17,000 matches... and counting!
A little more than 90 years ago, Dorothy Harrison Eustis wrote her famous article, “The Seeing Eye,” in the Nov. 5, 1927, issue of The Saturday Evening Post. The article was about training German shepherds to be guide dogs, an idea almost completely unknown in the United States at the time, and in response to its publication Dorothy received many letters from people who were blind, asking her to train a dog for them. But one letter stood out. It came from a 19-year-old Vanderbilt University student and traveling salesman named Morris Frank, who not only asked for a dog to guide him, but more than that, for help in starting a school to train more dogs to guide others.

Could either of them have conceived, 90 years later, that The Seeing Eye would have graduated 17,000 partnerships… and counting?

My current Seeing Eye® dog, Vegas, and I are one of those 17,000 stories. Vegas and I will be celebrating the five-year anniversary of our match in May. Before that I had seven other Seeing Eye dogs, and each partnership brought its own unique set of triumphs and challenges… just as every match we make here is unique.

Our graduates come from all walks of life, and each match is carefully made not only on objective measures like walking speed and strength of pull, but more subjective qualities as well. Dogs, like people, have personalities. Some dogs prefer the hustle and bustle of a big city; others prefer living life at a more leisurely pace. We often tell people the match is part science, part art, and part magic. From that beginning grows a deep bond that is difficult to express in words. More than a beloved pet, a Seeing Eye dog is a trusted traveling companion. For many graduates, a Seeing Eye dog symbolizes their independence – the ability to get up and go, whenever, wherever. For a person who is blind or visually impaired, that’s a very special gift.

Thank you for your generous donations to The Seeing Eye. Your support has made this gift possible, 17,000 times over.

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 800-539-4425 ext, 1735 or email donate@SeeingEye.org.

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 people who are blind through the use of Seeing Eye® dogs by providing for The Seeing Eye in their estate plans. Thank you!

Helen O. Adams
Mr. Max E. Adkins
Ms. Pauline Alexander
Mrs. Cynthia Allen
William Allmer
Jen Armbuster
Tamara Armstrong
Rana McMurray Arnold
Ms. Marielle Arseneau
Mrs. Rhoda Attanasio
Barbara A. Backer, RN
James & Irene Baranski
Dr. & Mrs. James Barnes
Dr. Michael L. Barnett
Paul L. Bash
Ms. Betty Bassett
Andrea & Mitch* Becker
Ms. Sandy Beery
Rita V. Bergerson
Frances H. Bernard
Mr. & Mrs. Paul P. Bernstein
Ms. Nancy Conant Berresford
Mrs. Ruth S. Blair
Miss Barbara Blejewski
Nannette Boak
Miss Candice Bolte
Doris Bowen
Mr. Kenneth Bowles
Arnold Bowser
Fred & Kathy Brack
Carole J. Brand
Mr. Daniel P. Braun
Art & Mary Braunschweiger
Mrs. Robert A. Breitweiser
in memory of
Lt. Gen. Robert A. Breitweiser
Nina R. Brilli
William* & Gloria Brinker
Barbara Brooks Family Trust
Mr. & Mrs. William Brouillard
Cindy Brown
Carol & Ray Bsarany
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Buck
Dr. Mari Bull
Ms. Joan E. Burgomaster
Lolly & Jay* Burke
Lloyd Burlingame
Cynthia Ann Burns
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick B. Campbell
Thomas J. Cancro
Ms. Judi Cannon
Mr. Richard Cannon
Tracy & Gerald Carcione
Donna A. Carides
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Carrier
Julie H. Carroll
Ms. Judith Carson
Carole Doosey Cascella
Ms. Lauren Casey
Ms. Rosemary Catalana
Mrs. Ann L. Cavalli*

Catherine A.M. Cavanaugh
David & Marion Chappell
Mr. John Charshoffer
Mr. Thomas J. Cherry
Elizabeth Esposito Chiarella
Dr. Lawrence X. Clifford
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Collins
Ms. Elizabeth Conklin
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick G. Constantinides
Mr. Alan Conway
Ian and Anne Cooper
Miss Ann L. Corby
George & Nancy Cottrell
Mrs. Joan Coughlin
Mr. Charles Crawford
Ms. Lee Crossman
Deborah E. Curtis*
Mrs. Karen A. D’Alessandro
Mr. John A. D’Ambra
Mr. Alan Dalton
Ms. Regina Dantas
Mr. & Mrs. C. Edward Dasch
Craig Davis
Anthony J. De Carlo, VMD
Lois N. DeConca*
Mrs. Elizabeth Sandra DeGeorge
Ms. Raye L. Delle
Mrs. Anne DeVecchio
Lori & Dennis DeMarco
Francis & Karen DeNaro
Ms. Denise DePalma
Doris N. Descher
Ms. Barbara Dicks
Margie Donovan
Dr. & Mrs. George Alexander Doumani
Mr. Michael P. Doyle
Janice G. Drake
Mr. Kenneth Dreyfuss
Ms. Michele Drolet
Kenneth Duncan & Patricia Lewis*
The Honorable & Mrs. Davis Duty
Mr. & Mrs. David J. Ebel
Douglas & Wyndham Eberle
Dr. Sylvia Ebert
Mr. & Mrs. Terry J. Eld
Dr. James* & Allison Elston
Marcus Engel
Lorraine Engenito
Mrs. Victoria Englishman
Miss Susan Ethers
Gary A. Eulo
Albert & Gloria* Evans
Donna J. Evans
Mr. Paul H. Falon
Stuart H. & Sandra K. Fine
Ms. Eleanor A. Finnin
Mrs. Margaret Fitzgerald
Ms. Bonnie Fleming
Patricia E. Fleming
Mr. Gene F. Forsyth*
Ms. Jane L. Fouraker
Please take a moment to inform us of your or trust, or named The Seeing Eye as beneficiary membership in The Heritage Society, but haven’t let donations received by The Seeing Eye each year, Legacy gifts make up a large portion of the Heritage Society have recognized the importance portfolios or estate plans. Members of The a legacy gift to The Seeing Eye in their financial 1989 to recognize and honor those individuals The Seeing Eye Heritage Society was founded in.

Mrs. Rosemary Catalana
Ms. Lauren Casey
Carole Doosey Cascella
Ms. Judith Carson
Julie H. Carroll
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Carrier
Ms. Judi Cannon
Thomas J. Cancro
Lloyd Burlingame
Ms. Joan E. Burgomaster
Lt. Gen. Robert A. Breitweiser
Mrs. Robert A. Breitweiser
Mr. Daniel P. Braun
Mr. Kenneth Bowles
Miss Candice Bolte
Nanette Boak
Mrs. Ruth S. Blair
Paul L. Bash
Dr. Michael L. Barnett
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Barbara A. Backer, RN
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Ms. Michele Drolet
Mr. Kenneth Dreyfuss
Dr. & Mrs. George Alexander Doumani
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Mr. Charles Crawford
George & Nancy Cottrell
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick G. Constantinides
Ms. Elizabeth Conklin
Dr. Lawrence X. Clifford
Mr. Thomas J. Cherry
Mr. Max E. Adkins

Mrs. Ginger B. Kutsch
Ulrike Kreiner-Holzhauer & Viktor Kreiner
Dr. James A. Kutsch, Jr.
& Mrs. Ginger B. Kutsch
Ms. Elissa La Bagnara
Mrs. Jean C. La Plante

Mrs. Mary Lacatena & Mr. Jerome Lacatena
Mr. & Mrs. John Lafenhagen
Ms. Barbara A. Landmann
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Mrs. Myrna Laracuente
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lardine
Theresa Lassek
Thomas Lauria
Elaine J. Lawson
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Mrs. Denise Lee
Dr. Harold F. Leeper & Ms. Ann B. Gourley
Kaye Leslie
Helen & Robert Levins
Dr. Rebecca Lineberger
Irwin & Lois Ann Linker
Richard H. Livesey III & Mrs. Mae F. Livesey
Ms. Lori A. Locke
Judith & Victor V. Lolli
Mr. Michael Paul Lund
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Lurie
Mrs. Marjorie Machnesney
Eugenia & James* MacKellar
Mary Jeane Macaurin
Lois A. Mandato
Maureen S. Mangie
Mr. David S. Mangie
Mrs. Ann Mann
Mary Manwaring
Carmen & Didi Mariano
Donna Jean Marrone
in memory of Karen Ann & Louis Jr.
Ms. Phyllis J. Marsteller
Robert & Debra Mastera
Camille Mastri
Ms. Flora Mattis
Mr. Donald B. McCarthy
Mrs. Gwynne G. McDevitt
Mrs. Toula McCullen
Charles & Hanna McKenna
Erin McNamara
Mr. David McShane
Mr. William Meincke
Mr. Richard G. Mercner
Mrs. Judith Meyers
Stephen & Marsha Meyers
Michael & Sylvia Meyers-Jouan
Mrs. Melba Middleton
Asya Miller
Ms. Betty Miller
Mr. Edward W. Miller
Lois Mills
Harriet E. Monaghan
Pim Montgomery
Mrs. Barbara Moore
Rev. Bonnie L. Moore
Jeanne-Marie Moore
Paul & Rosie Morline
Jed C. Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D. Moulton*
Ms. Phyllis M. Murphy
Jeanne C. Myers
Dr. Grace Napier
Mrs. Jeanne Neale
Miss Evelyn M. Nemes
Dr. & Mrs. Edwin B. Nettleton
Dr. Amina Nicoloro
Lee & Arlene Nihan
Mrs. Renate S. Nollus
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Norman
Barbara W. Nugent
Steve Nugent
Richard K. O'Dea
Mrs. Juanita B. Oleyar
Louise B. Olshan
Mr. & Mrs. L. Ostir
Mrs. Margaret S. Osterhoudt
Elizabeth Ostrowski
Margaret E. Otto
Mrs. Irene Palazza*
Steve & Georgianna Pangere
Lois Paris
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Parisi
Marion E. Paul
Theodore C. Paulson, Sr.
Mrs. Judy E. Peltier
Mr. Louis Pepe
Ms. Zucel Perez
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Peterson
Gail J. Petr
Miss Camille Petrecca
Dianne & Beverly Petty
Ms. Lisa Pfeiffer
Mrs. Jeannie Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Piasecki
Mr. William J. Pimblott
Cheryl L. Pitz
Deacon Robert B. Pladek
Martha & Howard Polin
Dena L. Polston
Andrea C. Popick
Mr. Charles A. Prescott
Ralph & Sandy Price
Mr. William D. Quick
Mrs. Ellen L. Quimper
Clare Durand Racamato
Mildred & John Rasweiler
Mrs. Ruth Reed
Miss Monte F. Richardson*
Buddy* & Nancy Richman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Roberts
Ms. Rachel Robinson
Miss Marilyn Rodda
Claire B. Roffino
Mr. Thom Rogers & Mr. James W. Stoecker
Richard & Lisa Roisman
Diane Romano
June Catherine Romano
Barbara Ina Rosen
in memory of Rose & Max Rosen
Elyse G. Rosenfield
Ms. Grace Rosenthal
Mr. Kenneth Rosenthal
Mr. Jack Rouse
Jan Rumbaugh
David A. Salo
Mr. Anthony Salvati
Sylvia Sammons
Dave & Janet Sanders
Doris R. Satterwhite
Susan Schechert
Mrs. Linda D. Schneider
Patricia & Richard Schnadig
Katherine Schneider, Ph.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Leon E. Schrader
Mr. David A. Schuh
Ms. Betsy Schuhart
Narrin Schwartz
Mary Dell Scoby & Stan Scoby
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Scofield
Mr. & Mrs. W. Sydnor Settle
Helen E. Sheehan
Katherine Shelton
Irene Sidun
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Silver

Judith L. Sissick
Ann C. Smith
Cornelia J. Smith
Mr. Gerald Smith
Janet L. Smith*
Mrs. Lenore Smith
Susan V. Smith
James C. Solly*

in memory of Eleanor M. Sally
Doreen Sprioviere
Ms. Valorie Stanard
Mrs. Lois A. Stange
Mark & Barbara Steinberg
Mr. & Mrs. James Stephens
Eva Marie Stevens
Jo Anne Stevens
Carol Stevens Hewson
Mrs. Marilyn Stilgitz
Ms. Gloria Strei
Mr. Bruce Strnad
David & Janice Szumowski
Helen Jo Talifafero
Mr. J.C. Teeple
Ms. Carol Jean Telloeken
Leon A. Tierney, Jr.
Mr. Peter M. Tilkin
Jane Toleno
Kathy Townson
Miriam Travis
Eileen Trotta
Mr. John Turner
Carol A. Ungro
Ms. Peg Van Patton
Shirley M. Vavra
Mark Vellen
Ms. Karen Wales
Dr. Brian Wallach
Mrs. Doreen Waller*
Mr. & Mrs. Frank E. Walsh, Jr.
Sally A. Webb
Ms. Jane Weidlund
Mrs. Dorothy Weidowke
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Whalen
Miss Suzanne Whalen
Mrs. Marie Whitlatch
Ms. Theresa Wierszylo
Virginia & James M. Wild
Ms. Diane Wilgan
Dwight Wilson, Jr.
Vicky Winslow
Mrs. Sharon F. Wolf
Ms. Karen A. Wood
Mary E. Wurst
Joyce B. Young
Mr. & Mrs. Russel Young
Richard & Simone Zoladz
31 members wish to remain anonymous

*In memoriam
Dear Seeing Eye:

To Kopper’s puppy raisers, who took the time, made the effort, worked through the difficulties and gloried in the victories, to you, who spent your love in such a magnificent manner and gave Kopper back to The Seeing Eye so that they could further train him and give him to me, the words “thank you” seem so entirely inadequate. But thank you from my heart is what I give and I think of you every day as I walk through this world with my very own Koppery Boy.

Kopper came along just when I needed him most. Do you remember that scene in The Miracle Worker when the teacher rings the bell at the well because Helen has finally comprehended the life-changing reality for her that words are attached to things? I don’t actually remember the moment when Kopper realized that he is my very own Seeing Eye dog; but I know that he knows. There are some realities that defy description and I think that this is one of those. I only know that when I put out my hand, he is there. When I put out a wet foot from the shower in the morning, he is there. When I say his name, he is there. When I pick up his leash, he is there with his tail wagging, waiting for our next adventure. As you well know, the words “good boy” are his own balm for the soul. Nothing makes him happier. When I am busy with something and realize that I don’t know exactly where he is in the house, I simply have to reach out my hand or speak his name only to find that he is right there with me. I remember the first time that he took the initiative and chose a toy from the dog toy basket. I knew that he understood that we were at home.

If I had a dollar for every time I’ve been told how handsome he is, how smart he is, what a great job he does, how adorable his wagging tail is, I could make quite a sizeable donation to The Seeing Eye.

I promise you that I will love Kopper, take good care of him, and work him in a way that honors your efforts and those of The Seeing Eye.

A grateful Seeing Eye graduate

Walker Dillard Kirby, 1924-2017

The Seeing Eye mourns the loss of Walker Dillard Kirby, a long-time supporter and a member of the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Kirby died November 11, 2017, at the age of 93.

“Walker left an indelible imprint on The Seeing Eye,” President and CEO James A. Kutsch Jr. said. “We will miss her gracious warmth, her sage advice, and most of all her passion for our mission.”

Mrs. Kirby was raised in North Carolina, the daughter of Dillard Paper Company founder Stark Dillard, where she developed a lifelong love of animals. Mrs. Kirby moved to New Jersey after marrying Fred Morgan Kirby II of Morristown. She is survived by her daughter, three sons, 10 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Kirby joined The Seeing Eye’s Board of Trustees in 1965, and after her terms expired continued to advise the board as an honorary lifetime trustee.

In 1991, Mrs. Kirby was presented with the Dorothy Harrison Eustis Humanitarian Award, only the third time the award had been giving since the school’s founding. The Walker Dillard Kirby Canine Center is named in her honor, and The Seeing Eye continues a program she founded, “Walker’s Walkers,” for volunteers to walk dogs around the campus. Her portrait can be seen in the Colgate Room on the main campus.

In lieu of flowers, Mrs. Kirby’s family asked that people donate to The Seeing Eye, to Grace Episcopal Church of Madison, New Jersey, or to St. Peter’s Church of Morristown, or that you plant flowers in her memory.
17,000 matches... and counting!

Carlos Taylor and Ewok follow in the footsteps of Morris Frank and Buddy.

"Being the 17,000th (team), representing the guide dog school that I have so much admiration and appreciation for, is such an honor..."
Carlos Taylor had just graduated from Ball State University with a bachelor’s degree in Business Information Technology when he first came to The Seeing Eye in June 2002, where he would be matched with a German shepherd named Derek.

“I had no idea what to expect,” he said. “I didn’t grow up with a pet dog. Having a dog was a new experience for me.”

Carlos also had no idea that 15 years later he’d be working at Ball State University – and that he would be graduating from The Seeing Eye with a German shepherd named Ewok as the 17,000th Seeing Eye team.

Carlos is an adaptive computer technology specialist at Ball State in Muncie, Indiana, where he oversees a computer lab dedicated to students with disabilities. He teaches students, faculty, and staff how to use adaptive technology, and advises the administration on how to best employ technology that can be used by all students.

As a 6-year-old, Carlos’s left retina detached. Surgical attempts to repair it were unsuccessful. A year later, he lost his right eye. “It was just the way my eyes were shaped that caused pressure on my retinas as I grew,” Carlos said. “I’ve been completely blind since about the age of 7.”

Carlos used a white cane throughout his adolescence and high school years. As an undergraduate at Ball State University, he met another student who had a Seeing Eye dog. “I was really amazed at how quickly they navigated through campus. If we were going somewhere in a small group of people, the person with the dog would always be way ahead.”

Thinking a guide dog might be a good fit for him, he researched the various guide dog schools and spoke to other guide dog users, and decided on The Seeing Eye.

“Being the oldest guide dog school, I figured The Seeing Eye must have a good handle on things,” he said.

“When I actually did the first walk with Derek at The Seeing Eye, it was really an amazing feeling,” he said. “As I said, I was not really experienced with even having a pet dog. So even the notion that the dog would respond to me and do what I asked it to do was a whole new thing to me. So when I pick up the harness and tell the dog forward, wow. And once we got going, following him, it was such a great feeling. The quickness, the pace that he was walking at. From a cane user’s perspective, the cane is in front of you to encounter every obstacle. But the dog is on your left, so there’s nothing in front of you! You have to trust the dog to guide you around obstacles. I was able to concentrate not so much on the ground and every crack in the sidewalk, but the environment all around me. I can relax a little bit and follow the dog’s lead, and just experience what’s going on around me with a lot less hesitation. It’s such a freeing feeling.”

Derek retired after working with Carlos for eight years, which is about the average length of service time for a Seeing Eye dog. (Each graduate decides for him or herself when a Seeing Eye dog should be retired, but most graduates will tell you that “the dog knows” when it’s time to hang up the harness.) Carlos returned to The Seeing Eye and was matched with another shepherd, this one named Dutch.

Carlos – who now has a master’s degree in Information & Communications Sciences – returned in November for his third Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Ewok.

“Having a dog is a very rewarding experience, and not only for the guide work. I learn about myself by having dogs. Each one has taught me, and Ewok is teaching me things. I learn about myself and how to handle tough situations, whether it’s interference from the public or recovering from a mistake,” he said.

As for Carlos and Ewok being the 17,000th match, Carlos said he was shocked.

“It’s amazing to think about it, 17,000 dogs. That’s a lot of dogs,” he said. “Being the 17,000th, representing the guide dog school that I have so much admiration and appreciation for, is such an honor. I’m still in shock.”

Carlos and Ewok on the campus of The Seeing Eye during the November class. Photos by Victoria Alfonzo
Making miracles happen is a full-time job for many at The Seeing Eye — and for others, a labor of love.

In addition to about 150 full-time employees, The Seeing Eye also relies on at least that many on-campus volunteers who donate their time to assist in a multitude of roles. (That doesn’t include our hundreds of volunteer puppy raisers!) The Seeing Eye thanked those volunteers at a reception held on campus on September 19.

“The fact that so many people volunteer to be a part of The Seeing Eye really speaks to how much people believe in our mission,” said Thomas J. Duffy, chairman of The Seeing Eye’s Board of Trustees.

Seeing Eye volunteers assist staff members in a variety of tasks, ranging from walking dogs, driving vans, or helping with office duties. In addition to volunteering at the main campus in Morris Township, The Seeing Eye also has volunteers at our breeding station in Chester and at the Downtown Training Center in Morristown.

Joseph “Mac” Hinshaw III of Mendham, New Jersey, was recognized as The Seeing Eye’s 2017 Volunteer of the Year, as well as being recognized for 10 years of volunteer service. Also recognized for longevity were Myrna Laracuente, Penny Newell, and Clare Sievers (10 years); Janet Keeler (15 years); and Geoffrey Dobson, Roger Woodhour, and Sheila Woodhour (20 years).

Mac has volunteered for several departments — Admissions, Administration & Finance, Canine Medicine & Surgery, and at the Breeding Station in Chester. He also has raised 14 puppies for The Seeing Eye.

“It’s quite an honor to even be considered,” said Mac, who worked on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange for 34 years. “I was downsized at work due to the wonderful invention of algorithms and computer trading.” He called The Seeing Eye to volunteer, and was assigned to the Breeding Station.

“We exercise the moms and dads, or the puppies,” Mac said. “When you have 4- and 5-week-old puppies, you can’t move fast enough.”

The Seeing Eye thanks Fred Fischer and Flip Peters for performing live music during the reception.

If you are interested in volunteering at The Seeing Eye, please contact Linda Swanson at (973) 539-4425 or email volunteers@seeingeye.org.
For much of his life, Morris Frank – the first person to work with a Seeing Eye dog – tirelessly advocated for the rights of people with disabilities to travel without the need for special permission, but simply, as he put it, “as blessedly ordinary passengers.”

Delta Air Lines recently announced a new policy, ostensibly to protect the public from unruly or aggressive animals on flights. (United Airlines also has adopted a similar policy, though it is directed solely at emotional support animals and does not apply to service animals such as Seeing Eye dogs.) Under Delta’s new rules, which take effect March 1, service animal handlers will have to take additional steps to fly with their animals, such as going to the ticket counter rather than using electronic boarding passes or curbside and kiosk check-in, and submitting vaccination paperwork at least 48 hours in advance, which may not be possible if traveling is due to an emergency or rebooking.

“I’m afraid to say this policy won’t address the problem; indeed, it will seriously hurt those of us who use service animals,” said Jim Kutsch, President and CEO of The Seeing Eye, and also a guide dog user since 1970.

Rather than adopt this policy, The Seeing Eye urges airlines to simply follow existing regulations under the Federal Air Carrier Access Act which give them the right to exclude misbehaving animals, no matter their credentials, from the passenger cabin. In fact, the Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings and its Aviation Consumer Protection Division states: “If a carrier determines that a service animal cannot accompany a passenger with a disability in the cabin due to a behavior problem on the part of the animal that may result in a direct threat to the health or safety of others or a fundamental alteration in service… the carrier should first permit the passenger to try available means of mitigating the problem (e.g., muzzling a barking service dog) before deciding to exclude the service animal from the cabin. If those means are not successful, the carrier may follow its company policy on pets because the animal has shown that it has not been successfully trained to function as a service animal in public settings.”

Enforcing the existing behavior standards for all animals – both real service animals as well as impostors – would do much more to improve the safety of airline passengers than requiring proof of the animal’s status or vaccinations.

It is The Seeing Eye’s position that any animal – be it a Seeing Eye dog, an emotional support animal, or a pet with “fake” service animal credentials – exhibiting unacceptable behavior should be dealt with by airline staff on a case-by-case basis.

The onus of solving this problem should not be put on disabled individuals who rely on their highly trained, well-behaved service animals and only seek to be “blessedly ordinary passengers.”
The $7.6 million project will break ground in spring and is expected to take about 12–14 months to complete. The newly built kennel will adjoin the Vincent A. Stabile Canine Health Center.

"Over the last 89 years, we’ve learned a lot about dogs," said Seeing Eye President and CEO Jim Kutsch. "This facility will not only be better for our future guides, but also for the staff and volunteers who attend to and train them. It all adds up to better outcomes for our students."

The Golden Dome Foundation of Middletown, N.J., has pledged $2 million in memory of its late founder, Dr. Robert H. Harris, and the kennel will be named the Dr. Robert H. Harris Canine Pavilion.

"It is with great pride that the Golden Dome Foundation trustees have chosen to make this transformational gift to The Seeing Eye," said Golden Dome Foundation President Mary Ellen Harris. "I have been in awe of the work of The Seeing Eye for many years. As a dog lover, I am amazed at the care which the potential guides receive; from breeding to training through to matching. The Seeing Eye distinguishes itself as the leader. The dogs and blind individuals with whom they are matched create extraordinary partnerships. I am pleased to be able to play a part in the continuation of this most important mission. My husband, Bob, for whom the building is named, helped ensure healthy lives for individuals stricken with disease. He would be proud of this tribute to him at The Seeing Eye."

Currently, dogs on The Seeing Eye campus are housed in two separate buildings, one of which has become outdated. The new kennel will be large enough to accommodate all the dogs, who spend approximately four months on campus being trained to become Seeing Eye dogs.

The design incorporates new technology and information from the most current research aimed at increasing stimulation and a sense of well-being, making the dogs feel more comfortable and improving the success of the overall program. All dogs will have direct access to covered all-weather exercise areas, and the facility is designed with an abundance of natural light, state-of-the-art ventilation and air exchange systems, open sight lines so the dogs can see each other, and lots of exercise areas for the dogs to play and socialize with each other.

For more information about the project or how you can help, call Deborah Morrone-Colella at (800) 539-4425, email info@seeingeye.org, or visit SeeingEye.org/kennel.
Almost from our founding in 1929, Seeing Eye dogs have been a cultural icon – intelligent, obedient, and brave, they have frequently been used in movies, television shows, and novels.

And in 1941, a Seeing Eye dog starred in a comic book!

Choice Comics was a short-lived comic series – there were only three issues, published between 1941 and 1942 – published by Great Comics Publications. Choice was an anthology of stories, ranging from biographies to superheroes to humor (it billed itself as “Facts... Fiction... Funnies,” and “The best comic book a dime can buy”).

In issues #2 and #3, we meet Dan Baxter and his faithful Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Rex: “Blind Dan Baxter, veteran circus owner, is guided by the uncanny brain of his Seeing Eye dog, Rex... as his master’s devoted companion and fearless bodyguard, Rex fights a sinister plot that threatens to ruin Baxter’s circus...”

The eight-page story by Rey Isip has quite a few fallacies that some in the public still have today, such as referring to Rex as his owner's “fearless bodyguard,” and Dan using Rex like a modern-day GPS, simply telling the dog where he wants to go: “Take me to Laura's tent, Rex!”

However, it's nice to see Rex in a realistic looking harness, and that Rex – whether he’s guiding Dan through the circus, stopping a runaway circus wagon, or tracking down a murderer – is rewarded with praise!

The story ends with this editor's note, its use of outdated stereotypes about blindness reflective of the era in which it was written:

"Many people whose lives were doomed to darkness have started a new and joyful life with the patient devotion and guidance of their Seeing Eye Dogs. These remarkable animals are trained to act as real eyes for the blind, and they perform their task with great loyalty and courage.

But unfortunately most blind people cannot afford a Seeing Eye Dog. So whenever you see a blind man tapping along with his white cane, ask if you may help him to cross the street or board a bus. Remember that he can no longer see all the beautiful things in life that you can. He will appreciate your kind deed, and you will enjoy helping him.

Rex, the Seeing Eye Dog, will thrill you with a daring adventure in your next issue of Choice Comics."

Rex indeed does return for Choice Comics #3, which would be its final issue. “Dan Baxter, blind circus operator, is guided and protected by the almost human brain of Rex, his Seeing Eye dog that has been trained to act as eyes for his master... with courage and daring, Rex faces the savage fury of a jungle beast and a cruel murderer to guard the lives of Dan Baxter and his beautiful daughter, Laura, the trapeze star!”

This time not only does Rex track down another murderer, but he pins down an escaped leopard and holds it until the circus workers can get it back into its cage! Seeing Eye dogs are capable of some amazing feats, but that trick is strictly for the comic books.
**News Highlights**

**Seeing Eye Grad in Award-Winning Documentary**

Seeing Eye graduate Lori Dragt and her brother, Richard Turner, were the subjects of a documentary, *Dealt*, that has won multiple awards and earned praise from film critics as well as the National Federation of the Blind.

Richard and Lori both lost their sight in childhood due to scarlet fever. “I was in third grade and it happened immediately,” Lori recalled. “I was sitting there and my vision just went black. I had no idea what was going on. I closed my eyes and opened them again, and all I had was very dim, cloudy peripheral vision. It was that fast... like something just broke. Gradually I would lose all of my vision.”

The documentary is primarily about Richard, who is renowned as one of the world’s greatest card magicians. But Lori and her Seeing Eye dog, a golden retriever named Cookie, are also in the documentary.

“She’s in the movie a lot,” Lori said. “She’s a little super star.”

Lori, who has four children and owns two businesses, was matched with Cookie in June 2013. The two attended the movie’s Hollywood premiere.

“Cookie is perfect. I couldn’t ask for a better dog,” Lori said. “She is just spectacular!”

**Canine Health Center Re-Accredited**

The Vincent A. Stabile Canine Health Center at The Seeing Eye has once again been accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association, the accrediting body for companion animal hospitals in the United States and Canada.

“AAHA accreditation is the standard of excellence for veterinary care. It means an accredited hospital holds itself to a higher standard,” explained Dr. Dolores Holle, attending veterinarian and director of Canine Medicine & Surgery.

“AAHA sends consultants to AAHA-accredited veterinary hospitals every three years to evaluate hospitals on their adherence to the AAHA Standards of Accreditation. AAHA consultants evaluate hospitals on approximately 900 different standards of veterinary care.”

The Stabile Canine Health Center, which opened in 1997, received AAHA accreditation after The Seeing Eye first applied in 2003, and has successfully been re-accredited every three years since.

**Bidding Time!**

The Seeing Eye’s annual online auction begins April 9 and ends April 19. If you have a new or unique item to donate, or if your company would be interested in being an auction sponsor, please contact Sara Meehan at SMeehan@SeeingEye.org or call (973) 539-4425 ext. 1736.

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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.
NEED A GIFT IDEA?

Are you looking to pay tribute to someone special in your life, or looking for the perfect gift for someone who has everything?

Personalizing an engraved paver on The Seeing Eye’s Path to Independence is a great way to leave a lasting legacy for you or a loved one. A 4x8” brick is $250 (3 rows of 13 characters/row); an 8x8” brick is $500 (6 rows of 13 characters/row); A 12x12” brick is $1000 (8 rows of 16 characters/row). Characters include spaces and punctuation.

The deadline to order a brick to be installed this fall is April 30. For more information, go to SeeingEye.org/brick or call (973) 539-4425.

Autumn is a seven-week-old yellow Labrador retriever featured in our 2018 Puppy Raiser calendar —still available at SeeingEye.org/calendar.