



# GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND MONTGOMERY REGION

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GEB-Montgomery Region

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### **Feature Stories:**

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## Winsome Graduates

May-June 2011

### **Cynthia Marrugo and Winsome**

Cynthia Marruga lives in Texas. She will return home with Winsome, a black female Labrador.

Cynthia is a high school graduate and has taken college classes. She works full time, and enjoys spending time with her friends and boyfriend when free.

Retinal detachment caused Cindy's vision impairment, and Winsome will be her second guide dog. She is playful and loves squeaky toys.

Cynthia is looking forward to getting out more, as she was uncomfortable going places without a guide dog. Winsome will be good company and she is looking forward to introducing her to her routine and her friends.



Congratulations to our Montgomery Region puppy raiser family, Diane and Fen Wong



March 25, 2011 Graduation Class

## CLASS DATES

Refer to the Montgomery Region Website for class dates and locations

[www.guidingeyes-md.org](http://www.guidingeyes-md.org)

## Raiser of the Month

Ambi was a cuddly little girl right from the first day we took her home in March 2010. She likes nothing better than to lie on us when we are on the floor and then roll over for a belly rub. We had recently moved to Maryland and our boys, Braden and Will, were missing their friends and grandparents back home, so they loved giving her lots of hugs and attention.



Last summer, Ambi and the boys swam for hours together in the pool. At first she wanted us to hold her in the water; but, after she got the hang of swimming, she was a real fish, wanting to be in the pool at all times.



I feel blessed to have worked with Ambi. She taught me more about patience and the value of constant positive reinforcement. Even though I have taught high school for many years, the lessons I learned teaching Ambi have recently served me well in the classroom, too. Ambi is so attentive and eager to please. Working with her has been a true joy.

I have to mention that I couldn't have raised Ambi without the help of Linda Hudson. When my part-time teaching contract unexpectedly turned into a full-time job this past fall, I tried to keep up with the training by myself for a few weeks. But, I was falling behind and didn't want Ambi to fall behind as well. Linda and her family graciously stepped in to help me out for a few months, allowing my family to "share" Ambi on holidays and many weekends. Under their care, Ambi continued to thrive and improve. I could tell she matured a lot during the time she was with them.

Submitted by Brian and Michelle Wilgenburg

For the past few weeks, I have had Ambi back with me full-time again and given permission by the school to take Ambi to work with me during my planning blocks. Ambi is really in her element here at Washington Christian Academy. She knows she's working, and she works like a champ. Hallways, stairs, elevators, lunch duty, visits to 5<sup>th</sup> graders reading about guide dogs...*she loves it all!* She doesn't mind, either, sleeping under my desk while I'm grading or planning lessons. Once in awhile I take off her jacket to indulge the constant requests from students to pet her. Once in awhile she'll stare longingly at a stray Dorito in the hallway. Almost every day she receives compliments on how well she works at school.



These last few weeks at school have been great for her. I am satisfied that she is finishing strong before she goes to her IFT in early June. We will anxiously await her results and look forward to hearing about her future.



Ambi, we will miss you!

Love, the Wilgenburg family.

## Raiser of the Month

submitted by Mark and Kathy Young

### *Felicity Means Happiness*

Felicity came into our lives on March 10, 2010. We will never forget this day. After weeks of Pre-Puppy Placement classes, we were ready to welcome our puppy home. Felicity's arrival coincided with the kids getting out of school, so Mark went alone to pick her up. The message he left at home was, "*she's here and she's cute!*"



Felicity has always been a busy, energetic dog. She loves to practice her "homework" and play and be around people. One of the things we treasure most is how she had a unique relationship with everyone in the family. There are five of us and somehow she managed to make each one of us feel special:

Melanie (age 8): We call Melanie the "Junior Trainer." Somehow Felicity knew that Melanie meant business when she gave Felicity something to do. Felicity followed through quickly on everything Melanie told her to do.

David (age 11): David was Felicity's playmate. When Felicity and David were together, there was a lot of tail-wagging and playtime -- she knew that David was her buddy.

Kevin (age 14): Kevin was Felicity's caretaker and "go to" person whenever she needed something...a drink, a romp in the backyard, some "chill time" on the floor. Felicity knew she could always count on Kevin for whatever she needed.

Kathy (Mom): Felicity always watched Kathy carefully...it was like she was always trying to guess, "What are we doing today?" Sometimes it was a field trip to the park or somewhere else. Sometimes it was practicing "sit/stays" or "go place" while laundry was getting done. Felicity was always up for anything.

Mark (Dad): Mark was Felicity's "true love" and always happiest when Mark came home and was with her. We will treasure the time we had with Felicity, but we will also treasure all of the friendships we have made with the people of GEB.



As parents, we are so thankful that our children have had the opportunity to get to know such great role models. The people at GEB have done so much for us, but also have shown our children the willingness to serve others. Our friends at GEB have shown our children that service can require sacrifice, but be so rewarding. We can't thank them enough:

Roberta, Liz, and Jodi for always being there; Miriam Grogan for sending us our first welcome email and offering to help out; the Silvermans for *always* being there if we needed anything; Terri Binder for taking a beautiful picture of Felicity with our family; Terry Cohen for helping us out with books, crates, and the web-site; our classmates for letting us love their dogs and making us feel like it was ok to be less than perfect. We can't name everyone, but we want you to know that the GEB people have made a huge difference in our lives!

Lastly, when we learned that Felicity was coming, we couldn't help but wonder...what an unusual name for a DOG. Roberta warned us in our PPP classes that there may be some unusual names. So, we looked Felicity's name up in a "baby naming book" and learned that it means "happiness." That is so true. Felicity is happy, but she brings happiness to all that meet her!



## Raiser of the Month - continued

submitted by Melanie, David and Kevin

### *A Year Full of Happiness* By Melanie Young, Age 8

*January* is a time of snow. Snow is more fun if you can play with your Guiding Eyes Dog.  
*February* is a time for love. Love your Guiding Eyes Dog.  
*March* is a time for beautiful blossoms. Your Guiding Eyes Dog is beautiful.  
*April* is a time for showers. Splash around with your Guiding Eyes Dog.  
*May* is a time to relax. Relax with your Guiding Eyes Dog.  
*June* is a time for fun. Have fun with your Guiding Eyes Dog.  
*July* is time to stand proud for your country. Be proud of your Guiding Eyes Dog.  
*August* is a time to spend time with your family. Spend time with your Guiding Eyes Dog.  
*September* is a time to go to school. Practice homework with your Guiding Eyes Dog.  
*October* is a time for treats. Give treats to your Guiding Eyes Dog.  
*November* is a time to give thanks. Be thankful for your Guiding Eyes Dog.  
*December* is a time to celebrate. Celebrate with your Guiding Eyes Dog.

### My Hero - Roberta Huy By David Young (age 11)

Author's Note: This was written as a school assignment to answer the question "Who is Your Hero?"

My hero is Roberta Huy. Roberta is my hero because she helps raise puppies into Guiding Eyes Dogs. She works in many different regions. She has many dogs at home that she cares for with her family. Roberta teaches us in class how to raise our puppy Felicity. She teaches us skills that Felicity needs to learn in order to become a guide dog. Roberta is a nice person and a great teacher. I was sad when I heard she had cancer. She is under intense care. Some of her words when she was under intense care were, "I hope you all are doing great in class and I hope I can visit someday." She is a hero because she helps us learn how to live when times are tough. She fills my bucket. That is why Roberta is my hero.



### A Dog Full of Happiness By Kevin Young (age 13)

Author's Note: The American Library of Poetry picked his poem as finalist for their Editor's Choice Award and published it in their book called The Gold Edition 2010 Poetry Collection

My dog is a little crazy  
 She is a Mexican jumping bean  
 But that's what I love about her  
 She is as cute as a button  
 She is as soft as a pillow  
 She is as smart as Albert Einstein  
 My dog is a student at school  
 She has lots of homework to do  
 She works and she practices all week long  
 Her name is Felicity  
 Her name means happiness  
 She brings me a lot of happiness  
 Until she goes away  
 She's learning to be a Guiding Eyes dog  
 The year we have her will go way too fast  
 But then she'll be Felicity for someone else  
 And she'll make them happy like she makes me happy

# Montgomery Region Pups Walk with Delta Gamma Sorority

As part of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Delta Gamma Epsilon Chapter, the Montgomery Region participated in their walk-a-thon celebration on Saturday, April 16 at American University. Lighthouse for the Blind was also represented.

While the weather outside was rainy, it did not hamper the excitement of the sorority girls upon seeing our pups-in-training. The event afforded the opportunity for the pups to have a GREAT in-door learning experience, and for the attendees to learn and meet-and-greet our pups and dedicated puppy raisers and volunteers. *Thanks to all who participated.*

Jean Silverman, Terri Binder, John and Claire Kennedy and friend, Samantha and Sue-anne Slonin, Linda Spicer, Carolyn Lauer, and Margie Coccodrilli



Tyler Tripp (r) extended the invitation to GEB-thank you



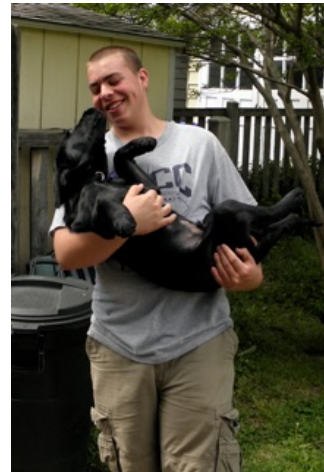


## Pups Sharing Time Together

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



The big moose kissing/being cuddled by the big teenager (Eric) is Dallas. Miriam is holding his brother, Dakin. The dainty young lady being held by the nice lady in pink (Dakin's raiser) is Glossy.



## PUPS ON THE MOVE

*Deadline for submission  
of newsletter articles is the  
20<sup>th</sup> of each month*

Pups in Training:

Einhorn, Forbes, Genie, Hildy, Keller, Leslie, Oak, Ward



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

*Your articles will be included in future n*

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