75 Years of Puppies
We get it. Our dogs are really cute. They’re practically irresistible. And you just want to give them all a friendly pat…

Please don’t!

When a Seeing Eye dog® is in harness, you should – as difficult as it is – ignore it. Imagine how distracting and dangerous it would be if you acted on an urge to grab the steering wheel from the driver of a moving car.

Even more dangerous is allowing your dog to “just say hello.” Please keep your dog leashed and by your side and don’t allow it to interact with a Seeing Eye dog in harness. It’s often helpful if you’re approaching a guide dog team to announce “I have a dog with me” to alert the handler.

If you want to get to know a Seeing Eye dog, there’s an easy way to do it: Ask the person holding the harness! But please respect the handler’s wishes. People get Seeing Eye dogs because they want fast, easy, and independent travel. Sometimes they might be just too busy to stop. You can always, however, admire the team from afar.

Later in this issue, you will read about The Seeing Eye’s social awareness campaign, “Guide Dog At Work.” The goal of the campaign is to educate pet owners about the importance of keeping their dogs under control and not interfering with guide dog teams, to help ensure that guide dog teams can walk freely without fear of interference. You can help us spread the word by telling your friends and family that if a dog is in harness, it’s working and needs to be left alone.

The Seeing Eye has active teams working all across the United States and Canada… and our graduates travel the world. You never know where you’re going to encounter one!

Sincerely,

James A. Kutsch, Jr.
President & CEO
The Seeing Eye
Dear Seeing Eye:

I have raised three Seeing Eye puppies, starting with Sunny while I was in the 5th/6th grade, then Sandie, while in 8th/9th grade, and then Marie, during my junior/senior year. I first learned about The Seeing Eye Puppy Raiser Program at my dad’s “Bring Your Child to Work Day,” where a Seeing Eye representative gave a demonstration about the program. I was so excited about this program and soon after, we began attending Seeing Eye Puppy Club meetings.

I have had so many wonderful experiences being part of the puppy raising program, from club meetings, Family Day at The Seeing Eye, exposure outings, to just simply sitting beside my Seeing Eye puppy while doing homework. One of my favorite puppy raising experiences was going on the outing to Newark International Airport with club members from all different parts of New Jersey. I remember going through security, seeing demonstrations, acting out different scenarios such as going to baggage claim, meeting various other puppy raisers, and even going on an airplane. I was so proud of my puppy and to be a part of this program. It was such a unique opportunity that really helped me understand how valuable these Seeing Eye puppies will be when they will be ready to serve as Seeing Eye dogs. I had such a sense of pride for these dogs to think that someday they will be doing this for real!

In college, I plan to stay committed to finding opportunities for service. I have been so inspired by raising Seeing Eye puppies. Finding ways to serve others is one of the greatest ways to feel a sense of connection to a greater cause. This is what being a puppy raiser has taught me.

Over the course of raising three Seeing Eye dogs, I learned how much of a team effort goes into the development of a dog and the impact these special dogs have on people. After raising each dog, receiving him or her at the young age of seven weeks and sending him or her off about a year and a half later, proved to be a true challenge. Although not easy at times, I learned how good it can feel to put someone else’s needs before my own. The selfless nature of the puppy raising program gave me hope in times I needed it most.

Kathryn Kearney

Dear Seeing Eye:

I have been raising Seeing Eye dogs since I was in fifth grade. During these seven years, I have had many trials and tribulations. Four of my dogs have passed training, while two decided they would much rather stay home with my family and me. I have experienced 4 a.m. wake-up calls by a crying puppy, the difficulty of cleaning grass stains from a golden retriever’s coat, and the sadness of saying good-bye to my dogs when they were picked up by my coordinator and returned to The Seeing Eye.

But, while there have been many tough times, the pride and joy I feel whenever I think of the people I am helping by doing this work always keeps me going. And now, as the next stage of my life begins and I prepare for college, it is you who are helping me through my journey. I want to thank the Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation from the bottom of my heart for their kindness and generosity in donating to The Seeing Eye’s Puppy Raiser Scholarship Program. Their donation has helped me tremendously in paying for my college education, and I am so grateful for their support. My plan for college is to study neuroscience at Bucknell University, and then continue to medical school to become a surgeon. My time raising Seeing Eye dogs and helping people has made me want to help people in my future career.

Jeffrey Heim
Jeff Clark and Sharon Jackson came to The Seeing Eye in August 1997 and found independence, mobility... and each other!

But while they both wound up at the same place, they had taken very different paths to get here. Sharon was from Texas; Jeff was from New Jersey. Jeff had retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic eye disease, and by his early 20s his vision was getting progressively worse. Sharon had lost her sight abruptly at age 8 due to a malfunctioning shunt in her brain, a complication from being born premature. But both came to The Seeing Eye because they’d met Seeing Eye dog handlers, and were impressed with the way they traveled.

Jeff was matched with a black Labrador/golden retriever cross named Adonis; Sharon was matched with a yellow Labrador/golden retriever cross named Dolly.

As for the match between Jeff and Sharon...

“I thought Jeff was a nice guy, with that unique New Jersey accent,” Sharon joked. “He was someone I wanted to get to know more.”

Jeff said he was impressed that Sharon had traveled all the way from Texas to get a Seeing Eye dog. “What initially caught my attention was her hair down to her waist, which I had never seen before,” he said.

The two bonded over their interest in education, as both were pursuing college degrees. The two stayed in touch, and a year later, Sharon moved to New Jersey. The two were married at Cinnaminson Baptist Church in Cinnaminson, New Jersey, on June 10, 2006.

Sharon would later graduate from Rowan University, then get a master’s degree in education, with a certification in teaching students who are blind or visually impaired, from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, now known as Salus University. Jeff would graduate from Rutgers University-Camden before receiving his master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. (People are often surprised to hear that Sharon has a degree from a college of optometry and Jeff a degree from a dental school; Jeff sometimes jokes that his dog is trained to sniff out cavities.)

Jeff now works at the New Jersey Department of Labor at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation as a supervisor of vocational rehabilitation counselors; Sharon is a teacher of the blind and visually impaired with the Department of Human Services with the New Jersey Commission of the Blind.

Jeff is now working with his fourth Seeing Eye dog, an 8-year-old golden retriever named Hamlet. “I get many compliments on how beautiful he is and that he looks like the golden in the movie Air Bud,” he said. “Off duty, Hamlet is laid back and
extremely attached to me. His favorite game is playing ball where he fetches, then stands about four feet away, tucks his chin, and throws the ball at me with excellent accuracy. Another funny behavior that Sharon does not appreciate is his obsession with ponytail holders. If someone is wearing one, he tries his hardest to take it out!

Sharon is working with her third Seeing Eye dog, a 9-year-old black Labrador/golden retriever cross named Karma. “While working, Karma is quiet and focused. She can sit under a desk in a classroom and not be noticed by the students,” she said.

Karma loves to work, Sharon said. “She would much rather be taking a walk away from the house rather than returning. If she knows we are returning to the house, she slows her pace tremendously so that it takes longer to get to our destination. While off duty, she enjoys playing with her stuffed duck and trying to get others to throw it for her. Jeff thinks she sounds like Chewbacca with her attention-grabbing sound as she seeks out someone to play with her.”

The pair love to travel. “We have a lifelong goal of spending time in every U.S. state,” Jeff said. “We’re at number 24 now, so we have a ways to go.” Their latest additions to the list were Ohio and Arkansas, where they attended a family reunion.

“We took a Viking River Cruise from Amsterdam to Switzerland, and we were told Hamlet and Karma were the first guide dogs to take that cruise,” Jeff said. “We hiked through the Black Forest, which is a true test of their guide work and our confidence in them. You are going up these narrow gravel paths, with a drop-off of 50 to 100 feet straight down into the rapids. Sometimes it’s a good thing you can’t see what’s below you,” he said, laughing. “It was such a great experience, and we could have never done it without our Seeing Eye dogs.”
Years of Puppies!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE SEEING EYE’S PUPPY RAISING PROGRAM

The first Seeing Eye dogs – including Morris Frank’s dog, Buddy – came from Dorothy Harrison Eustis’s dog breeding and training facility, Fortunate Fields, in Vevey, Switzerland. But by the late 1930s, the school was graduating more than 100 students a year, and it was obvious that The Seeing Eye would need a “home grown” stock of dogs to meet the demand.

In 1942, The Seeing Eye began breeding dogs, and teamed up with 4-H, a youth organization administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to raise and care for the puppies until they were old enough for training. The first puppies were six German shepherds born in February 1942 who were placed with 4-H families in Morris County, New Jersey; by 1949, there were 75 families participating in the Puppy Raising Program. Today, puppy raisers no longer have to be members of 4-H, and there are about 550 families participating in the program in New Jersey, Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania, Northern Maryland, and Warwick, New York. In addition to children and their families, we also have puppy raisers who are college students, retirees, and everything in between.

Puppy raisers take the puppies into their homes when they are just 7 weeks old, and then raise them until they are between the ages of 14 and 16 months. Along the way they teach the puppies basic obedience, housebreaking, and good behavior around strangers and dogs. Then the puppies return to The Seeing Eye where they are trained by our instructors to be guide dogs.

Caroline and Jim Hwang of Morris Plains, New Jersey, have raised three puppies for The Seeing Eye with their daughters, Mia and Sarah. Their current puppy is Jingles, a 5-month-old black Labrador/golden retriever cross. They previously raised Alexa, a yellow Labrador retriever, and Sheila, a German shepherd, who is now training at The Seeing Eye.

As part of the Puppy Raising Program, the Hwangs regularly attend puppy club meetings, where their puppy can interact with other dogs and people. “With all the wealth of knowledge and experience among all the puppy raisers and their willingness to share, we couldn’t have raised our puppies effectively without them,” Caroline said.

Caroline said puppy raising has helped Mia, 14, and Sarah, 12, become more outgoing and confident, as well as teaching them about dealing with the tough emotional day when the puppies have to be returned to The Seeing Eye. It’s not easy for the parents, either, she said.

“You cry every time,” Caroline said. “It’s hard. But it’s not about getting over it. It’s about embracing it. Embrace the fact that you have opened your heart to love, and that is still there even when the puppy is no longer with you. And know that you have helped prepare this dog for the amazing things he or she is going to do.”

If you are interested in puppy raising, please go to www.SeeingEye.org/raise or call us at (973) 539-4425.
Hundreds of puppy raiser families came to The Seeing Eye campus in Morristown, New Jersey, on August 19, 2017, to be recognized for their selfless efforts.

The more than 1,200 puppy raisers in attendance saw presentations, including “From Puppy to Parent: What Makes The Seeing Eye Breeders the Best of the Best,” by Nicole Murray, dog evaluations senior specialist, and Dr. Emily Waide, the Jane H. Booker Chair of Canine Genetics; “Enhanced Assistive Technology for the Visually Impaired,” by graduate Carlos Sanchez; and “Flip Those Lips: In Search of the Right Bite,” by attending veterinarians Dr. Katharine Anneback, Dr. Julie Cohen, and Dr. Dolores Holle, director of Canine Medicine & Surgery. Graduate speakers this year were Dr. Dolores Cimini, Mike Moran, Harold Ray, and Wendy Sherid. There also was a Career Change Dogs exhibit by Cathy Faas of adoption services and Sue Aber of canine development; a Student Lecture Display by Lea Johnson, senior manager of apprentice training; a Kennel Life presentation by Tricia Souder, Washington Valley Kennels supervisor, and Beth Williams, Washington Valley Kennels manager; and a Puppy Photo Display by puppy development coordinator Martha Castenschiold.

The Seeing Eye also welcomed the Bernacki family, the Linsky family, and the Micke/Megill family to the “21 Club,” a distinction for those who have raised 21 puppies for The Seeing Eye, with at least one of them in their last two years of high school. The scholarships are not based on academics, but rather on community service. Each applicant writes an essay about the effect being a puppy raiser has had on his or her life.

Scholarships (listed on the following page). All the recipients are college-bound high school seniors who raised at least two puppies for The Seeing Eye, with at least one of them in their last two years of high school. The scholarships are not based on academics, but rather on community service. Each applicant writes an essay about the effect being a puppy raiser has had on his or her life.

The scholarships were made possible by gifts from or in the name of Josephine Aresty; Bernice Barbour Foundation; Anton and Augusta Birkel Foundation; Edward A. Bragaline; Emma Kate Brunskill; David M. Crowley Foundation; Bernice Delmont; Katherine Ann Engleking; Fludzinski Foundation; William Heady; Bruce J. Heim Foundation; Hermione Foundation; Sally A. Jumper; Michael J. Kosloski Foundation; Sandy Hill Foundation; Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation; PETCO Foundation; the Radcliff Family; Helen Skiba-Powell; Vincent stabile; and Toni Stabile.

Special thanks to Allergan Foundation and Helen Skiba-Powell for sponsoring Family Day this year, and to Bella Faccia Painting LLC, Best Provisions, Demarest Farm, Judy and Rich Dolinko, Herr’s, Pechters, and Sysco for their donations.
2017 Puppy Raiser Scholarship Recipients

Maria Alderfer • Karen Pryor Academy
The Josephine Anesty Scholarship

Meghan Armstrong • Colgate University
The Bernice Barbour Foundation Scholarship

Bryce Barnes • Virginia Tech
The Fludzinski Foundation Scholarship

Lucia Bellino • Rutgers University
The Michael J. Kossoski Foundation Scholarship

Bridget Darcy • Ramapo College
The Hermione Foundation Scholarship

Shannon Devitt • The College of New Jersey
The Bruce J. Heim Foundation Scholarship

Kacey England • Delaware Valley College
The Sally A. Jumper Scholarship

Matthew Fernandes • University of Michigan
The Sally A. Jumper Scholarship

Maria Frederick • Community College of Baltimore County
The Helen Skiba-Powell Scholarship

William Gaziano • Ohio State University
The Toni Stabile Memorial Scholarship

Xavier Geesey • York College of Pennsylvania
The David M. Crowley Foundation Scholarship

Adam Gorrell • Purdue University
The Fludzinski Foundation Scholarship

Brooke Gregory • Penn State University
The Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation Scholarship

Hannah Gross • Skidmore College
The David M. Crowley Foundation Scholarship

Jeffrey Hein • Bucknell University
The Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation Scholarship

Kathryn Kearney • Hamilton College
The Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Andrew Kertesz • County College of Morris
The Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation Scholarship

Kathryn Langer • Camden County College
The Sally A. Jumper Scholarship

Zach Lippincott • Bucks County Community College
The Michael J. Kossoski Foundation Scholarship

Mykala Mantz • Tarheel Canine Training Academy
The Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Jake Mittleman • St. John’s University
The Sandy Hill Foundation Scholarship

Tony Molitoris • University of Scranton
The Redliff Family Memorial Scholarship

William Mooner • The United States Army Reserves
The PETCO Foundation Scholarship

Juliette Muth • Concordia University, Quebec
The Rudinski Foundation Scholarship

Kelsey Nelan • North Carolina State University
The Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation Scholarship

Samantha Petterson • Bryn Mawr College
The Bernice Belmont Memorial Scholarship

Kathryn Plummer • Caldwell University
The William Heady Memorial Scholarship

Tony Poet • The Apprentice School Student Association
The Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Lily Polster • University of Notre Dame
The David M. Crowley Foundation Scholarship

Juliana Popp • Quinnipiac University
The Antone and Augusta Birkel Foundation Scholarship

Jackie Rock • University of Rhode Island
The Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Elizabeth Ring • James Madison University
The Rudinski Foundation Scholarship

Dalton J. Roberto • Cabrini University
The Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Emma Taylor Roberto • Delaware Valley University
The David M. Crowley Foundation Scholarship

Matthew Roskoski • Indiana University of Bloomington
The David M. Crowley Foundation Scholarship

Paige Santers • Old Dominion University
The Sandy Hill Foundation Scholarship

Michael Saul • Stevens Institute of Technology
The Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Avanindra Shaily • New Jersey Institute of Technology
The David M. Crowley Foundation Scholarship

Ben Sheneman • University of Colorado
The Antone and Augusta Birkel Foundation Scholarship

Jacquelyn Sherman • West Chester University
The Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation Scholarship

Gabriel Slon • University of Pittsburgh
The Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Noah Slon • University of Southern California
The Aaron & Rachel Meyer Foundation Scholarship

Kellie Smith • Ocean County College
The Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Kristin M. Smith • Bucknell University
The PETCO Foundation Scholarship

Emily Stacy • Virginia Tech
The Katherine Ann Engleking Scholarship

Cole Strange • Marywood University
The Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Josh Tobias • The College of New Jersey
The Edward A. Bragaline Scholarship

Caroline Waskumowski • Cornell University
The Emma Kate Brunskill Memorial Scholarship
This year marks the 50th anniversary of the release of the album Alice’s Restaurant by Arlo Guthrie. The song (and the movie, released two years later) refers to a judge with a Seeing Eye dog.

Did you know... that judge really was a Seeing Eye graduate!

In the 18-minute long song, Arlo Guthrie and a friend try to take some garbage to the town dump, but find it closed for Thanksgiving. They add their garbage to the top of another pile of garbage.

A police officer later investigates the mountainous pile of trash and finds an envelope addressed to Guthrie. He then tracks down Guthrie, who admits to dumping the garbage – or at least some of it. He and his friend are hauled into court, where the police officer provides as evidence “twenty-seven 8 by 10 color glossy pictures with the circles and arrows and a paragraph on the back of each one.”

But then the officer sees the judge and realizes, in “a typical case of American blind justice,” that the judge wouldn’t be able to see the photos – because he has a Seeing Eye dog. The judge fines them $50 and orders them to pick up the trash.

The events in Alice’s Restaurant are (loosely) based on a true story. According to an undated, unattributed newspaper clipping reprinted in the This Is The Arlo Guthrie Songbook,
12 Months of Oohs and Ahhs
THE 2018 SEEING EYE PUPPY RAISER CALENDAR IS HERE!

This beautiful wall calendar features pictures of Seeing Eye puppies, taken by Seeing Eye puppy raisers. To order yours, go to www.SeeingEye.org/calendar, email us at PuppyCalendar@SeeingEye.org, or call us at (973) 539-4425 ext. 1802.

Seeing Eye unveils new ‘Guide Dog at Work’ campaign

Even the friendliest of dogs can be a dangerous distraction to a guide dog team. For a team to work effectively, both need to be focused on their surroundings.

According to a nationwide survey of guide dog handlers conducted by The Seeing Eye (which can be found at www.SeeingEye.org/protect), nearly 85 percent of guide dog teams experienced serious interference from other dogs, and almost 75 percent of those incidents involved a dog that was on a leash but not under control.

As a friend of The Seeing Eye, please spread the word that pet owners should always keep their dogs leashed and under control. You can find a brief video and a tip sheet available in English and Spanish at www.GuideDogAtWork.org.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING?

Amazon Smile allows you to use your existing Amazon.com account — same prices, same products — but Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to the non-profit organization of your choice. And we hope you will choose The Seeing Eye! To use Amazon Smile, always log in using smile.amazon.com. Be sure to designate Seeing Eye, Inc., as your beneficiary. Thank you!

And the Emmy Goes to...

A community service story about Seeing Eye puppy raiser Andrea Malmont has been awarded a collegiate Emmy.

The piece aired in February on SUTV, the student television station at Shippensburg University. Dr. Andrea Malmont, an elementary education professor at the university, is a puppy raiser and sometimes brings her puppies to class for socialization; Danielle Suroutchak, a secretary at the school, brought her young son and daughter to meet Andrea’s puppy, and they were so inspired they became puppy raisers as well.

The project was created by Marina Barnett, who is now a reporter for WHSV TV-3 in Harrisonburg, Virginia. It can be viewed at http://bit.ly/2t9Dtl2.
The Seeing Eye thanks its corporate partners

We invest in bonds. The human kind.

Giving back to the community is one of the most worthwhile investments we can make. We're proud to continue supporting our region. Now and for years to come.

eone
DESIGNED FOR EVERYONE

eone-time.com

The Seeing Eye’s always popular holiday cards are here! We have two new cards this year. The first shows a black Labrador/golden retriever cross puppy with a snow-covered face. Inside is the message in print and Braille: “May all your dreams come true this holiday season.” There’s also a card showing an 8-week-old sable German shepherd puppy sleeping on her side with a copy of the DVD case for Walt Disney’s Atta Girl, Kelly! between her front paws. This card is blank inside. We also have a limited quantity of cards available from previous years.

Either card can be ordered as-is or, if you order by December 1, they can be personalized with up to two lines of custom text printed inside. To order cards, go to The Seeing Eye’s online store at www.SeeingEye.org/store, or contact Alix Garzero at agarzero@SeeingEye.org or at (973) 539-4425 ext.1753.

Cards are $20 for a box of 20; personalized cards are $27.50 per box ($25 per box for orders of more than 15 boxes); personalized cards with printed envelopes are $35 per box ($30 per box for orders of more than 15 boxes).