

Guide•Dogs FOR THE BLIND

*“What diabetes took away, Cairo has given
back to me—my freedom!”*

—George M. Thompson

Dear (Donor name),

In 1979, diabetes robbed me of my sight. As time passed, and in spite of my navigating skills with a cane, I found myself traveling less and was more fearful of venturing to new places.

Can you imagine all of your activities being confined to the block you live on?

My neighborhood has narrow streets with plenty of nice restaurants and shops and it's a great place to live. But with all the people and traffic, I felt confined to a very limited area when I was alone. If my wife was away on a work-related trip, or I couldn't get a friend to accompany me, I didn't feel safe traveling on my own beyond my own block.

Losing my sight was life-changing, but losing my independence was heartbreaking...

I have a busy life as a school counselor and safe, independent travel is essential to me. I wanted to get out, go places and do things on my own. What kind of life would I have being so dependent on others?

If it weren't for supporters like you, I never could have turned to Guide Dogs for the Blind to regain the freedom I lost. Thank you so much!

Now, like thousands of other Guide Dogs for the Blind alumni, the assistance of my Guide Dog, Cairo, enables me to enjoy a fulfilling, productive professional life and an active personal life, too.

Please, will you consider sending a generous gift of Ask1 or \$Ask 2 today? There are so many others like me...people who can live independent productive lives with the assistance of a Guide Dog.

Because of the superior training my guide Cairo and I received on the Guide Dogs for the Blind campus, we've impressed friends and strangers alike. Just the other day, my dinner companion couldn't help but exclaim on the way to the restaurant, “That dog is amazing!”

What he was seeing was the magnificence of the human animal team in action...

Cairo leading me effortlessly down sidewalks littered with signs, potted plants, tables, chairs, car bumpers and even tricycles, not to mention all the people. We never slackened our pace. Cairo's head never stopped swiveling.



I am thankful every day that supporters like you chose to give a generous gift to Guide Dogs for the Blind. I hope you'll be equally generous again today.

Before Cairo and I even met, you helped ensure that he (and of course, his mom and littermates!) had the best veterinary care. And, because of your kindness, the volunteer family that raised him from a puppy had support and guidance during his early socialization and training.

While I looked forward to the challenge of working with a Guide Dog, it was a huge relief to know that everything—transportation, housing, training, assistance with veterinary care and support after I returned home—would be paid for through the generosity of Guide Dog supporters.

I wish you could've been there when Cairo and I first met. He's a beautiful black Lab, though he was a bit reserved at first. But, by day five we were on the floor playing and all of a sudden it clicked. He decided I was his and we've been inseparable ever since. He's such a sweet dog and an amazingly good guide who makes every outing fun!

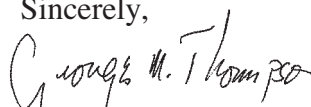
Cairo has truly changed my life. Guide Dogs for the Blind has created more than 11,000 partnerships like ours since 1942. And, unique to the Guide Dogs for the Blind program, every team is given the promise of lifetime support. That promise is important to ensure every team has the help they need to meet future challenges.

Will you please send the most generous gift you can today? Guide Dogs for the Blind trains the world's finest Guide Dogs and provides all services at no cost to the blind and visually impaired.

Your support is critical in making sure that everyone like me, who longs to live an independent, productive life in spite of blindness, can realize their dreams.

Cairo is an amazing animal, my friend for life and the reason I have my freedom back. Thanks to you, Cairo and Guide Dogs for the Blind, I feel safe at home, at work, in my neighborhood and anywhere our 6 feet (and a tail!) can take us.

Sincerely,


George Thompson and Cairo



P.S. Please send your tax deductible gift soon! Calls are received daily for assistance and your gift returns independence and freedom to a person who is blind or visually impaired...perhaps even someone you know.