

Fiscal Year 2014–2015

Leader Dogs for the Blind Annual Report



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CONTENTS

- 4 Message from Susan Daniels
- 5 Vision, Mission and Values
- 6–7 Fiscal Year 2014–2015 Highlights
- 9 Financial Information
- 10 Board of Trustees
- 11 Board Committee Listings



Future Leader Dog Lucian

When Amy Chevalier's daughter began taking her first steps, Amy came to a realization. The diabetic retinopathy that had progressed rapidly during her pregnancy had left her legally blind, and with a lack of confidence in her mobility. "I wasn't afraid to cross streets by myself but the thought of doing it with my baby was terrifying to me." That is when Amy decided to get a guide dog.



"I looked at it so simply: by having a Leader Dog I would feel safe to cross the streets to take my daughter to the park. I had no idea that having a Leader Dog would allow me to do so much more and how that Leader Dog would change my life. Other than driving, there isn't anything that I haven't been able to do with my daughter because I've had a guide dog."

Amy Chevalier and Leader Dog Ember

A Message from Susan Daniels

In today's world, our clients need Leader Dogs that aren't just obedient but that can actually think and make life or death decisions. The level of training needed to produce this caliber of dog begins in our kennel, where our future Leader Dogs and best training practices come together. The ongoing improvement of our services is paramount to achieving our mission, and the construction that began in August of 2014 to renovate our kennel into a world-class Canine Development Center will allow us to provide the optimal environment for housing Leader Dogs in training while they learn their life-saving work.

We have learned so much about canine behavior and training since the 1960s when our kennel was built. We now understand that a dog's environment has a huge impact on its ability to develop the skills and characteristics necessary to handle the responsibility of guiding a person who is blind. That is why every aspect of the Canine Development Center was designed to create the ideal environment for our dogs; one that reduces stress, provides greater socialization, maximizes human interaction and best prepares Leader Dogs for their remarkable work.

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve as the president and CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind. I look forward to increasing our capacity to serve our clients for years to come.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Daniels

Susan M. Daniels
President & CEO



In spite of becoming blind at age 8, Daniel Enghamed became the best paralympic swimmer in history, and the only blind runner who has finished the toughest triathlon competition that exists.

"I believe if we don't move, we start dying. And the reason behind that is—in the moments we are moving, we are creating more emotion. With a Leader Dog, I can live my life as a sighted person."

Daniel Enghamed and Leader Dog Adele



Vision

Every person who is blind or visually impaired travels safely and independently.

Mission

To empower people who are blind or visually impaired with lifelong skills for safe and independent daily travel.

Values

- Do what is right
- Respect and compassion
- Passion for the work
- Superior experience
- Teamwork
- Innovation
- Safety



Envisioned Future—2025

By the year 2025, we at Leader Dogs for the Blind envision:

- A national reputation for high quality
- Growth in the number of clients served in all areas
- A diversified revenue base
- The ability to serve Central and South America through partnerships with local providers
- A culture that attracts and retains high quality team members (both paid and volunteer)
- Continuing to pioneer advancements in technology through collaborations and client instruction

HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 1, 2014

2014

Canine Development Center Redesign Begins

A \$14.5 million kennel renovation that will positively impact the health, well-being and training of all future Leader Dogs.



Canine Development Center—2016

First Leader Dog Trained to Respond to Sound

Leader Dog Niko was trained to alert his human partner who is deaf and blind to door knocks and doorbell rings in addition to being a guide dog.



Patterson Foundation

Grant of \$35,000 to support the development of our internship program for Orientation & Mobility Specialists and externship program for veterinary and veterinary technician students.



U.S. Council of Dog Guide Schools

Leader Dog President and CEO Susan Daniels elected Chairperson of the U.S. Council of Dog Guide Schools. The organization works on projects of mutual interest to all guide dog organizations including promoting high standards for the training and placement of guide dogs.



HIGHLIGHTS *(continued)*

▶ JUNE 30, 2015

2015

Ford Motor Company Fund

Grant of \$40,000 to support Summer Experience Camp for 16- and 17-year-olds who are blind.

Grant of \$8,000 toward the purchase of a new van to enable the Prison Puppies Coordinator to transport puppies to correctional facilities in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.



NAC Accreditation

Received accreditation from the National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services (NAC) for two programs: Accelerated Orientation and Mobility Training, and Summer Experience Camp. Both met or exceeded industry standards for the administration and service provision. NAC is the only international accrediting body devoted to serving organizations that provide programs for people who are blind and those with low vision.



New Agency Partnerships

Simplified the process for agencies that serve people who are blind in a specific geographic region to refer their clients for Accelerated Orientation & Mobility Training at Leader Dog. Partnerships established with agencies in Detroit, Pennsylvania and Illinois.







Prison Puppies

Increased the capacity for inmate-raised puppies through addition of a fourth correctional facility in Michigan bringing the total Prison Puppies facilities to seven.







Leader Dogs for the Blind
PRISONPUPPIES

Clients Served

-  210 Guide Dog Training (11 Deaf-Blind)
-  82 Accelerated Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Training
-  161 GPS devices issued
-  19 Summer Experience Camp

Programs

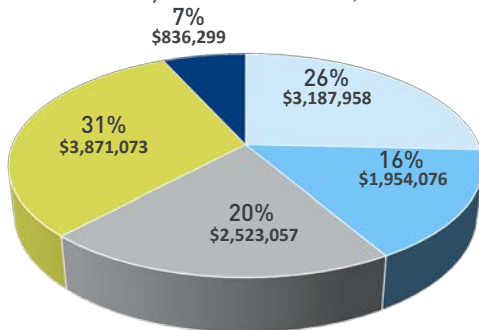
-  **Guide Dog Training** is a 26-day residential training program matching hand-selected, highly trained dogs with people who are legally blind, or both deaf and blind.
-  **Accelerated O&M Training** is the only seven-day residential orientation and mobility program in the U.S. providing clients with 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.



THE NUMBERS

Revenue

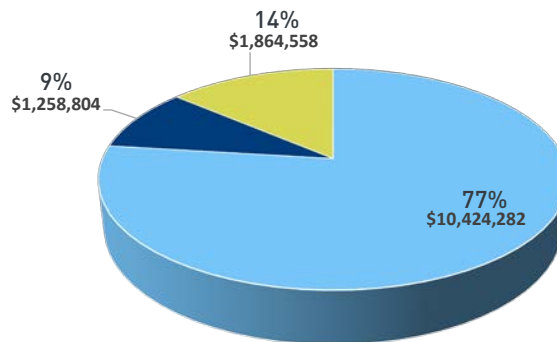
Revenue (excluding Capital Campaign)
for the year ended June 30, 2015



- Estates and bequests
- Grants
- Lions clubs donations
- Investment and misc.
- Other contributions

Expenses

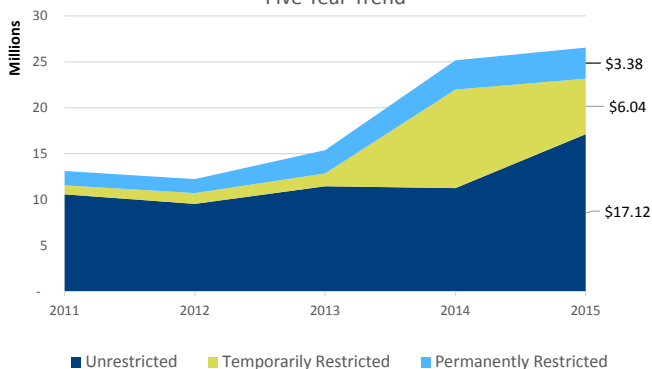
Expenses (excluding Capital Campaign)
for the year ended June 30, 2015



- Programs and services
- General and administrative
- Philanthropy (fundraising)

Other

Net Assets
Five Year Trend



LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND Summarized Statement of Activities

For the year ended June 30, 2015

Revenue

Total before Capital Campaign	\$12,372,463
Capital Campaign revenue	2,910,416
Total revenue	15,282,879

Expenses

Total before Capital Campaign	13,547,644
Capital Campaign expenses	348,896
Total expenses	13,896,540

Change in net assets 1,386,339

Net assets, beginning of year 25,160,705

Net assets, end of year \$26,547,044

CURRENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Executive Officers

Susan Daniels, President and Chief Executive Officer

Lorene Suidan, Vice President/Chief Financial Officer

Rod Haneline, Vice President/Chief Programs and Services Officer

Officers

John W. Hebert, Board Chair

Margaret Dimond, Vice-Chair

Greg Guidice, Secretary

Steve Guarini, Treasurer

Trustees

Anna Biliti

Franklin Carmona, DVM

William Carty

Michael Cox

Kathryn Davis

Debbie Dayton

Eric DeGroat

Paul Edwards, M.D.

Harold Gardner

Kim Gorman

Paul Hemeryck

Marilyn Kelly

Daniel Markey

Thomas McNulty, Jr.

Curtis D. Norenberg, PhD, PDG

Thomas O'Masta

Paul Preketes

Avril Rinn

Lynne Schrage

Hendrik Schuur

Rebecca Sorensen

The Honorable Paul Teranes

Douglas Wright

Honorary Trustees

Celia Domalewski

Lon Grossman

Tom Kimble

Bill Klingensmith

Rick Meyer

Douglas Mickelson

Stephen R. Polk

James Platzer

Henry Stricker, Jr., PDG

Tom Thompson, PDG

John Villa



BOARD COMMITTEES

Audit Committee

Oversees the organization's annual external audit and its system of internal controls over financial reporting.

Executive Committee (Board Officers only)

Conducts such business as is necessary or desirable during those periods when the Board of Trustees is not in session.

Finance Committee

Oversees fiscal accountability and budgetary affairs.

Governance Committee

Establishes and maintains a dynamic, diverse, engaged and knowledgeable Board of Trustees.

Mission Assurance and Quality Committee

Oversees performance metrics, outcomes, quality, continuous improvement and strategic plan progress and ensures alignment with the mission statement of Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Philanthropy Committee

Oversees the development and fundraising activities, ensuring that the case for support is strong, current and based on the organization's mission and goals.

Technology Committee

Serves as a strategic partner for the Leader Dog team, focusing on the alignment of core business and technology so that the organization remains in the mainstream of continually evolving technology and IT solutions.

"The most important role that my Leader Dog plays in my life is to be able to get from point A to point B without risk of injury or delay. Not only that, but I'm able to complete my daily travels with somebody (Vern) that I love who loves me back. I wouldn't feel normal without a dog."

Michael Whitt and Leader Dog Vern



Accreditations

International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF)
National Accreditation Council (NAC)



Member

Assistance Dogs International (ADI)
Council of US Dog Guide Schools (CUSDGS)
American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)
VisionServe Alliance
Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER)

For more information about Leader Dogs for the Blind,
go to leaderdog.org or call **888/777.5332**.

Leader Dogs for the Blind

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LEADER DOGS
FOR THE BLIND

