

# ANNUAL REPORT

2009



**Eye of the Pacific Guide Dogs Foundation**

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EYE OF THE PACIFIC GUIDE DOGS FOUNDATION

### MISSION STATEMENT

To provide quality guide dogs, electronic aids, and other services to legally blind residents of the State of Hawaii and neighboring U.S. territories that will empower them to lead safe, independent, and meaningful lives, and to educate the general public on laws and etiquette relating to guide dog accessibility.

### PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Eye of the Pacific Guide Dogs Foundation was established in 1955. Our mission is to provide Hawaii residents who are legally blind with fully trained guide dogs or electronic aids to enhance their confidence in independent travel and communication.

We currently have six direct consumer programs: Guide Dog Training, Guide Dog After-Care, Guide Dog Health Care, Retired Guide Dogs, Orientation & Mobility Services and Electronic Aid. These programs are managed by our Executive Director and volunteers. Through the generous contributions, private donations, monetary gifts and fundraising, we are able to provide quality guide dogs, electronic aids and other services at no cost to our blind Hawaii residents.

In the Guide Dog Training Program, Hawaii residents who are legally blind are considered for guide dog placement. In the first stage, which is the application process, consideration is based on the review of medical documents, orientation and mobility certification, certification of blindness and several interviews. The second stage, which is the placement process, is the period in which guide dog training centers use to match a dog with our applicant. The final and third stage is the training period in which the applicant is flown to the training center for 4 weeks of training. A guide dog instructor will return with our applicant and introduce the guide dog to his or her new home and surroundings. We provide assistance in completing the application, gathering of records and assessment interviews. We finance the training program which includes the cost of the dog, equipment, air fare, and tuition.

Our After Care Support Program provides ongoing emotional and technical support for our guide dog teams. We do this by having a guide dog instructor available at least twice a year for follow-up meetings with our guide dog teams. The team is able to seek technical advice in overcoming challenging situations and learning new methods to improve their working relationship. This continued support is at no cost to our guide dog teams. We finance the air fare, per diem, service fees and housing for our instructors.

We implemented the Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Services to ensure guide dog applicant independence in mobility, provide readiness support for applicants and ongoing mobility orientation for clients establishing new routes and overcoming environmental changes. This program re-enforces safety in mobility and supports clients' determination to maintain independence in travel.

After eight to ten years of mobility services performed by our dedicated guide dogs, we realized that these dogs are accustomed to high quality health care. As

a retired veteran of guide work, we provided financial assistance to ensure the continued wellness care of these dogs.

Our Electronic Aid Program is designed to provide assistive technology aids to our qualifying residents that may enhance their independence in communication and mobility. Devices that we have provided include a global positioning device called Trekker, the KNFB Reader Mobile and Victor Reader Stream. For this program, we provide full financial support and training workshops.

## PROGRESS 2009

### PROGRAMS:

#### **Guide Dog Training:2**

Two residents received guide dogs from Guide Dogs Victoria of Australia in May. One was an experienced guide dog handler and one was a first time handler. As of December, all teams were reported to be progressing well.

#### **Guide Dog After-Care: 13**

We provided our clients with two follow up visits. Our guide dog teams have been reported to be working very well with minimal concerns. All of our teams are active in their respective communities.

#### **Guide Dog Health Care Program: 13**

Guide dogs are high maintenance animals and require regular veterinary and grooming care. Maintaining high level care provides for a happy and comfortable service animal. This program provides financial assistance with the high cost of veterinary and grooming services. Continued regular veterinary care also contributes to the prevention and detection of illnesses that the handler may not otherwise detect early enough.

#### **Retired Guide Dogs Program 3**

Three of our veteran guide dogs are reported to be enjoying their retirement and continue to receive financial assistance for their veterinary care to ensure quality care.

## Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Services 3

Services were provided to a guide dog applicant who received services to enhance independence in preparation for training. Two guide dog teams received extensive O&M services to build confidence and improve mobility skills. These two teams have since expanded their travel to more places in the community!

## Electronic Aid Program: 15

Ten Victor Reader Streams were allocated in May to blind youths ranging from ages six to sixteen. Recipients are able to access different reading materials from a wide range of sources. Our students can now listen to the text books, music, digital books, documents, podcasts, newspapers and a whole lot more! Five KNFB Reader Mobiles were allocated in September. This device captures the image of various forms of documents ranging from menus to bank statements and is converted to electronic text allowing the screen reader to read the text to the user. Recipients of these devices were all adults who have active daily activities.

## Education Program: 980 children & adults

Meet & Greet a Guide Dog Education Program is designed to help children understand the job of guide dogs and re-enforce important rules that the public can follow which will allow the dogs to maintain their focus on their tasks. Our guide dog teams have visited approximately 150 students statewide. Teams visited public schools, libraries and a few private schools.

Doing Business with Guide Dogs Project is designed to provide businesses and community groups with written references to laws and rules related to guide dog

accessibility. We also provide businesses with posters that we believe will offer tips to employees that serve individuals with service animals. In addition, we offer a speaker that will talk to employees about service animals and blindness. At no cost to the business, we have visited approximately 830 employees.

## REVENUES FOR 2009

Balance as of December 31, 2008	\$272,680.01
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<b>I N C O M E</b>
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|--|-------------|
| • Aloha United Way (Oahu)  | \$33,331.00 |
| • Contributions (including grants, gifts and other similar amounts)      | \$132,856   |
| • Investments (including dividends, interests and other similar amounts) | \$526.00    |
| • Fund Raising   | \$0         |

<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$166,839.00</b>
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<b>E X P E N S E</b>
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Program Services	\$176,211.00
Administrative	\$28,235.00

Fund Raising	\$11,338.00
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$215,784.00</b>

## BUDGET 2010

Balance as of December 31, 2008	\$253,009.00
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<b>REVENUES</b>
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Aloha United Way (Oahu)	\$32,000.00
Aloha United Way (Other)	\$13,000.00
Trust Funds	\$133,300.00
Miscellaneous	\$6,000.00
Interest	\$1,000.00
Fund Raising	\$0
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$185,300.00</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>
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Program Services	\$137,000.00
Administrative	\$115,158.00
Fund Raising	\$5,500.00
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$257,658.00</b>

**Balance (Revenues less Expenses)**

**\$180,651.00**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME	POSITION	TERM
Twila Lai	President	01/10/09 - 01/23/10
David Palomares	Vice President	01/10/09 - 01/23/10
Victoria Cozloff	Treasurer	01/10/09 - 01/23/10
Sam Fisk	Secretary	01/10/09 - 01/23/10
Lia Anderson	Director	01/10/09 - 01/23/10
Trudy Fernandez	Director	01/10/09 - 07/14/10
Dorothy Fife	Director	01/10/09 - 04/21/09
LeAnn Lujan	Director	01/10/09 - 01/23/10
Howard Murai	Director	01/10/09 - 05/19/09
Sheryl Nelson	Director	01/10/09 - 01/23/10
Charlene Ota	Director	01/10/09 - 01/23/10
Dr. Ronald Wagner-Wright	Interim Director	05/19/09 - 01/23/10