



GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND MONTGOMERY REGION

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Feature Stories:

Raiser of the Month

What One Graduate Dog is Doing

Fun Places to Go

Pups on the Move

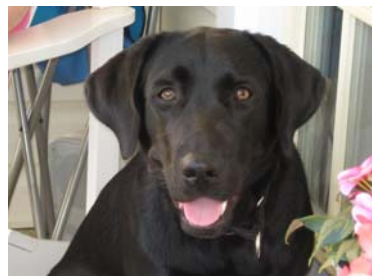
Raiser of the Month

February 2008

Our journey started over ten years ago in Toronto when I was working at a high school. The assistant principal would bring her own black lab into work, but one day she also brought in a cute, yellow lab puppy. She told me that she was raising the puppy for Guiding Eyes for the Blind. I thought it was a wonderful thing to do and put it on the back burner as one of my futures *must do's*.

When we relocated to Maryland in 2006, I was looking through the local paper and saw the advertised plea, "Will you help me grow into my harness?" I remembered that little yellow lab – my answer was "yes" and very soon Laurel arrived.

Tom and I have raised Laurel for sixteen months and what a wonderful experience it has been. She is our first dog, and she has taught us so much; not just about raising a dog, but has also provided insights into ourselves. She has taught us the true meaning of patience and how to live in the moment. Every day is Christmas day for Laurel!



We live in an apartment with no elevator - *just* fifty open-backed stairs up to our floor. Laurel was a little fearful of the stairs at first, so we carried her up and down eight times a day. But, in no time she overcame her fear and was walking up and down the stairs with her tail circling round and round.

I remember when she climbed her first few steps. Tom was away on business and I called him and said, "Guess what happened today - Laurel's walked up a few stairs" – as if she was one of our babies taking their first steps!

From the start, she proved to be a spirited and intelligent puppy with a mischievous and playful personality which makes Tom and I laugh. She knows full well what is and isn't allowed and likes to push the boundaries to breaking the rules. When she thinks it's too quiet around the house, she'll shake things up a bit by grabbing a toy and present it to us as if to say "OK, it's my time to play!," She isn't fearful of anything and has always been good in her kennel. She's been on many excursions and vacations with us – even across the border into Canada to visit our children, and she's a perfect passenger on the ten hour drive.

We've been told Laurel is being considered as a brood, which is an honor for her. She's a loving dog and will make a wonderful mom. Whatever choice she makes, whether it will be to produce future guide dogs or to become a service dog herself, we are so proud of Laurel. We are so grateful to her and the Montgomery Region for giving us this opportunity. We will miss Laurel and we will never forget her.



Susan and Tom Geary

CLASS DATES

Please mark your calendar

February 10 – 3:15 to 5:00 – All Pups

Germantown Recreation Center

February 24 – 3:15 to 5:00 – All Pups

Upper County Community Center

March 9 – 3:15 to 5:00 – All Pups

Germantown Recreation Center

March 30 – 3:15 to 5:00 – All Pups

Upper County Community Center

News on the National Level

What our Graduates Do....Getting Ready for the Beijing Paralympics...of course!

Canadian Tracy Garbutt and his Guiding Eyes dog Vargo may be traveling to China this year...but not for a vacation. Six months ago Tracy took up the sport of rowing and already is on the shortlist to make Canada's rowing team.

The team is preparing right now for the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing where it will compete against the world's best



Tracy has been legally blind since age 12 from retinitis pigmentosa. His lack of sight has not deterred him from participating in sports - he is an accomplished marathon runner. He's also ranked as one of the top three Canadians in the dry land aspect of rowing, and his prospects are excellent for making the team.



Tracy explained how he mastered the sport to the Winnipeg newspaper, *The Metro*:

"Because I couldn't see what the oar was doing, it took awhile to click. When you're in the boat you have to hear the oar striking the water and feel the motion of the boat - once the oar feels a certain way in the water, you want it to always feel that way - that's how it's supposed to feel. Then you have to synchronize with these other people and get this rhythm together."

Adaptive technology is a key to Tracy's dry land training regimen. Sighted rowers watch a monitor to track their progress. Tracy uses a computer that audibly reads out his stats every ten seconds. His 5 am workout program includes weight training and running. He works at CNIB, a Canadian charity committed to research, public education and the vision health of all Canadians.

2008 Scholarship Packet Offered by CDC

Guiding Eyes for the Blind Canine Development Center is pleased to offer Certificates of Honor and a maximum of 3 First Honor Awards which include a \$2,000 scholarship.

The purpose of the 2008 Awards and Scholarship Program is to provide recognition for extraordinary volunteer service at Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

The applicant must be a senior in high school (or a continuing college student in good standing) and have actively raised two puppies for Guiding Eyes for the Blind or other volunteerism for Guiding Eyes for the Blind involving similar commitment through community outreach initiatives.

Applicants must also be pursuing an education in any field of study at an accredited college, university or pursuing an education at a vocational school.

All applications must be postmarked by March 31st, 2008. The 2008 Awards and Scholarship Selection Committee at Guiding Eyes for the Blind will review the applications and announce awards on or about June 30th, 2008.

Awards are provided as certificates and cash awards in the form of a check made payable to the scholarship recipient and his/her intended school and mailed directly to that institution. Scholarship money may be applied toward tuition, books or study materials. Awards are paid in one installment and are non-renewable.

Recipients of previous Recognitions Awards may reapply. However, previous First Honor Award winners may not reapply.

If you require more information, please email scholarship@guidingeyes.org.

Fun Places to Go



Sophia is teaching Napa and Winsome good table manners while enjoying an indoor picnic next to the fire!

Let us know where you like to take your pup for outings

PUPS ON THE MOVE

Pups in Training: Cindy, Comet, Elwood, Lima, MacKenzie, Olaf, Priscilla, Vangie,
 Canadian Guide Dogs: Abigail
 Released: Wyla with private adoption

Deadline for submission of newsletter articles is the 15th of each month



This newsletter is for everyone. Please contact me with your suggestions, ideas, and stories...**and send pictures**

Your articles will be included in future newsletters

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