



Paws & Tails

A newsletter from South African Guide-Dogs Association for the Blind

A legacy continued

Written by Michelle Immink



It is said that the apple does not fall far from the tree. This rings very true for GDA's youngest employee, Caela Driver.

Caela's father, Malcolm Driver, is well-known and loved amongst GDA staff and supporters. Malcolm was a part of the Guide Dogs movement for more than 43 years, the last nine of which he spent in his role as Executive Director.

Caela is following in her father's footsteps. She is currently employed as a Learner Guide Dog Instructor at the Association.

"My father played a significant role in my life. His influence shaped me into the person I am today".

Caela speaks with much fondness of the dogs she trains. "It gives me a great sense of satisfaction and pride to see the difference my dogs are making in the lives of their owners. It is the best feeling in the world."

Caela credits her success to her family. "We are a very close-knit family. My parents have always supported me in everything I've undertaken. My father has taught me to appreciate the small things in life and to treat other people with dignity and respect. I am proud to say that he is my role model. If I could leave the impression he has in the lives of those I come into contact with, I would feel satisfied that I have continued his legacy."

Where are they now? An Update of our COM Graduates

Written by Elizabeth Louw

Our last class of Orientation and Mobility Practitioners completed their training in November 2016. We are proud to say that they are all employed in the visual



impairment sector where they are making a meaningful difference in the lives of people living with vision loss.

The services they provide aim at equipping people who have vision loss, with the skills necessary to enable them to become more independent within their environment. Because each individual has specific needs, each client is evaluated as an individual. They are taught the skills they would like to learn, such as how to make a hot drink or how to cook a meal. Someone may want to learn how to use a long cane or may need to learn a new route as they have moved home or would like to visit a specific shopping centre. All the training takes place within the client's environment, so our O&M Practitioners travel a great deal.

Florence Mampuru and Nape Mashiane were employed by S A Guide-Dogs Association for the Blind and are providing O&M services to people in the Gauteng area. The remaining four students were employed by various hospitals within South Africa. Godfrey Magagula works at Kwamhlanga Hospital, Phumzile Mhlabane was employed by Temba Hospital and Sindisiwe Khoza assists patients at Ermelo Hospital. These graduates are all employed by the Mpumalanga Department of Health.

Meggie Banda is employed by the National Organisation for the Blind in South Africa (NOBSA), who are based in Soweto.

It's raining Puppies!

Written by Michelle Immink

Puppy Block staff members and volunteers have been kept on their toes over the last few months.

Since the mailing of our December Newsletter, an astonishing 48 puppies have been born! We look forward to bear witness to the journey of these puppies and their development into confident working dogs that make a difference in the lives of their owners.



Faith's Puppy Shower

Written by Michelle Immink



Marissa Meiring, brood stock holder of Faith celebrated Faith's pregnancy by hosting a Puppy Shower. The event provided a platform to gather donations for GDA's Puppy Block whilst creating awareness about the purpose of a Guide Dog.

Guests were asked to bring toys for Faith's puppies and treats for Faith. Looking at the pictures, we'd say that Faith had a blast!



Do's and Don'ts when interacting with a person who is visually impaired:

- Do identify yourself, especially when entering a room.
- Don't shout when you speak. People who are visually impaired can't see but their hearing is good.
- Do give a clear word picture when describing things to an individual with vision loss. Include details such as colour, texture, shape and landmarks.
- Don't be afraid to use words like "blind" or "see." It is still correct to say, "Nice to see you."
- Do give specific directions like, "The desk is a metre to your right."

*Dates to diarise

- 6 August - Winter Acoustic Picnic
- 10 September - Market Day
- 14 October - Gala Dinner
- 19 November - Telkom 947 Cycle Challenge

For more information regarding any of the above events, please contact Juliette Powell at 011 705 3512 or JulietteP@guidedog.org.za

A message from Gail

Our marketing department is continuously looking at ways in which we can optimally use our resources whilst providing relevant, inspirational content. We will be using three standardised envelopes for all our communication. These envelopes will be rotated throughout the year thereby minimising wastage and creating consistency.

Please be sure to open our communication to read about our latest news!

I hope that you enjoyed reading this Newsletter. Please accept the enclosed Emergency Contact Card as a token of our appreciation of your continued support.

Warm regards

Gail Glover

Executive Director



Emergency Contact Information

In case of emergency, please contact:

Name: _____

Contact: _____

Personal Information

Name: _____

Contact: _____

Allergies: _____

I have pets at home that need care: Yes No

I am an Organ Donor: Yes No

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South Africa



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