

Guide Dogs for the Blind Fact Sheet

Who we are:

Since 1942, [Guide Dogs for the Blind](#) (GDB) has empowered lives by creating exceptional partnerships between people, dogs and communities. GDB is the largest Guide Dog school in the country and is dedicated to providing high quality student training services and extensive follow-up support for graduates. Our programs are made possible through the teamwork of staff, volunteers and generous donors. Services are provided to students from the United States and Canada at no cost to them.

We operate two training facilities (one is headquartered in San Rafael, California—20 miles north of San Francisco, another in Boring, Oregon—25 miles east of Portland), and have more than 2,000 puppy raising volunteers throughout the Western states and Texas. More than 14,000 teams have graduated since our founding, and there are approximately 2,200 active guide dog teams currently in the field.

Whom we serve:

Any person who is blind or visually impaired desiring enhanced mobility and independence can benefit from the skills a Guide Dog provides. The person must be legally blind, able to travel independently and suited to work with a dog. Typically, 6-8 students take part in each of our 2-week training classes. 98% of graduates surveyed in 2014 reported they were satisfied with our overall program and 97% would recommend our program to others.

How we are funded:

We are a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization supported entirely by private donations. We receive no government funding. Donors contribute through general contributions, bequests, grants, memorial and honor donations, charitable remainder trusts and other planned giving options.

Our Dogs:

Guide Dogs for the Blind breeds Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and Lab/Golden crosses from our own purebred stock, specially selected for excellent temperament, intelligence and health. Advances in research and technology help make it possible for us to continue to improve the quality and health of our dogs and ensure their success as guides.

Our Community:

Guide Dogs for the Blind has one of the nation's largest volunteer networks with thousands of volunteers assisting in the success of our mission. The human/animal bond creates a ripple that adds meaning and enrichment to each of our lives and strengthens our communities.



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