading an effort by Seeing Eye graduates to raise money for the capital campaign. Regardless of the size of the donation, Pangere knows many graduates will contribute. “After all, we know better than anyone what a Seeing Eye dog means to a person who is blind or visually impaired,” Pangere said.

“My biggest lesson was patience. They kept reminding us first-year handlers that it’s going to take time. For me, it was about six months. Every day, I got a little more comfortable with Hope, and she got a little more comfortable with me. Then one morning I went to step off the curb and Hope turned and blocked me. And I said, ‘What’s wrong with you, Hope?’ And then a car flew by, about 50 miles an hour. I hadn’t heard a thing. That was it! We were a team.”

Hope is all business when the harness is on, but when it’s off she knows it’s time to play. “Hope is pretty smart… maybe a little too smart,” Pangere said. “She loves to play hide and seek. But she cheats! I’ll tell her to wait and I’ll leave the room and go down the hallway so she can look for me. Someone said, ‘Steve, you’re not going to believe this – she’s peeking around the corner to see where you’re going!’”

The capital campaign is the third of three projects undertaken by The Seeing Eye to ensure our long-term success. The first project, completed last year, was to reduce expenses by 10 percent across the board. The second, now underway, is the ongoing campus renovation that will improve our student accommodations and allow for more training opportunities.

The Seeing Eye’s main building, which includes 24 single-occupancy rooms for our students during the 18 to 25 days they spend on campus learning how to work with and care for a Seeing Eye dog, was built in 1965. The student wing, including the residence rooms, recreation areas, exercise area, technology center, and outside patio, are being renovated and upgraded. Long overdue upgrades to the building’s plumbing, heating, and electrical systems will not only improve the student experience, but also achieve cost savings in improved efficiency.

The campus improvements also include an addition that will be used as a conference room to accommodate student lectures, tour groups, and on-campus fund-raising events.

“These improvements will enhance what’s already a very special place in the minds of Seeing Eye graduates,” Pangere said.

He encourages all donors to join the graduates in supporting the capital campaign to help ensure The Seeing Eye is always here for those who need it.

“A Seeing Eye dog is a wonderful gift, a very special gift,” Pangere said. “These dogs give you more than independence and dignity – they are our guardian angels on Earth.”
Four New Trustees named to Board of Directors

The Seeing Eye’s Board of Trustees recently added four new members to its ranks: **Karon C. Bales**, a lawyer and estate planner from Toronto; former New Jersey Governor **Thomas Kean** of Bedminster, N.J.; **Kevin A. Lynch**, President & CEO of National Industries for the Blind of Alexandria, Va.; and **Michael B. McKitish**, of Hamilton Square, N.J., who is the Assistant Head for Finance and Operations for the Peddie School. The Board of Trustees governs The Seeing Eye, which is a non-profit organization.

Karon C. Bales, T.E.P., C.S., is a founding partner of Bales Beall LLP, a Toronto-based practice centered on family law and estate planning plus their interrelated litigation, particularly in matters of significant assets, complex property protection, and interests in family businesses. She is certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada as a Specialist in Estates and Trusts Law and in Family Law and is a Fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a registered member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (Worldwide), and has been listed in the Best Lawyers in Canada since 2006.

Kevin A. Lynch is President and Chief Executive Officer of National Industries for the Blind, a nonprofit organization focused on creating, sustaining, and improving employment opportunities for people who are blind. Under Mr. Lynch’s leadership, NIB generated 528 new jobs in FY 2010 and increased its AbilityOne Program sales to a record $660.8 million that same year. He first joined NIB in 1994 and has served as President and CEO since August 2008. He previously served as Executive Director of Georgia Industries for the Blind, where he managed three manufacturing plants that employed 165 people who are blind. Prior to that, he was Director of Manufacturing for the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired of Greater Rochester, N.Y.

Thomas Kean served as Governor of New Jersey from 1982 through 1990 and as President of Drew University from 1990 through 2005. In 2002, he was selected to head the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States, also known as the 9/11 Commission. He then served as chairman of the 9/11 Public Discourse Project, a nonprofit entity created with private funds to continue the Commission’s work of guarding against future attacks. Governor Kean writes a regular column for The Star-Ledger with former Governor Brendan Byrne and appears as a regular commentator on New Jersey Network News.

Michael B. McKitish, now the Assistant Head for Finance and Operations for the Peddie School in Hightstown, N.J., previously served as the Vice President of Finance and Business Affairs at Drew University; prior to that, he worked for many years for the State of New Jersey, primarily in the Treasury Department, where he served as Associate Deputy Treasurer and Acting GSA Administrator; General Services Administration Administrator and Acting Director of Purchase & Property; and Chief Fiscal Officer. He also is a former School Board Member in Washington Township (Mercer County) and former Treasurer of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mercer County.

“These four individuals are recognized as leaders in their respective fields and are very knowledgeable about non-profit organizations and schools,” Seeing Eye President & CEO Jim Kutsch said. “We are truly grateful and honored that they will be contributing their experience and wisdom to The Seeing Eye’s Board of Trustees in our continued pursuit to enhance the independence of people who are blind.”
THE POWER OF ONE

Jeffrey Ezell wanted to participate in the Run 4 The Seeing Eye last fall, but the resident of Nashville, Tenn., couldn’t get to New Jersey. So he held his own event in Nashville – and raised nearly $40,000.

Ezell, who is an education specialist for Nashville’s Metro Beautification and Environment Commission, was teamed with his first Seeing Eye dog, a yellow Labrador retriever named Robert, in January 2012. He first learned about The Seeing Eye in elementary school, when his classroom was visited by a graduate with a Seeing Eye dog. Ezell thought it was pretty cool – but at the time, never thought he’d need one.

“It wasn’t until 22 years later that I lost my sight,” he said, due to a viral infection.

“Once you develop that confidence and trust with your dog, you can just cruise,” Ezell said. “You don’t have to worry about hitting your face on things. You don’t have to worry about tripping over something. You can move a lot more and worry a lot less. You know your buddy is there looking out for you.”

He’d never coordinated a fundraiser before, so he kept it simple – he asked his friends and relatives if they’d sponsor him. But thanks to Facebook and other social media, the word spread quickly.

“I received donations from somewhere in the neighborhood of 170 people, including friends of friends and friends of friends of friends. It can spread very quickly!”

He also spoke to area businesses and won sponsorships from four of them. “The donations ranged in size from $10 to $5,000,” he said.

Ezell, guided by Robert, then toured Nashville, visiting several local landmarks and the businesses that supported him. One of the stops, of course, was at the historic marker noting that Nashville was the original home of The Seeing Eye. Ezell and Robert’s tour also included a meeting with the city mayor, a visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, and dinner at Burger Up, a local restaurant that donated a portion of that day’s proceeds to The Seeing Eye.

The event was covered by local newspapers and a television news crew.

Ezell is already planning for next year. “I collected a portfolio of all the media that covered the event, so when I approach businesses next year I can show them the coverage we received. I also sent thank-you cards to everyone who supported me and hopefully they will do so again next year.”

Fall Fundraisers

Run 4 The Seeing Eye was a 4-mile run/1-mile walk held in Morristown in October 2012. During the walk, Seeing Eye graduates and puppy raisers, as well as members of the general public, were joined by their dogs.

It was one of three events during fall designed to raise money and awareness for The Seeing Eye. The second annual Gran Fondo NJ, held in September, was a bicycle tour through the New Jersey Highlands that featured more than 1,700 cyclists, including some Seeing Eye graduates riding on tandem bicycles. Seeing Eye employees, puppy raisers, and volunteers manned a rest stop and cheered on the riders. The Seeing Eye Charity Motorcycle Ride, held in October, saw more than 250 motorcycle enthusiasts riding from Hope, N.J., to a park near The Seeing Eye’s Morristown campus, where the bikers were greeted by puppies (and their puppy raisers) and Seeing Eye dogs in training (and their instructors).

Together, the three fall events raised nearly $150,000 for The Seeing Eye!
The Seeing Eye’s Path to Independence is paved with words of love and encouragement. The pavers in front of The Seeing Eye’s main building are engraved with inspiring messages and remembrances, as well as the names of Seeing Eye graduates, puppy raisers, volunteers, supporters, and of course, Seeing Eye dogs.

You can add your own message to our Path to Independence by purchasing a brick for yourself or a loved one. The deadline to purchase a brick for installation this year is April 30.

For more information, email donate@seeingeye.org or call 973-539-4425 x1799.

The fifth annual Seeing Eye Online Auction will begin on April 22!

Join us online at www.BiddingForGood.com/SeeingEye to place your bids on an exciting variety of items. As in previous years, all items in The Seeing Eye online auction were donated by Seeing Eye supporters and businesses.

Donations are still being accepted (through April 1) – if you or your business has a new item, gift card, or unique experience to donate, please contact us at auction@seeingeye.org. Some popular items include sports tickets, overnight stays, items for dog lovers, and jewelry.

All proceeds from the online auction support Seeing Eye programs.

The auction will end May 1, leaving plenty of time to ship items for arrival before Mother’s Day!
Bodei Contracting, Inc. is proud to support The Seeing Eye and its mission to enhance the independence of people who are blind through the use of Seeing Eye® dogs.

Thanks for leading the way.

Bausch + Lomb shares The Seeing Eye’s commitment to helping the visually impaired.
These three-week-old German shepherd puppies were born at The Seeing Eye this winter.

By the end of next year, they may be leading a person who is blind or visually impaired!