



Fall 2018

A GRADUATION STORY: Joel & Harry

Third Times a Charm!

When buying a car, most people tend to stick with the same brand for life. They like knowing that they're driving away with a quality, reliable vehicle that they can depend on time and time again. When your main mode of transportation is a guide dog, we find that our clients do the same thing! Long time guide dog user, Joel, has happily joined the ranks of our triple threat clients upon his most recent graduation with Guide Dog Harry! After years of working with his first Guide Dog Tucker, and another couple years with Successor Dog Captain, Joel found himself in need of another guide and was quickly paired with Harry!

Harry and Joel were a joy to train together. Joel, being a seasoned guide dog user, took to learning his new dog very quickly, they bonded fast and seemed to just click instantly. At Guide Dogs of Texas, we really do pride ourselves on the excellent matches we're able to create between client and dog and this pairing was no exception! Joel, being a Teacher of the Visually Impaired, travels frequently to several different schools in his district and needed a dog that would take on all of the variability without difficulty and also keep calm when surrounded by thousands of excited kids day in and day out!

Harry matched Joel to a "T" with his careful guiding style and cool temperament and we can't wait to see what this amazing team does in the next few years as they grow and learn together.



\$17

With your help, \$17 a day can provide a day of guided sight!

Your gift will provide freedom, mobility and independence.

To donate, call (800) 831-9231 or visit our website.



Welcome Little “Life-Changers”!

Guide Dogs of Texas is excited to announce the birth of the “L” Litter on June 22nd, 2018!

Grace and Jaxx produced SEVEN new guide dog puppies – 3 sweet girls and 4 raucous boys – who are all thriving and exploring their world, along with their super-star puppy-raisers in preparation to be guide dog heroes. The puppies just turned 4 months old and have learned so much already! They are working on sit, down, heel and more on their walks.

Levi frequently attends soccer games and elementary school with his human siblings. Liam is a puppy in our Pawsitive Approach program and helps teach offenders at Dominguez State Jail all about how to raise and train a puppy. He gets to go home on weekends and learn all about normal household sights and sounds! Luna and Luke have already attended presentations for Guide Dogs of Texas together and they enjoy teaching others about their training. Lily is being sponsored by KSAT News so she has gotten to learn a lot about being on camera! Laura’s puppy raiser works at a veterinary clinic and Laura has loved getting to go to work. Last but definitely not least, Leo has learned how to play with many different kinds of animals, including two White-Crested Cockatoos.

Thank you to The Argo Group and Ginger Coplen for sponsoring and naming the “L” Litter and all of our puppy-raisers for helping them become “LIFE-CHANGERS”!





Luna



Levi



Lily



Liam



Luke

Grants Provide "Foundation" Of Support

Since Guide Dogs of Texas receives no government support, we rely solely on the generosity of our donors to provide mobility, freedom and independence to Texans disabled by blindness. In addition to our generous individual and corporate supporters, GDTX is honored to receive grants from a variety of charitable foundations and trusts to help provide days of guided sight to our clients.

Among the grants we received recently include gifts from supporters new to GDTX: a \$62,050 gift from CHRISTUS Health and \$6,200 from the Coastal Bend Community Foundation and a generous grant for our apprentice program from the Andrew Delaney Foundation. We also received generous contributions from PetSmart Charities, the Dixie Starnes Wenger Foundation as well as proceeds from the Hearts and Hands Foundation run by Keller Williams realtors.

It's important to remember that these Foundations represent the people who've generously designated the funds for philanthropic work, and we appreciate their support of Guide Dogs of Texas!





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Do you want a rewarding career where you get to change people's lives?

Certified Guide Dog Mobility Instructors are the backbone of our Training Department. They are committed to providing the best possible training for our dogs and the people that we serve. Their responsibilities include:

- **Assessing a dogs potential to be a guide dog.**
- **Formally training dogs to become guides.**
- **Interviewing, matching and training blind Texans.**
- **Teaching our clients how to work with their new Guide Dogs.**
- **Providing support and follow up visits annually for graduate guide dog teams.**
- **So much more!**

To become a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor, it requires a bachelor's degree as well as a 4 year apprenticeship through an internationally accredited school like Guide Dogs of Texas. Apprentice Guide Dog Mobility Instructors (AGDMI) work full time as a paid staff member. AGDMI's will work with varying degrees of independence, as knowledge, experience, and competency is gained. Guide Dogs of Texas offers quick advancement opportunities within the organization as well as offering a generous vacation and retirement package.



If you love working with both dogs and people, becoming a GDMI with Guide Dogs of Texas might be the career path for you! Please e-mail resumes to jamie@guidedogsoftexas.org.