



Guide Dogs
for the Blind



GUIDING YOUR LEGACY

Everyone Deserves to Live the Life They Want to Live | Spring 2024

Years of Love Leads to an Extraordinary Decision

All it takes is a few minutes with Phil and Rosemary Maresca, a retired couple in San Carlos, California, to discover their favorite story—it's the story of love for *Narcelle*, their yellow Lab of 14 years.

The Marescas retired years ago—Phil, a Silicon Valley professional, and Rosemary, an accomplished nurse. But rather than talk about achievements, they'd rather talk about the relationship they've had with Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) since 1987, and of course, *Narcelle*.

“We loved seeing how GDB offered people independence and helped enrich their lives,” says Rosemary. “We also appreciated that the lion's share of



The Marescas, proud legacy donors

donations goes to the actual work and not to administration costs.”

The Marescas' enthusiastic support led them to become puppy raisers in their retirement. And this is

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Smart Planning and Giving Tips for Every Stage of Life

As your life situation changes, so should your retirement planning. Below are helpful tips for planning at every age of your journey.

IN YOUR 50s

Create or update your will to reflect life changes such as grown children leaving home. Consider a more conservative investment strategy and increase retirement savings.

BEST CHOICES TO MAKE AN IMPACT

- **Gift in your will or trust:** Costs you nothing today and can be made by adding one sentence.
- **Retirement plan assets or life insurance policies:** Naming Guide Dogs for the Blind as a beneficiary can be as simple as completing an online form.

IN YOUR 60s

Check with your financial advisor to make sure you are on track with retirement savings. If you have already retired, revisit your expenses, priorities, and health care needs.

BEST CHOICES TO MAKE AN IMPACT

- **Donor-advised funds:** Offers the flexibility to recommend how much and how often money is granted to qualified nonprofits like Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- **Appreciated securities:** Donating stocks owned for longer than a year provides a tax deduction when you itemize and may also eliminate capital gains taxes.

IN YOUR 70s

Live within your budget so you do not outlive your assets. Meet with a professional advisor to align financial and philanthropic plans.

BEST CHOICES TO MAKE AN IMPACT

- **Life income gifts:** You receive income for life and the remainder supports Guide Dogs for the Blind upon your passing.
- **Gift from your IRA:** If you are 70½ or older, give from your IRA directly to Guide Dogs for the Blind without having to pay income taxes on the money.

IN YOUR 80s, 90s, AND BEYOND

Take pride in reaching these age milestones and enjoy family and friends. Inform loved ones of your final wishes and location of vital papers. Update your health care power of attorney and living will.

BEST CHOICES TO MAKE AN IMPACT

- **Beneficiary designations:** Insurance policies and retirement plan assets may result in a large tax hit for your family, but they pass tax-free to us.
- **You've earned it:** Consider making or repeating any of the giving options shown at any age!



Get Your Must-Have Guide

Do more with your retirement account so taxes don't reduce its value.

Return the enclosed card to request our FREE guide.

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NATASHA

Natasha, a guide dog in training, is a focused, professional worker when in her harness.

Out of harness, and in her down time, she enjoys sunbathing and loves to play tug!

Get pupdates on all dogs in training at guidedogs.com/pupdates.



Guide Dogs for the Blind

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where *Narcelle* comes into the story. “*Narcelle* went everywhere with us, even church,” Phil reminisces. “People we’d never met would come up to meet *Narcelle* after church, amazed at how beautiful and well-behaved she was. It was a great way to talk about Guide Dogs for the Blind and raise awareness.”

Whether at church, festivals, or just out on a walk, the Marescas have spent their golden years as champions for GDB’s mission, believing everyone deserves to move through the world safely and confidently.

Narcelle passed away a couple of years ago, but the Marescas don’t talk about her with sadness, only joy. She lives on in their memories—not as just a dog, but as a beloved part of the family.

Their years of support and time with *Narcelle* inspired Phil and Rosemary to do something extraordinary: they included Guide Dogs for the Blind in their will. “We wanted to do more than just give money now,” says Phil, “we wanted to have an impact for years to come.”

From supporters . . . to puppy raisers . . . to legacy members. Fourteen years of beautiful memories. Phil, Rosemary, and Narcelle. What a story.



You can join the Marescas and other caring members of our Legacy Society by including GDB in your estate plan. Contact us today to learn more about establishing your legacy.