



Guide Dogs  
for the Blind



# GUIDING YOUR LEGACY

Everyone Deserves to Live the Life They Want to Live | Spring 2025

## GDB Community of Friends Keeps Donors Involved

*“We’re raising puppy number 41 right now.” That’s the first thing Pete and Mary Jo Egus shared about their connection to Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB).*

Puppy raisers, club leaders, donors, legacy members, and GDB Orange County Friends Committee members—the Eguses have supported GDB’s mission for more than three decades in word and deed.

Pete and Mary Jo, retired educators from Coto De Caza, California, are inspiring examples of what it means to give back. “Whether it was in the classroom or in our involvement with Guide Dogs for the



Mary Jo, Pete, and Oak

*Continued on back*



# 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

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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

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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

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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

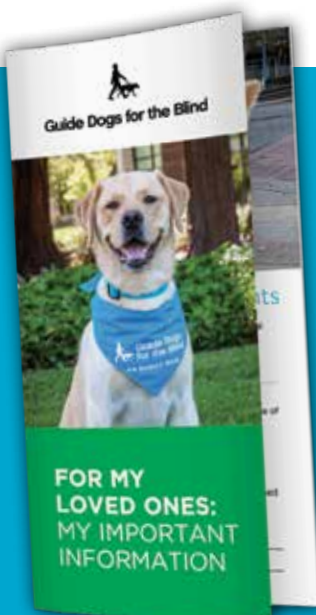
- **Gift from your IRA:** If you are 70½ or older, give from your IRA directly to Guide Dogs for the Blind without having to pay income taxes on the money.
- **Life income gifts:** You receive income for life and the remainder supports our mission upon your passing.  
**EXCITING OPTION:** If you are 70½ or older, you may now fund this gift with a one-time qualified charitable distribution of up to \$54,000 from your IRA.

# 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!



Request our FREE record keeper so you and your family can have peace of mind. Simply return the enclosed reply card today.



## Guide Dogs for the Blind

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## GDB Community of Friends Keeps Donors Involved

*(Continued from front)*

Blind, it's always been important to us to support others," Pete says.

The Eguses became puppy raisers in 1992 after reading about GDB in a local newspaper article. Five years later, they started a local puppy raising club and haven't slowed down since.

"Our club is more than a group of people raising puppies," Mary Jo says. "Our club is family, a community of friends that we share life with." With activities ranging from Taco Tuesday nights for volunteers to wading-pool parties for puppies, Pete and Mary Jo remain fun-loving supporters of the GDB mission all these years later.

Their kindness goes beyond club leadership and puppy raising—they have also made the extraordinary choice to include GDB in their will.

“The most important thing in life is not what you have, but what you can give and share.”

—PETE EGUS

Giving and sharing are two words that describe the Eguses well. "As much as we love raising the dogs, we got involved because of the people," Mary Jo says enthusiastically. "We have been very blessed in life and want to share our gifts."



### You Can Make a Difference, Too

If you would like to join Pete and Mary Jo with a gift in your will or future plans, contact us today to discuss beneficial legacy gift options for your unique situation.