



Guide Dogs  
for the Blind



# GUIDING YOUR LEGACY

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

## Two Decades of Support Culminate in Extraordinary Choice

*It only takes a few minutes with Mark and Leslie Graham to be moved by their dedication to dogs and people who are blind or visually impaired. Puppy raisers, breeder custodians, on-campus volunteers, club leaders—Mark and Leslie have done it all. And their passion is contagious.*

The Grahams are California natives with a compelling story. They met in the police academy and served their communities in law enforcement before branching out into new careers—Mark as an IT network architect and Leslie as an elementary school teacher. But when they talk about their stories, 2004 is the year that stands out for them.



The Grahams with  
Chipper and Falk.

*Continued on back*

# You Decide

## How You Want to Change Lives

We know someone whose dedicated support has helped make incredible things happen:

### You.

Empowering people to live the life they want to live doesn't happen in a vacuum. It happens when loyal friends like you give generously to support our mission. We can't thank you enough.

Now you have the opportunity to empower people who are blind or visually impaired even more. You can choose to make an impact today, establish a legacy gift for tomorrow ... or do both. We would be delighted to help create a plan that works for your lifestyle and honors your values.

### How Will You Make an Impact?

#### Make a Difference Now:

1. Use charitable funds you've already set aside (and simplify your recordkeeping) by recommending a grant to GDB from your donor advised fund.
2. If you're 70½ or older, save taxes on IRA withdrawals by making a distribution directly to GDB. You don't get taxed on the gift, and neither do we!

#### Make a Difference Later:

3. Create a gift with just one sentence—and without giving up any assets today—by putting GDB in your will or trust.
4. Consider one of the quickest, easiest ways to give a gift: naming GDB as full or partial beneficiary of a retirement account, life insurance policy, or other asset.



“Guide Dogs for the Blind is part of my journey because (they) have made a difference in my life and in *Wrigley's* life.”

—MARGEAUX GRAY, GDB CLIENT



## Smart Year-End Giving

### Great News for You!

- If you are 70½ or older, you have a unique opportunity to establish a gift that provides you with income for life using a tax-free distribution from your IRA. We'd love to help you explore how to transform your retirement savings into a gift that gives back! Contact us for more information.

### Your Year-End Checklist

- Ensure that your will or trust is up to date and includes appropriate designations and charitable intentions.
- Assess your retirement plan beneficiaries to ensure you've considered your loved ones and favorite causes, such as Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- Make grant recommendations through your donor advised fund to support what matters most to you.



## Get Your Planner!

If getting your estate organized before the end of the year is on your checklist, we can help. Request your **FREE** planner today!

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## SAVE THE DATE

Holiday Luncheon Fundraiser

Friday, December 13, 2024

The Westin St. Francis Hotel  
Union Square, San Francisco

Register today at  
[guidedogs.com/  
holiday-luncheon](https://guidedogs.com/holiday-luncheon)



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## Two Decades of Support Culminate in Extraordinary Choice

*(Continued from front)*

“The first puppy we raised for Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) was in 2004,” Leslie says. “I would often take him to school with me, and Mark would even bring him to his office. We’ve been actively involved with GDB ever since.”

For the past two decades, the Grahams have been enthusiastic volunteers and supporters, including their caring choice to leave a planned gift to help ensure the future of GDB’s life-changing programs for many years to come. “It’s about the mission,” Mark says. “We believe in the work they are doing, so it made sense to leave a bequest in our trust.

“At first, it was all about the dogs,” Mark adds. “But we’ve come to meet so many wonderful people at different events, graduations, and club meetings. We are happy to make a gift that will support both the mission and community well into the future.”

In retirement, Mark and Leslie love to travel, making annual trips to Europe, some of those with other puppy raisers. When asked what they do for fun when not traveling, their answer was almost predictable: “Most of what we do for fun is GDB stuff. We love it!”

### **You Can Make a Difference Too!**

**If you would like to join the Grahams to help support future guide dog teams with a gift in your will or trust, contact us to discuss beneficial planned gift options for your unique situation.**