

The Mane Event

LEADER DOG NEWS FOR LIONS Summer 2013
Issue 21

ACQUIRING A SECOND FAMILY

After graduation from high school, my first Leader Dog, Danny, was obtained and worked with me for 10.5 years including obtaining both a bachelor's and master's degree in Social Work. After a job search covering 14 months, Danny and I went to work for the state in vocational rehabilitation. Within six weeks of starting our employment, Danny was forced to retire with bone cancer and a replacement dog was necessary. Lions came into my life when the Southport Lions Club funded round-trip transportation to Leader Dog to train with my second dog, Heidi.

In December, 1983, while working with my third dog, I was asked if I would consider working as a graduate field representative for Leader Dog. I jumped at the chance to hopefully give back to Leader Dog—the organization that had added so much happiness and independence to my life. By this time, I had learned much more about the Lions and their dedication and commitment to Leader Dog.

Our primary assignments for Leader Dog were attending Lions conventions throughout the United States and Canada. My "Lions family" grew as did my dedication to Lionism.

In May, 1988, the Southport Lions Club voted me and Leader Dog number four, Keller, into their club as the first female member. Two members were very unhappy to have a female member and resigned. Within the next few months, several more ladies were inducted into the Southport Club. They were primarily wives of Lions members who were just waiting for the first female to join. I have filled all offices in our Lions club several times—Zone Chair three years and Region Chair for one. I have 25+ years perfect attendance.

Since becoming a graduate field representative for Leader Dog, my successor dogs (8 in number) have traveled to 47 states and five Canadian Provinces to Lions activities resulting in further growth in my "Lions



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Mission Moment

"It'll be a lot better [having a Leader Dog] than tapping around with a cane. People don't always tell you what you need when they're directing you. Meisje will help with that. Moving around, going up and down stairs, going through an airport will all be easier now."

**~Joanne Raczewicz with her first Leader Dog, Meisje
(graduated August 2012)**



ACQUIRING A SECOND FAMILY *(continued)*

family.” The Southport Lions, Lions in our district, multiple district and the world have become my family who are always there with encouragement and assistance when needed.

The sincere dedication of Lions to Leader Dog has given me eight of the most wonderful guides and best friends.

I can only say “THANKS” to Leader Dog for my dogs, introduction to Lionism and for both Leader Dog and Lions always being there when I and thousands of other blind or visually impaired individuals need help. “LIONS ARE TRULY, KNIGHTS OF THE BLIND”

Sincerely,

Lion Pauline Ulrey

Read more about Pauline at <http://www.leaderdog.org/update/2013/Issue2/50-years-8-dogs-1-determined-woman.php>

BECOME A DREAM MAKER

Dreams are as varied as the people who have them. Your dream may be to secure your income for life and decrease your next tax bill. Or it may be to help make someone’s dream of receiving a Leader Dog a reality. A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a great way to meet all these dreams with just one transaction.

Investing in a Leader Dog CGA allows you to exchange a gift of cash or securities for a fixed yearly income for your lifetime (or for the lives of two people). It also offers:

- A tax deduction
- A tax-free payout
- Capital gains tax savings for stock or security donations
- Unlimited amounts of personal satisfaction

To learn how you can invest in a Leader Dog CGA and become a Dream Maker, contact:

Roberta S. Trzos CFRE
Director of Personal Giving
248 659 5014
rtrzos@leaderdog.org



Current one-life interest rates *(as of May 1, 2013)*

Age	Rate	Age	Rate
59	4.3%	65	4.7%
71	5.3 %	75	5.8%
78	6.4%	83	7.4 %
87	8.2 %	90+	9.0%

THE PUPPY RAISING EXPERIENCE

By Deb Donnelly, Puppy Development Supervisor

Long-time Leader Dog puppy raiser and breeding host Nan Nellenbach recently picked up her 50th puppy to raise for us. Later this year, Pat Boyd, a Leader Dog team member and puppy counselor, will also pick up her 50th puppy.

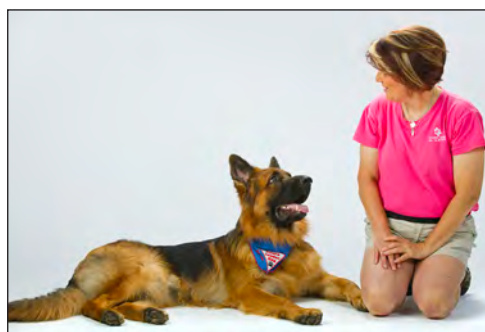


For many people the thought of raising one puppy for a year and returning it for training invites the comment: “I could never do that.” However, over 65% of our puppy raisers raise more than one puppy for Leader Dog. Here is a sampling of our puppy raising population (the list constantly changes as puppies are picked up and dogs are returned for training):

2–5 puppies:	149 raisers
6–10 puppies:	40 raisers
11–15 puppies:	18 raisers
16–20 puppies:	21 raisers
20–50 puppies:	9 raisers

What motivates our puppy raisers beyond the joy of puppy breath and the naming process? The thrill of seeing your grown puppy as a working guide, the satisfaction of knowing you have helped someone in need, and the people you meet throughout the socialization and training process.

I personally fall into the 16–20 puppies category. I started puppy raising because I am good with dogs and I felt that gift should be shared with others. As I approach the end of Future Leader Dog Strider’s time with me, I keep reminding myself that



someone else needs this dog more than I do. To be honest, the “How can you give him up” question at the moment strikes fear in my heart. But Strider also

has gifts to share and he deserves the chance to become a guide. And so, reluctantly, I contemplate what puppy might be number 20. In the meantime, those 24-hours per day, 7-days a week with Strider will be precious to me.



THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS!

Raffles, dog walks, marathons, poker games, breakfasts, dinners, auctions—the list of fundraising activities goes on and on. Whatever you did, you certainly did it well because Lions, Leos and Lioness Clubs donated over \$2,048,000 to Leader Dogs for the Blind during the 2012–13 fiscal year!





Thank you for all your hard work! Nearly 5,000 clubs that worked together to help us meet our mission of empowering people who are blind or visually impaired with lifelong skills for independent travel through quality Leader Dogs, highly effective client instruction and innovative services.

Since we count on your contributions to cover nearly 25% of our annual operating costs, we value every club's contribution. 1,756 clubs donated \$250 or more, and will receive one of our special dog bone recognition patches. A record number 40 clubs earned the Top Dog award by contributing \$5,000 or more.

Detailed reports of club, district and multiple district giving can be found on our website at <http://www.leaderdog.org/lions/reports/index.php> (reports are updated quarterly).



LEADER DOG PROGRAMS:

-  **Guide Dog Training** is a 26-day residential training program matching hand-selected, highly-trained dogs with people who are legally blind, or both deaf and blind.
-  **Accelerated O&M Training** is the only seven-day residential orientation and mobility program in the U.S. providing clients with cane skills to become safer, more independent travelers.
-  **GPS Technology** empowers clients to identify their current location and plan their own travel route, rather than relying on others to fill this need.
-  **Summer Experience Camp** is a unique summer camp for 16- and 17-year-olds who are legally blind, combining fun and leadership activities with an introduction to guide dogs.

MOTORCYCLING FOR LEADER DOGS

Lions Mark and Debbie Mansell completed their Motorcycling for Leader Dogs—48 States in 24 Days, on July 8 in Temecula, CA. The epic journey saw them travel 10,318 miles to raise awareness of Leader Dogs for the Blind, leverage an opportunity to talk about Lions and Lionism, and raise funds for Leader Dog. Their efforts were an unqualified success.



Battered and bruised, their trip took them through some of the most beautiful parts of our country. They traveled in driving rain in the Midwest and temperatures pushing 120 degrees in the Southwest. Mark said that the last 4 days, "...really kicked my butt." He added that, "... this was a broader slice of America than Cycling, but man was it tiring."

Debbie said that, "...the scheduled events kept us going." There were days when they had five events and five media stops and still managed to travel more

than 400 miles. What makes this even more astonishing is that Debbie just began riding a motorcycle in March!

They met literally



hundreds of Lions across the country who opened their hearts and homes to welcome them. Ever so humble and appreciative of the support they have received from Leader Dog, Mark continually thanks us for believing in them. Motorcycling for Leader Dogs is closing in on \$40,000 raised.

SHARE THE MANE EVENT

Leader Dogs for the Blind publishes The Mane Event on a quarterly basis. Please feel free to reproduce and use any of these articles and information in your club, district or multiple district publications. Archived editions of the newsletter are available on our website. Questions or article suggestions can be directed to Kathleen Breen at kbreen@leaderdog.org.



TOP DOG CLUBS 2012-2013 FISCAL YEAR

La Center Lions Club	19-G	WA	\$94,158.95
Lyons Lions Club	27-A-1	WI	\$76,250.00
Rochester Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$27,777.01
Wilmington Manor Lions Club	22-D	DE	\$26,000.00
Rochester Hills Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$18,244.00
Romeo Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$17,829.80
Birmingham Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$16,012.00
London North Lions Club	A-1	ON	\$16,000.00
Southlake Lions Club	2-E-2	TX	\$15,649.00
Clawson Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$12,849.00
Shelby Township Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$11,222.00
Beverly Hills Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$10,196.00
Thiensville Mequon Lions Club	27-A-2	WI	\$10,000.00
Royal Oak Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$9,821.00
Washington Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$9,300.00
Center Line Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$9,000.00
Algonac Lions Club	11-D-2	MI	\$8,765.00
Eynon Archbald Lions Club	14-H	PA	\$8,500.00
Lyon Area Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$8,200.00
Eastpointe Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$7,308.00
Phoenix Social Lions Club	21-C	AZ	\$7,300.00
Westland Lions Club	11-A-1	MI	\$7,186.00
Novi Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$6,896.00
Wixom Walled Lake Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$6,473.00
Cranberry Twp Area Lions Club	14-N	PA	\$6,021.37
Macomb Township Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$5,842.00
Lakemont Lions Club	14-L	PA	\$5,639.04
Fraser Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$5,498.00
Armada Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$5,298.00
Hazel Park Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$5,220.00
Lathrup Village Lions Club	11-A-2	MI	\$5,117.24
Harrisville Lions Club	14-N	PA	\$5,104.60
Taylor Noon Lions Club	2-S-3	TX	\$5,096.00
Windsor Downtown Lions Club	A-1	ON	\$5,096.00
Bellflower Lions Club	1-K	IL	\$5,000.00
Bloomington Lions Club	5M-5	MN	\$5,000.00
Burley Lions Club	39-W	ID	\$5,000.00
Dewey Beach Lions Club	22-D	DE	\$5,000.00
Frankenmuth Lions Club	11-D-1	MI	\$5,000.00
Metamora Lions Club	11-D-2	MI	\$5,000.00

TOP 10 MULTI-DISTRICTS 2012-2013 FISCAL YEAR

MD-11 & SD-10	Michigan	\$419,408.01
MD-27	Wisconsin	\$238,748.11
MD-14	Pennsylvania	\$181,460.57
MD-116	Spain	\$180,740.15
MD-5M	MN, MB, ON	\$145,715.87
MD-22	MD, DE, DC	\$138,881.68
MD-19	WA, ID, BC	\$117,399.04
MD-2	Texas	\$87,035.27
MD-25	Indiana	\$62,596.27
MD-26	Missouri	\$56,594.91



WANTED *for* Leader Dogs for the Blind Volunteers to raise Leader Dog puppies

Raising a Leader Dog puppy is a year-long commitment that allows you to help a person who is blind receive a canine partner to increase their independence, safety and confidence.

Love and teach a puppy in your home

Share an important volunteer commitment with your family

Fulfill community service requirements for your school or organization

Your experience will be life-changing and change a life.

leaderdog.org/volunteer/puppyraiser • 248/650.7108

1039 S. Rochester Road • Rochester Hills, Michigan 48307-3115

Lions Liaison, Convention Speaker Requests, Events

Lion Kathleen Breen

Manager of Lions Engagement

Direct 248/218.6407, kbreen@leaderdog.org

Club Giving & Recognition, Quarterly Reports

Lion Kathy Gilchrist

Lions Relations Specialist

Direct 248/659.5012, kgilchrist@leaderdog.org

Michigan Lions Representative

Lion Mike Dengate

Lions Regional Representative—Michigan

Direct 248/650.7102, mdengate@leaderdog.org

Client Referrals & Information

Contact client services

at 888/777.5332

For **speaker requests**, visit
leaderdog.org/lions/toolkit/speaker

For **promotional items**, visit
leaderdog.org/lions/toolkit/promoitems

For **upcoming events**, visit
leaderdog.org/news/calendar

View our **Flickr** Photostream at
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1039 S. Rochester Road • Rochester Hills, Michigan • 48307

Phone: 248/651.9011 • Toll Free: 888/777.5332

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