



**Irish
Guide
Dogs**
for the blind



**A Gift In
Your Will Can
Transform
a Life**



The training of 1 in 3
Guide or Assistance
Dogs is funded
by legacies

A Message from our CEO

Every day in Ireland the lives of so many people are transformed by having a Guide Dog or Assistance Dog. The training of one in three of our dogs is made possible by Gifts in Wills. Such gifts continue to be vital to Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind. Future gifts will help address waiting lists; and as the Irish population increases and ages, the demand on our services is predicted to increase further.

When the time is right for you to make or update your will, we hope you might consider leaving a gift to support our work. The gifts we receive vary depending on the person's wishes and circumstances. Even 1% of what's left after you take care of loved ones can make a real difference.

If you would like to have a confidential no obligation chat about leaving a gift in your Will, please get in touch with Mary Terry call 0818 506 300 or email: Mary.Terry@GuideDogs.ie. She will be happy to answer any query you have to help you with your decision. You might also like to visit our National Training Centre and see the dogs already in training for yourself.

Thank you for believing in us to help make great things happen.

Tim O'Mahony

Tim O'Mahony
Chief Executive Officer



Kim's Story



Can you imagine what it's like for your whole world to change overnight?

Can you imagine what it's like for your whole world to change overnight? To feel like a different person? To have people treat you differently and to feel lonelier than you have in your entire life? I can.

You see, a few years ago that's exactly what happened to me. There I was, a confident outgoing woman in her 50s, driving wherever I wanted to go, meeting friends, enjoying long walks in the country.

But suddenly, all of that changed. Overnight my vision became blurry and in a matter of days my sight deteriorated dramatically.

The last thing I expected my doctors to say was; "I'm sorry Kim, there's nothing that can be done". I went into shock. Everything became darker, not just visually but emotionally. I was in a dark place.

My self-worth and my confidence were on the floor.

And to make matters worse, people began to treat me differently. I felt like I was fading away, becoming invisible.





Meeting Jango was one of the best moments of my life.

I knew even then that a Guide Dog was the key to getting my life back. I'll never forget the day I finally received the call that would change my life forever.

A dog had been identified for me and he sounded perfect. His name was Jango. He loved country living but could also handle a bit of retail therapy when duty called. Upon receiving the call, I burst into floods of tears. But they were tears of relief and of joy; life was about to start again.

Meeting Jango was one of the best moments of my life. He's a beautiful big cuddly dog with the personality to match. From the moment I met him I knew we were going to be best buddies.

There are no words to properly describe how our first walk together felt. Since that day we've been inseparable. It's not just Kim anymore, it's Kim and Jango. I can't imagine waking up and not having him there.

Each morning Jango and I go for that beautiful country walk that I'd missed so much. We go shopping, visit friends and do everything I used to do before I lost my sight.

Before Jango, I could barely step outside the front door alone and now we're crossing oceans. Thank you, Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind! Thank you to the astute people who included a gift in their will. I am deeply grateful that you did.

Our Dogs To Date

In 1996, there was a time when we thought we wouldn't be able to pay the staff wages the following month. We didn't know what to do, it didn't look good. And then out of nowhere someone who passed away left us £250,000 (€317,500) in their will. Sure it saved us. The goodwill and generosity of people over the years has been nothing short of unbelievable."

Jim Dennehy
Co-founder



Today, one in three Guide Dogs are trained thanks to gifts (large and small) in wills. Thank you for considering us also.

Key Years



-  **1976:** Started in a small farmhouse in Co. Cork
-  **1980:** Opened our Model Farm Road Training Centre
-  **1988:** Introduction of the Orientation & Mobility Programme (Long Cane Training)
-  **1999:** Introduction of the Child Mobility Programme
-  **2004:** Launch of the Independent Living Skills Programme and training facility
-  **2005:** Introduction of our Assistance Dog Programme for families of children with autism
-  **2010:** Taoiseach Enda Kenny officially opens €5m redevelopment of National Headquarters and Training Centre
-  **2016:** President Michael D. Higgins visits the National Headquarters and Training Centre to celebrate our 40th Anniversary and to recognise the organisation's significant contribution to its voluntary community
-  **2022:** The successful matching of the 1,000th Guide Dog!
-  **2020's:** Continued improvements in services. One constant throughout the years has been the generosity of our supporters and the public who believe in the value of our work and see the impact in their community.



Where does your money go?



Behind the scenes, a lot of time and expertise goes into turning our adorable puppies into fully qualified Guide and Assistance Dogs. It is an incredibly skilled matching process with intensive training.

Puppy Raisers foster one of our puppies from age 9 weeks until approximately 13-14 months.

At nine weeks old, our puppies begin their journey to becoming a Guide Dog for a person who is vision impaired, or an Assistance Dog for a family of a child with autism. This journey starts in the homes of our amazing Puppy Raising Volunteers. The puppy lives in their family home.

Under the direction of our Puppy Raising Supervisors, puppies learn structure and basic obedience.

At approximately 14 months they move into our National Training Centre with our highly skilled trainers and the hard work towards graduating as a Guide or Assistance Dog begins.

Did you know it takes three years to train a specialised Mobility Instructor too?

Following being matched with a Guide or Assistance Dog, our clients then undergo training for at least 3 weeks. It doesn't end there either. Some partnerships may need extra support, and this is catered for.

We also make a lifetime promise to provide every client with a dog for as long as they need one, and this is only possible thanks to people like you.



How Do I Include Irish Guide Dogs For The Blind In My Will?



Once you decide to leave a gift in your will, it is simple to implement. With a little help from a solicitor (or availing of our Free Wills service), a clause in your will in favour of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind will ensure that your gift will reach us at a future date. Your generosity will help people achieve independence and a better quality of life.

Below is a sample wording to include a charitable bequest in a will:

For a gift of the residue of an estate:

"I give to Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, CRA Number: 20009977 of National Headquarters & Training Centre, Model Farm Road, Cork T12 WT4A all (or a fraction) of the residue of my estate whatsoever and wheresoever, and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or other officer for the time being of the said Organisation shall be a full and sufficient discharge of the same."

For a gift of a fixed sum or specific item:

"I give the sum of €_____ or I bequeath (the item specified) to Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, CRA Number: 20009977 of National Headquarters & Training Centre, Model Farm Road, Cork T12 WT4A, and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of the said Organisation shall be proper and sufficient discharge for the same."

Without the support of kind people like you we could not create life-changing partnerships between people and our amazing dogs.

Thank you for considering such a wonderful and life-changing gift.

Note: Gifts in wills are sometimes also called legacies or bequests.

Note: Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is a member of FreeWill.ie. Contact us to see how you can make your will for free online. More information at www.FreeWill.ie

Tom's Story



Tom has been involved with Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind since 1977

Tom O'Neill has been involved with Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind since 1977. He began to have sight issues when he was about 10 years old and it deteriorated gradually and was totally gone when he was 25. It's an inherited condition called Retinitis Pigmentosa.

"I was very fortunate in the late 1970's to meet a man with a Guide Dog. As my sight went downhill more and more, I quizzed and quizzed the man I had met. Was this the right thing for me to do? I knew in my heart I had to do something about my mobility. Reluctantly in 1982, I applied to Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind in Cork for a Guide Dog and got my first dog Frank in 1985.

Frank was life changing. Once again, I had mobility and could travel by public transport to work and be relaxed enough when I got home to enjoy my family and help me live my life to the full. Frank was a Labrador, and I am currently on my 7th Guide Dog Qeb."

You can see Tom's video on our website.



Conor's Story

She is the best therapy that Conor has ever received

Conor's mum Trish told us their story.

From the day Conor was diagnosed with autism, our life as a family became limited. Going out together became an ordeal. A trip to the park was impossible. If there was water or a river nearby Conor would try to run to it, with no sense of the danger it posed. Busy environments like the city centre were out as Conor would become overwhelmed by the noise, hustle and bustle. We started to close ourselves off, we said no to invites to parties or to visit friends. We felt alone, isolated and different – we didn't belong. He was missing out on so much.

The doors opened again when Quelda came into our lives! We now have the confidence to go anywhere – we will try anything as we know Conor is safe with Quelda. She has an amazing calming effect on him – he will reach down and rub her ear if he is feeling overwhelmed.

Conor has seen so much – the city, lots of beaches, the train, Galway Aquarium and his Nana's house in Tramore, even a trip to Santa.

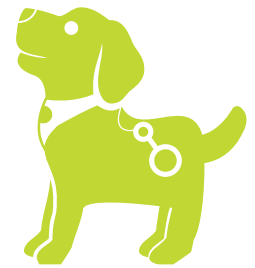
Quelda became family. She is the best therapy that Conor has ever received. She has brought our family back together – we spend more time together now instead of splitting up at weekends. When Conor is with Quelda he smiles. She has changed all of our lives.

For other life-changing stories please visit our website.



Puppy Love

Emma's Story



Emma has been living in Munster for many years. She started puppy raising in 2000. Emma then became a Breeding Volunteer and has raised well over 100 beautiful puppies in her house, many of which have gone on to become trained Guide and Assistance Dogs.. With as many as 10 or 12 in a litter, it's a busy task but one she relishes. She and her husband Paul have included Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind in their will. "We have no children (other than the puppies) so leaving a gift in my will to charities makes a lot of sense to me. It's a wonderful thing to be able to support Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind in this way."

You can also see Emma talking more about her puppy raising and her life changing pledge in the 'Gifts in Will' section of our website.





To find out more about
transforming someone's life
by leaving a gift in your will
please contact Mary Terry

e: Mary.Terry@GuideDogs.ie
t: 0818 506 300



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