



Fall 2020

Texas A&M - San Antonio and Guide Dogs of Texas Partner On Groundbreaking Program

Melissa Jozwiak, PhD Chair, Educator & Leadership Preparation, Associate Professor, Early Childhood College of Education & Human Development, Texas A & M University - San Antonio

Texas A&M University - San Antonio is proud to partner with Guide Dogs of Texas as an essential partner for our unique new TU CASA program. TU CASA stands for Transition University for Career Advancement and Successful Adulthood program and is an 18-month 'university experience' program for individuals with intellectual disabilities who wish to gain independent living and workforce skills at a university.



Over the next five years, 25 TU CASA participants will be accepted into this new program and have an on-campus experience that will include specialized coursework and STEM-related, retail/manufacturing-related, and/or service-related job skill development. Guide Dogs of Texas will play a central role in supporting the STEM-related job skill development of TU CASA participants as they participate in science-related academic coursework (e.g. life science, biology, etc.) and a practicum where the TU CASA participants receive workforce skills (e.g. animal care, animal training), all to enhance their ability to live independently after completing the program. <https://donate.givedirect.org/?cid=253>

This partnership not only provides essential learning opportunities for TU CASA participants, but will also expand the puppy raising program for Guide Dogs of Texas as Full-time University students become puppy raisers as the Guide Dogs of Texas to provide the animal training support for TU CASA practicum classes and the campus puppy raisers. **Guide Dogs of Texas and Texas A&M University - San Antonio are the first to launch this type of university-community partnership. The commitment to equity that is present in both organizations' missions makes the two organizations ideal partners.**

We are excited that by establishing our first university program, the future of Guide Dogs of Texas grows brighter. We are optimistic that it will: 1. Strengthen the puppy raising program by adding new puppy-raisers; 2. Enhance the advanced training program through the addition of a Program Manager and, 3. Most importantly, lead to greater equity and access for Visually Impaired Texans and TU CASA participants. Guide Dogs of Texas is searching for matching funders as well as volunteers to support this important program. If you would like to support this partnership, please contact Andrea Melcher at andrea@guidedogsoftexas.org or 210-366-4081.

[guidedogsoftexas.org](https://www.guidedogsoftexas.org)

Meet the O's!

BORN ON AUGUST 1ST
SPONSORED & NAMED
BY DR. DAVE BROWN



OWEN



OAKLEY



OSCAR



OTTO



OPIE



OLIVIA



ORWELL



OLSEN



OSO

DO YOU WANT TO NAME A GDTX PUP?
VISIT GUIDEDOGSOFTEXAS.ORG OR
EMAIL PEGGY@GUIDEDOGSOFTEXAS.ORG
TO LEARN HOW.



Luna, a first time mom, had a happy and healthy litter of 7 Boys and 2 girls. They are all doing well and already showing signs that they are going to be amazing Guide Dogs. Luna is an amazing mom. She was sure to keep a close eye on her pups and would even join them in class.



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Jesse & Indie

Written by Apprentice Guide Dog
Mobility Instructor, Amy Zamora

Guide Dogs of Texas is happy to report that our most recent graduates, Jesse & Indie, are out working in the Houston area after successfully completing their 3 week in-home training. Indie is Jesse's third guide dog from Guide Dogs of Texas and seventh in his lifetime. "The Guide Dogs of Texas instructors and dogs are like angels," says Jesse. "They are so amazing at what they do and make you feel so special."



This marks our second guide team that has graduated this year and first since the pandemic hit. Modifications have been made to our classes to ensure everyone stays as safe as possible while we continue to train our clients in guide dog mobility during these uncertain times. We are so excited to continue placing teams this year and give the gift of guided sight through our guide dogs to Texans who so greatly deserve and need it.

guidedogsoftexas.org

**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
<https://donate.givedirect.org/?cid=253>

\$17