A greater sense of ADVENTURE
Dear Friend,

We are pleased to report that fiscal year 2012 has been another year of achievement, honor, and dedication by a family of volunteers, staff members, and supporters. Together, we've worked to fulfill our organization’s mission and make significant progress relative to our strategic goals.

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed. For example, the Tampa Bay Business Journal recognized Southeastern Guide Dogs as the 2012 Nonprofit of the Year in the Animals and Environment category. In addition, Charity Navigator recognized us as a four-star charity (the highest possible) and the highest-rated guide dog school in the United States.

We’re grateful for the recognition. But we’re even more grateful for the people behind the achievements, the people whose hands and gifts make it happen.

Thank you for your generous support in helping us to reach these milestones. We’ve always maintained that we work together with a greater sense of community.

And the Southeastern Guide Dogs community has been busy! As you peruse these pages, we’d like to point out some interesting highlights:

• Demand for our guide dogs is steadily expanding. Between our traditional levels of requests, our repeat graduates who have retired aging guide dogs, the recent conflicts affecting our veterans, and our growing reputation for excellence, our waiting list keeps growing. We never forget that each name represents hopefulness and the pursuit of independence. We’re doing all we can to raise great dogs and match them with waiting students. Meanwhile, we continue to support our roster of graduates in caring for their guides.

• We never stop learning and improving. Our trainers are some of the most skilled in the business, and they’re pursuing best practices and fine-tuning the guide dog training process every day. Our new Canine Enrichment Program is just one more example of pushing the envelope in developing incredible guide dogs.

• Our new Margaret and Isaac Barpal Veterinary Center is one of the most groundbreaking and exciting stories we’re telling this year. The Barpals’ matching challenges raised the funds for our long awaited, purpose-built veterinary center, scheduled to open in 2013, and we are absolutely thrilled. Healthy dogs—what better foundation can there be for guide dogs?

• Our 2012 Walkathon, set for the first time in St. Petersburg, was more than a success—it was a delight! The pros and cons of locating it that far north of campus sparked many conversations and one big idea. The result is that next year we’re holding a “trifecta” of Walkathons, one each in St. Petersburg, Bradenton, and Sarasota. Good things come in threes!

• We’ve moved our cute cottage of a campus gift shop to accommodate plans for the new Veterinary Center, and meanwhile launched an online gift store. We’re spreading our logo across jackets, shirts, cups, picture frames, and more, helping gain recognition while raising funds to support our mission.

• With over 23 acres to care for, we’re making ongoing campus improvements that say “welcome” and that serve our puppies and people. This year, we’ve repainted and refreshed the Training and Puppy Kennel and developed two commemorative courtyards. If you haven’t been on campus lately, stop by!

• Our downtown Sarasota location continues to thrive, hosting our students, welcoming visitors, and granting exposure to future supporters.

As you review this annual report, we’d like to recognize the many hands working together that stand behind it. We salute our many board members, volunteers, puppy raisers, breeder hosts, and the army of workers behind the scenes, doing things like answering phones, stuffing envelopes, playing with and cleaning up after puppies, and minding the stores. We tip our hat to our Donor Circle and Heritage Society members whose generosity fills our hearts and funds our programs. We honor the professionals who lend us their knowledge, both our Veterinarian Partners and our own valued staff.

And most of all, we admire, respect, and serve our students and graduates, whose disabilities disappear in the light of a dog’s devotion.

And that, our friend, is what we’re all about.

Warm regards,

Eric Williams
Chairman of the Board

Titus Herman
Chief Executive Officer
YEAR IN PHOTOS

OUR GUIDE DOGS ARE REMARKABLE, IF WE DO SAY SO OURSELVES.
AND ONE OF OUR SECRETS TO WELL-SOCIALIZED DOGS IS THE PRECISE
AND FUN CARE WE TAKE FROM THE MOMENT OUR PUPPIES ARE BORN.
STIMULATING ALL FIVE SENSES—HEARING, SIGHT, TOUCH, TASTE, AND
SMELL—WITH ENRICHED PLAYFUL AND SOCIAL EXPERIENCES BECOMES A
TOP PRIORITY IN DEVELOPING EXTRAORDINARY GUIDE DOGS.

OUR NEW CANINE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM MINIMIZES KENNEL-RELATED
STRESS AND TAKES THIS STIMULATING PRIORITY TO A NEW LEVEL. OUR
TRAINERS TAILOR OUR DOGS’ EXPERIENCES TO THEIR UNIQUE NEEDS AND
PERSONALITIES, CALLING ON OUR COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS TO SPARK
DOGS’ MINDS AND INVIGORATE THEIR BODIES. WE’VE ADDED SENSORY
ACTIVITIES SUCH AS AROMATHERAPY AND SOUND THERAPY THROUGH
MUSIC, WIND CHIMES, AND PERCUSSION. WE’VE INTRODUCED PROBLEM-
SOLVING CHALLENGES AND VISUAL STIMULI SUCH AS WIND-BLOWN
OBJECTS AND NOVEL TOYS. AND WE’VE ADDED “FIELD TRIPS”—WEEKEND
FURLOUGHS TO LOVING, INTERACTIVE HOME ENVIRONMENTS. DOGS LOVE IT!

PURPOSEFUL PLAYFULNESS: CANINE ENRICHMENT

PUPPIES, PUPPIES EVERYWHERE!

WITH AN INCREASED DEMAND FOR OUR SERVICES AND A WAITING
LIST OF POTENTIAL STUDENTS, WE’RE GROWING! WE’VE RESPONDED
TO THE NEED WITH A 40% INCREASE IN PUPPIES PLACED INTO
THE TRAINING PIPELINE. THAT’S 259 PUPPIES—AND COUNTING!

FROM THE WHELPING KENNELS AND THE PUPPIES NOT YET
WEANED, TO THE PUPPIES HOSTED WITH PUPPY RAISERS, WE’RE
BUSY KEEPING THESE LITTLE GUYS HEALTHY, STRONG, STIMULATED,
AND LEARNING. OUR PUPPIES NOT ONLY FORM THE CORE OF OUR
GUIDE DOG PROGRAM, THEY PROVIDE AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF
WARMTH, WIGGLES, AND WAGS FOR EVERYONE WHO COMES ON
CAMPUS. PUPPY HUGGING ANYONE?

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Serving students and graduates with excellence while
doing what’s best for our dogs—that’s the power of
partnerships at Southeastern Guide Dogs. In 2012,
we created 72 new guide dog partnerships, impacting
deserving students with newfound freedom. We
served over 500 graduates by researching questions,
visiting homes, and providing specialized training
enhancements.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS CONTINUES, AS WE PLACED
40 DOGS INTO ALTERNATIVE CAREERS SUCH AS VETERAN
SERVICE, CANINE CONNECTIONS, AND PUBLIC SERVICE—a
22% INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR. AND OVER 50
AMBASSADOR DOGS GENERATED NEARLY 9,100 HOURS OF
COMMUNITY SERVICE, EXTENDING OUR CULTURE OF CARING TO
HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES, HOSPICE, AND SCHOOLS.

RALLYING FOR HEALTHIER DOGS

THE RIBBON’S BEEN CUT, THE GROUND’S BROKEN, AND WE’RE ECSTATIC
ABOUT THE MOMENTUM WE’VE ENJOYED IN PLANNING OUR MARGARET
AND ISAAC BARPAL VETERINARY CENTER. IT WON’T BE LONG NOW!
OUR NEW CENTER WILL ENCOMPASS TEN TIMES THE SPACE OF OUR
CURRENT, CRAMPED CLINIC, AND SOON OUR PUPPIES AND DOGS WILL
STAY ON CAMPUS FOR THE HEALTH CARE THEY NEED TO THRIVE.

IN 2012, THE GENEROUS NAMESAKES OF OUR VETERINARY CENTER
INTRODUCED A SERIES OF MATCHING CHALLENGES TO RAISE
THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO BUILD PHASE 1, ADD PHASE 2, AND
PURCHASE NECESSARY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT. OUR COMMUNITY—OUR
WONDERFUL, CARING COMMUNITY—RAILED TO THE CHALLENGE AND
DONATED THE FUNDS.

THE IMPACT CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED. HEALTHIER DOGS ARE
HAPPIER DOGS, LEARNING BETTER, FASTER. OUR ONSITE VETERINARY
CENTER WILL HELP US KEEP OUR DOGS AT OPTIMUM HEALTH,
MAXIMIZING OUR INVESTMENT IN BREEDING, RAISING, TRAINING, AND
MATCHING THE FINEST GUIDE DOGS IN THE U.S.

PURPOSEFUL PLAYFULNESS: CANINE ENRICHMENT

The ribbon’s been cut, the ground’s broken, and we’re ecstatic about the momentum we’ve enjoyed in planning our Margaret and Isaac Barpal Veterinary Center. It won’t be long now! Our new center will encompass ten times the space of our current, cramped clinic, and soon our puppies and dogs will stay on campus for the health care they need to thrive.

In 2012, the generous namesakes of our Veterinary Center introduced a series of three matching challenges to raise the funds needed to build Phase 1, add Phase 2, and purchase necessary medical equipment. Our community—our wonderful, caring community—rallied to the challenge and donated the funds.

The impact cannot be underestimated. Healthier dogs are happier dogs, learning better, faster. Our onsite Veterinary Center will help us keep our dogs at optimum health, maximizing our investment in breeding, raising, training, and matching the finest guide dogs in the U.S.

PUPPIES, PUPPIES EVERYWHERE!

With an increased demand for our services and a waiting list of potential students, we’re growing! We’ve responded to the need with a 40% increase in puppies placed into the training pipeline. That’s 259 puppies—and counting!

From the whelping kennels and the puppies not yet weaned, to the puppies hosted with puppy raisers, we’re busy keeping these little guys healthy, strong, stimulated, and learning. Our puppies not only form the core of our guide dog program, they provide an endless supply of warmth, wiggles, and wags for everyone who comes on campus. Puppy hugging anyone?
WALKING THE WALK, SOUTHEASTERN STYLE

Nobody walks dogs like the friends of Southeastern Guide Dogs. Our 2012 Walkathon started before dawn on a sunny March morning, when teams of volunteers and staff members arrived at St. Petersburg’s Vinoy Park to set up. It was our first year to hold this event in St. Pete, and Mayor Bill Foster and the city showered us with support. St. Pete’s “First Puppy” drew about 6,000 naming suggestions, and “Petey” did a fine job of representing the Walkathon.

But the big news of the day was the over 4,000 participants and more dogs than we could count who showed up in support of our mission. What a celebration we shared and what a difference we made, raising over $450,000!

We count on our Walkathon as our biggest fundraiser of the year, and the 2012 Walkathon came through.

SIT. STAY. SHOP!

With a hint of cottage appeal and front-porch southern hospitality, our campus gift shop now sits just to the left of our entrance so visitors can’t help but stop by. It’s a delightful place to visit and a far cry from our old space that felt a bit like a closet. Our students enjoy shopping here, too, and now we can almost fit the whole class!

With plenty of room to work with, we’ve stocked our shop with a lovely selection of logo and puppy-inspired apparel, gifts, dog accessories, and cards. Manned by friendly volunteers, our shop keeps the same hours as puppy-hugging sessions.

Our gift shop has gone digital, too! Launched in the summer of 2012, our online store is open for business at GuideDogs.org/Store.

DISCOVERING DOGS DOWNTOWN

Our Sarasota location has created a welcoming downtown hub. In its second year of operation, volunteers have greeted over 10,000 guests coming through the doors for puppy hugging, dog training classes, gift shopping, or to gain information about our programs.

The downtown center serves several key purposes. First, our students train from here, using the lounge and kitchen as a base while they take turns practicing urban skills with their guide dogs. The center also helps to spread awareness of our programs. With plenty of foot traffic, passersby often stop in, especially on Saturday mornings during the bustling, dog-friendly Sarasota Farmer’s Market. When puppy hugging is in session, visitors must often wait for a turn because of the puppies’ popularity.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS: KEEPING IT FRESH

Sometimes our campus improvements focus on our people, and sometimes on our puppies. We’re keeping it fresh! When our students arrive for nearly a month, we want our campus to say, “Welcome to your home away from home.”

This year, we remodeled the Training Kennel by repainting the interior, refinishing the floors and adding new lighting. We also repainted and brightened our Puppy Kennel, making it more enjoyable for our puppies, staff, volunteers and puppy huggers.

Outdoors, we developed the Bobby and Meredith Newman Freedom Courtyard, named after friends of Southeastern and paved with commemorative engraved bricks. We also began implementing the Veterans’ Courtyard in honor of our servicemen and women. Both spaces create a lovely setting for students and dogs to practice their new skills, or for guests and volunteers to enjoy.
Volunteer Ellen Cox has been pouring heart, soul, and time into raising puppies for Southeastern Guide Dogs careers for the past ten years. And she’s also been bringing out the best in other puppy raisers from her hometown of Kennesaw, Georgia as an Area Coordinator for Southeastern Guide Dogs careers for the past six years.

“Each puppy takes a little bit of our heart, and each one is unique,” Ellen says. “It’s a big, supportive family and we all have the same goal in mind—to turn in needed volunteers, but offered extensive training and support to help puppy raisers succeed.”

As Area Coordinator, Ellen shares wisdom with her group of puppy raisers through meetings. “We’re a big, supportive family and we all have the same goal in mind—to turn in the best guide dog puppy,” she shares. Meetings give puppy raisers the chance to ask questions and share experiences, and also give puppies a chance to behave in a roomful of other dogs. “They all want to play!” she says with a smile.
It takes a remarkable person to become a veterinarian. Brains. Work ethic. Perseverance to finish college plus four more years of veterinary school. The fortitude to pass licensing and board exams. Whew!

But it takes someone even more remarkable to become a Veterinarian Partner with Southeastern Guide Dogs. It takes a big, generous heart. But it takes someone even more remarkable to become a Veterinarian Partner with Southeastern Guide Dogs. It takes a big, generous heart.

Our Veterinarian Partners make an impact on our ability to keep our future guide dogs at optimum health while preparing them for their important destinies. Our partnerships include Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum, with Platinum Partners donating 100% of routine and non-routine medical services for our program puppies and dogs.

We count it a privilege to team up with these wholehearted Platinum Veterinarian Partners and the generous veterinarians who lead them.

**Platinum Veterinarian Partners**

-Abrams Royal Animal Clinic
-Advanced Veterinary Care of Pasco
-Animal Hospital of Boone
-Animal Hospital of Champions Northwest
-Animal Hospital Jones Road
-Animal Hospital of Orange Park
-Ashton Animal Clinic

**A greater sense of caring**

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A greater sense of TRUST

Graduate Amanda Furr and Guide Dog Alice

Southeastern Guide Dogs graduate and University of South Florida (USF) student Amanda Furr likes to walk fast, but poor vision tried to slow her down. Her severe vision loss stems from Leber’s congenital amaurosis. “I have enough vision to be annoyed by it,” she explains. “I can see if something’s there but I can’t make out what it is.”

Before she met her spunky Goldador guide dog named Alice, Amanda navigated with a cane. “I don’t like using the cane because when I walked fast, it hit me—I got ‘shish kebabed’ on it,” she shares.

As a high school senior at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, she decided to apply for a guide dog. But one of her concerns was trust. She remembers wondering, “What if I’m walking fast and she smashes me into something—or someone?”

Amanda and Alice started their journey together just as Amanda left for college. Soon a deep bond formed and Amanda left her cane behind for good. “We trust each other,” she says. Now, Amanda and Alice walk all over campus, as quickly as they want.

Before Amanda received her guide dog, she mostly kept to herself. “I was socially awkward and I wouldn’t talk to people. I was depressed, and didn’t have a lot of friends. Then I got Alice. And once I got here [to USF], I quickly learned Alice is the conversation starter. She makes me really popular, and people remember me. Alice is the best thing that ever happened to me!”

Consistently, Southeastern Guide Dogs reports annual results indicating exceptional performance at all levels of operation. As Treasurer, I am pleased to report that the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2012 reflects strong financial results as well.

Kerkering, Barberio & Co. completed its independent audit in October and confirmed that our organization is operating in a financially sound manner, with total revenues and investment earnings of approximately $7.8 million and total expenses of approximately $7.1 million. Both revenues and expenses include approximately $679,000 in in-kind media contributions that enabled our school to vigorously promote its mission and programs.

During the fiscal year, the school invested 85 cents of every dollar spent directly in programs and services.

The overall financial position of the organization remained very strong. Total net assets of approximately $20.6 million increased by about $674,000 over the prior year. Meanwhile, liabilities of approximately $405,000 at year-end kept the organization virtually debt free.

The achievements of this past year would not have been possible without the dedication of our remarkable donors, supporters and volunteers who have provided financial support as well as time and talent in the execution of our mission.

We welcome you to view our organization’s complete financial statements which can be found on our website at www.guidedogs.org.

Sincerely,

Lea LeVines
Treasurer
## Combined Statements of Financial Position

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Cash and investments for restricted purposes</td>
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<td>Bequests and estates receivable</td>
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<td>Charitable trusts receivable</td>
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<td>Assets held for sale</td>
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<td>$399,000</td>
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<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
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<td>$2,122,719</td>
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<td>Other assets</td>
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<td>$158,057</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,966,499</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,307,759</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$275,200</td>
<td>$256,595</td>
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<td>Gift annuity liability</td>
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<td>Total liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Total net assets</td>
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<td>$19,886,690</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,966,499</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,307,759</strong></td>
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## Combined Statement of Activities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support and Revenue</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>$1,873,157</td>
<td>$1,331,296</td>
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<td>Bequests</td>
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<td>$2,614,099</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lions and service clubs</td>
<td>$457,892</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations and corporations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributed services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$486,279</td>
<td>$452,571</td>
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<td>Total support and revenue</td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$5,643,639</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting services</td>
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<td>Management and general</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund raising</td>
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<td>$1,042,460</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>$20,561,035</td>
<td>$19,886,690</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Operating Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized gain (loss) on investments</td>
<td>$171,329</td>
<td>$626,814</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrealized gain (loss) on investments</td>
<td>$(492,366)</td>
<td>$892,543</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>$415,612</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$(12,693)</td>
<td>$(94,447)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total non-operating activities</td>
<td>$81,882</td>
<td>$1,796,324</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Increase in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets beginning of year</td>
<td>$19,886,690</td>
<td>$17,047,906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets end of year</td>
<td>$20,561,035</td>
<td>$19,886,690</td>
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</table>
A greater sense of COMPASSION

Heritage Society Founders Margaret & Isaac Barpal

Isaac Barpal started out as an immigrant with empty pockets and a dream, and between hard work and an education, earned his success. With a master’s and a PhD in electrical engineering, he enjoyed a stellar career in technology. Now retired, Isaac and his wife Margaret share remarkable spirits of giving and generosity.

While driving down U.S. 41 one day, the Barpals noticed a Southeastern Guide Dogs billboard. They visited the downtown Sarasota location, followed up with a tour of the Palmetto campus, and started asking questions. But behind their curiosity, one question surfaced: How can we help? With empathy and compassion, the Barpals became staunch partners and fast friends of Southeastern Guide Dogs.

“We don’t know what it means to be blind,” said Isaac. “By either disease or by accident, they’ve lost their independence. Southeastern represents a very tangible and effective way to see immediate results of giving. Now these people will have a life of freedom and independence! It’s very gratifying.”

When Isaac first visited our campus, he spoke with veterinarian Dr. Jerry Edington just as he was preparing a beautiful dog for transport to an off-campus clinic for treatment. That moment became the catalyst for the Barpals’ series of matching challenges that raised funds for the new Barpal Veterinary Center.

The Barpals’ vision for Southeastern carries well into the future. They established an endowment that generates funds to sponsor a student during their stay at our campus – in perpetuity. And as founding members of our Heritage Society, Margaret and Isaac’s generosity will continue as they leave a lasting legacy with Southeastern Guide Dogs.

FOUNDEES
David and Deborah Bambert Margaret and Isaac Barpal Senator Mike and Don Bennett Warren and Maria Beustmuller Suzanne and Dallas W. Branch Diane Broda Kathryn F. C Amphlett Philip and Linda Courtright Dr. Charles Evans-Thomas and James Span- gym Thomas Alex Frandlau Missy and Tim Grify Fanny Halse Anonymous

MEEMBERS
Deborah and Dr. K. S. Beach John and Regina Bellaff Anonymous Tom Bremner Jane Carrell Mac and Kathleen Casey Murray Chadler Scott and Kelly Callies Henry and Anna Carroll Catherine Contarzo Teena Corr Rafael De Acha and Kimberly Daniel De Acha Foundation Jason and Jennifer DePauls Anonymous D.J. and Bari DeJonge Carol and Nathan Forrester Cousins of Earl Frederick (Rick) Walker Jr. Katherine Green Debbie and Fred Grubl Anonymous Laura and Mauro Harto Ed Hayes Anonymous

Kath G. Hirst J.W. and Janice Kelly Anonymous Jerry Kramer Dr. Lawrence G. and Ann Laiks Carla and Don Landry C.Thomas and Ruth E. McClynn Brian and Patricia McHarg Dana and Muffett Myran William and Thaye Murphy Dr. David and Kathy Neeuman Bobby and Maurice Newman The Newfand Family Anonymous


Dorothy Neely Amy Newton David Nichols Robert and Lorraine O’Dell Patricia O’Donnell Bruce and Michelle Odiorne Anonymous Dal Palmer and M. Carroll Buchanan Roger and Alex Angel Barry and R. Diane Philips Florice and Gill Ruderman Sandra Schadew Michael Schark Kimberbell Schull Violet Stikler Margery Smidew Mr. and Mrs. A. Jay Somers Jerry and Merica Stern Roger and Kathy Steiner Jim and Linda Thayer Danielle Uferes - Ruth and Robert Werner Jeffrey and Rachel Wulfson

John Pedersen Kathleen Pope Frances Wood Roberts Dr. Thad and Patricia Redd Neil W. Scott Anonymous Dr. Harris and Michelle Silverman Normman and Phyllis Siskel Katie and Scott Tyler Anonymous Russell and Ruth White Aaron and Mary Whitelain Eric and Jan Williams Mrs. Roger Willis III
There’s something inviting about joining the circle. Maybe it dates back to childhood, when we held hands to form a circle, and then did something fun like sing a song or play a game together.

We’ve grown up now but the magic of the circle continues. Our Donor Circle members have joined figurative hands with us to form a wonderful community. Comprised of donors who support our school with a gift of $25 and up, our Donor Circle represents a vital part of fulfilling our mission.

And even our mission resembles the circle. We welcome and then did something fun like sing a song or play a game together.

After many years they eventually retire, and our graduates return again for another chance at independence.

And so the circle continues.

The dedicated leadership of our Donor Circle provides the essential funding we need to graduate class after class of visually impaired students. Because of their commitment, we know we can count on their support. And we enjoy sharing the benefits and recognition opportunities for varying levels of participation.

There’s always room to enlarge the circle. In 2012, our Donor Circle continued to expanded in a fabulous show of support. We appreciate—and applaud—our Donor Circle members. On the following pages, we’re delighted to recognize our Donor Circle members who contributed $250 or more.
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A greater sense of wellBeing
Brian Hall and Veteran Service Dog Judy

Retired Air Force Major Brian Hall hadn’t asked his wife out for dinner in four years. At least not until recently when he met Judy, his new Veteran Service Dog.

Since returning from Afghanistan in 2008, Brian mostly stayed home. He couldn’t seem to readjust, not since experiencing the unspeakable on the streets of Kabul. Clinicians call it Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Now retired after 24 years, Brian received treatment for PTSD. He learned that many find relief through the calming presence of a service dog. After applying to Southeastern and waiting his turn, Judy came to stay. A laid-back black Labrador, Judy transforms from a relaxed pet to an alert, attentive service dog the moment Brian puts on her vest.

Before Judy, Brian’s anxiety clung. Could a dog help?

“I rarely went out,” shares Brian. “Now on weekends, I’ll go out with my wife. Judy calms my anxiety, surrounds me, and helps me keep my distance from people. If somebody comes from behind, she lets me know by nudging me. If there’s a crowd, she leans into my leg and walks closer. This grounds me; she reminds me that these people aren’t bad, that I’m not in downtown Kabul.”

Monica, Brian’s wife of 27 years, noticed the difference. “He’s a lot happier, a lot more easygoing,” she shares. “He actually suggested we go out dinner Friday night. He hasn’t done that in four years!”

“I can’t explain how much Judy has changed my life,” says Brian. “Because of Southeastern Guide Dogs, my world is completely changed for the better.”

$250+ (Cont.)
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