



# The Pawpositivity

# REPORT

Your Generosity at Work



Tammy gives me the chance to show what I can do.

My name is Sarah, and it's nearly the one-year anniversary of when my Dog Guide, Tammy, changed my life by coming to live with me.

I've felt safer ever since Tammy came. I know she'd notify me if there was a fire or any danger. She also helps me understand where sounds are coming from. With my hearing aids in, I can hear sounds, but I have a hard time knowing which direction they are coming from.

I'm so much happier now knowing that I'm not missing out on friends calling me or coming to visit. In the past, I would miss calls and the sound of the doorbell - and people would give up, thinking I wasn't here.

My family has been breathing freely now, knowing Tammy is looking out for me.

Not only is Tammy a good Dog Guide, she is also a great companion. I love having her to take care of - and I love having someone to come home with.

Most of all, Tammy always makes me laugh. She'll pounce on her toys, or growl at them for no reason, then cuddle on my lap. She provides me with friendship, safety and independence.

I'd like every donor to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides to know how your gifts help people with hearing challenges like me to survive and thrive. It's so important to support the Dog Guides because there are a lot of us out there who can't hear, walk, see - and we all need a little help.

Having a Dog Guide like Tammy really gives me the chance to show what I can do - and what I can do for others, too. Thank you!

Sarah & Tammy



## Carson and Winter

Ashley remembers the exact day that her son, Carson, was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes.

It was in the middle of the pandemic, making everything even more complicated and challenging.

With no nurse at Carson's school, Ashley took a leave of absence from work so she could support him at school with his eating and his insulin.

There are two other important days that the whole family remembers.

First, when they read a book about a Diabetes Alert Dog. That book inspired Ashley to apply to us for a Dog Guide for Carson.

And the best day of all ... when a loving pup named Winter arrived to join their family.



Carson and Winter

*"She's amazing. After the first night, she just fit right into our family seamlessly. She even comes upstairs to alert me if Carson's blood sugars are low. It's the peace of mind having the support of a service animal like Winter. The reassurance. But also having a companion for Carson too. That's been life-changing."*

## Meet Dog Guide Trainer Jessie

Jessie has been passionate about dogs and helping people since she was only 10 years old.

Her passion for people led her to a degree in Social Work, where she sometimes brought her own dog in to work with her clients.

Witnessing the powerful connection between dog and client left Jessie keen to find a way to combine the two.

That led her to us. *"I thought that training dog guides to help people would be the best job ever ... And it sure is!"*

Diabetes Alert Dog (DAD) Guides assist Canadians diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. They're trained to detect sudden drops in their handler's blood sugar and alert them.

## Dog Trainer PROFILE

These are special dogs indeed. And not only because they have over 100 million olfactory scent receptors. In Jessie's words ...

*"The best DAD candidates are dogs who combine drive, focus, and a strong desire to work in partnership with their person."*

Drive, focus, and a strong desire to help? We think those very words describe the dedicated trainers who train these very special dogs.

Thank you!



Jessie and her student in training

# A Bountiful, Beautiful Beginning



## Breeding PROGRAM



Beloved mom Rockette, a black lab–golden retriever cross, and bright dad Freddy, a yellow lab, proudly brought seven future Dog Guides into this world.

Their brilliant bundle includes Barley, Biscuit, Brioche, Bingo, Buster, Brooklyn, and Basil. We welcome them to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide community, where each pup will be lovingly raised, expertly trained, and eventually adopted into a loving home. We know they will bring greater

safety, confidence, and independence to the lives of many Canadians.

Because of you, these bright new beginnings are possible.

Welcome, little ones — we can't wait to see what you will achieve.



# Guardians Sharing the Power of Dog Guides



From coast to coast, Dog Guides are changing lives every day — offering safety, confidence, and independence to Canadians of all ages. This nationwide impact is made possible thanks to our Dog Guide Guardians, devoted monthly donors whose steady support ensures these remarkable partnerships continue to grow.

*“There are so many positive things about this organization. The freedom, support, and companionship these Dog Guides give to Canadians is priceless. I support them financially and have been a volunteer for a number of years now. I see the effort, time, and energy the staff devote to the dogs. Every time I walk into the building and see these wonderful animals, it puts a smile on my face and warmth in my heart.”*

— Darlene from Ontario, Dog Guides Guardian and Volunteer

*“My son, who is a Type 1 Diabetic, was lucky enough to be the recipient of one of your wonderful Diabetes Alert Dog Guides. His Dog Guide, Balta, has given him the freedom to participate in life knowing that he is safe. She is well-trained and persistent. I am thankful to the Foundation for giving my son and many others this priceless gift funded by donations.”*

— Carolyne from British Columbia, Dog Guides Guardian

## VOICES OF Gratitude



Robert and Kiwi

*“In 1992, I received my first Dog Guide. I regained my independence and confidence. Kiwi is now my fifth Dog Guide from the Canine Vision program. Knowing how much my life has changed over the years, and how these amazing Dog Guides have transformed my life, being able to provide a monthly donation is a small token of thanks to the Foundation.”*

— Robert from Nova Scotia, proud Client and Dog Guides Guardian

# In Honour of Nutmeg

Losing her sight in her 30s, after a stroke, left Khrisstina unsure of her future. Then came Nutmeg — the Canine Vision Dog Guide who restored her confidence. Nutmeg even saved Khrisstina’s life by pulling her away from a moving vehicle.

After years of unconditional love, Nutmeg retired and, sadly, passed away soon after. Her loss left a deep ache for everyone who knew and loved her.

Before Nutmeg’s passing, Khrisstina dreamed of creating honour pins to celebrate retired Dog Guides — the quiet heroes who change lives every day. With her father’s help and the Canada True Vision Cyber Club Branch of the Lions Club support, she has already raised more than \$1,000



through the sales of the pins. Nutmeg was the first to be honoured.

*“Our plan is to choose a different Dog Guide every year,”* Khrisstina says. *“There is braille on the back with the dog’s name. It’s really special.”*

Today, Khrisstina’s new Dog Guide Gilly, *“keeps me smiling and laughing.”*

Thank you for supporting Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. You make stories like Nutmeg’s possible, and allow her legacy to live on.



Khrisstina and Nutmeg

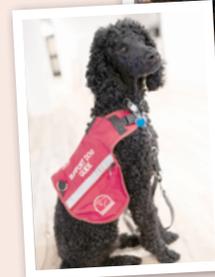
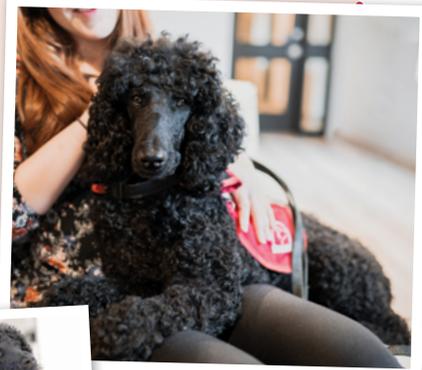
# A Love Letter to Marielle

Sometimes what a child needs most is someone simply being there. For six remarkable years, Facility Support Dog Guide Marielle has been that steady heartbeat of comfort in a place that can feel terrifying — the courtroom. Her gentle presence has helped children and vulnerable victims find courage when their voices felt small.

Olivia, who is now a young teen, was one of those children and she shared this Valentine’s Day message:

*To my sweet Marielle... Happy Valentine’s Day to the cuddliest poodle that ever existed!... You made me feel so much better when I had to go to court... Thank you for being a friend when I needed you... I now sleep every night with your mini stuffy and I haven’t been dreaming about the bad monsters... I know you will be hanging up your cape soon, but you will always be a hero to me.*

*With hugs, Olivia*



*Marielle our beloved Facility Support Dog Guide*

After years of loving service at the Courage Centre in New Brunswick, Marielle is beginning a well-earned retirement — chasing balls, soaking up sunshine, and leaving behind a legacy of bravery, warmth, and healing.