The FACTS: About Southeastern Guide Dogs

Who We Are in 30 Seconds or Less
Southeastern Guide Dogs transforms lives by creating and nurturing extraordinary partnerships between people and dogs.

We train dogs of the highest pedigree for people who are blind and for veterans, providing our premier dogs and lifetime services at no cost, without any government funding.

About Southeastern Guide Dogs
Southeastern Guide Dogs transforms lives by creating and nurturing extraordinary partnerships between people and dogs. Employing the latest in canine development and behavior research, the national organization trains guide dogs, service dogs, and companion dogs for people living with significant challenges including those with visual impairments and veterans with disabilities.

All of Southeastern Guide Dogs’ services—which include selective breeding and expert dog training; comprehensive on-campus student instruction; and lifetime alumni support—are provided at no cost to the recipients. The charity relies 100 percent on private donations and receives no government funding. Southeastern Guide Dogs has the distinction of being dually accredited by the two premier, global accreditation bodies: the International Guide Dog Federation and Assistance Dogs International. Learn more at www.GuideDogs.org.

Mission
Our mission is to transform lives by creating and nurturing extraordinary partnerships between people and dogs.

Vision
Our vision is to be the best service dog school in the world.

Core Values
- Respect for one another
- A culture of excellence and innovation
- Uncompromising integrity and transparency
- A passion for the care and wellbeing of our dogs
- Mindful stewardship of our precious resources

Our Dogs
We breed, raise, and train Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, and a mix of the two called goldadors. Our education, socialization, and training strategies follow career paths from preschool to kindergarten to puppy raiser homes to campus for formal training and ultimately to commencement.
Our Dogs’ Careers
As our dogs progress in their education and enter our formal training program at Canine University, each one’s unique aptitude and abilities become clear. Based on their personality, health, temperament, trainability, and suitability for specific careers, the majority of our dogs specialize in one of the following careers.

Dogs for people with vision loss:
- Guide dogs – trained in over 40 commands to help the blind navigate independently
- Canine Connections dogs – companion dogs for children with vision loss

Dogs for veterans:
- Guide dogs – provided to veterans with vision loss
- Service dogs – trained to mitigate symptoms of PTSD and other disabilities
- Facility therapy dogs – providing comfort in military medical facilities nationwide
- Emotional support dogs – offering comfort to veterans with unique needs
- Gold Star family dogs – gifted to military family members who have lost a loved one
- Military family support dogs – companion dogs offered in support of sacrifices made

Numbers and People
- **3,100+** The number of guide dog and service dog teams we’ve created since our inception in 1982.
- **1,000+** Number of dogs under our auspices.
- **550+** The number of active guide dog and service dog teams we serve and support each year.
- **100+** New guide and service dog teams created each year.
- **2** The number of years of training our guide and service dogs receive.
- **$0** The amount we charge. We provide all of our dogs and services at no cost to recipients and support our alumni for the lifetime of the teams.
- **$Tens of thousands** The cost to breed, raise, train, and match our guide and service dogs with the people who need them, and follow up with them for life.
- **$0** The amount of government funding we receive. We are a non-profit organization and receive no federal, state, or local funding; instead, we rely **100 percent** on private contributions.
- **20** The number of days that people with vision loss live on campus, learning to navigate with their guide dogs. Service dog classes for veterans are **11** days.
- **750+** The number of core volunteers who donate time at least one day per week, including puppy raisers, breeder hosts, ambassadors, campus volunteers, our Board of Directors, and event volunteers, saving our organization more than **$12 million** annually.
- **130+** The number of staff members employed.
2018 Operating Budget
Although our current annual operating budget is $10 million, when you factor in volunteer hours valued at $12 million and in-kind contributions of $9 million, we are a $31 million operation.

Accreditations & Endorsements
Accreditations and endorsements from these premier organizations speak volumes.

- **International Guide Dog Federation** – **Accredited** – Adhering to and exceeding world benchmarks of the highest quality standards.
- **Assistance Dogs International** – **Accredited** – Adhering to and exceeding standards of excellence in all areas of assistance dog acquisition, training, and partnership.
- **Charity Navigator** – **Four Stars** – Achieving the highest possible rating based on financial health, accountability, and transparency.
- **Guide Star** – **Platinum Seal of Transparency** – Achieving a high level of transparency based on data and disclosure.
- **America’s Best Charities** – **Best in America Seal of Excellence** – Awarded to charitable organizations that meet the highest standards of public accountability, program efficiency, and cost effectiveness.
- **GreatNonprofits** – **Top-Rated** – Recognized by the only people’s choice award where volunteers, donors, and people served by nonprofits share stories of inspiration to earn this coveted award.
- **Better Business Bureau** – **Accredited Charity** – Meeting the highest standards in governance, finances, fundraising, information, and effectiveness measurement.