



irish guide dogs
for the blind

Guidelines

The Magazine of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind **Winter 2013** Recommended donation: €2

*“What the dogs
give people is just
amazing. Irish Guide
Dogs give people
back their life.”*

**Ireland's
new
Assistant
Manager
Roy Keane
talks about
his work
with us**

10 Round-up of 2013
fundraising events

4 The day Indy
met Enda

12 From puppy power
to hero dog!

A gift in your will can help change the future for someone just like Lean



“With the support of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind you can truly get on with your life, get your confidence and independence back. I’m back in control of my life now.”

Lean Kennedy and Guide Dog Murphy

A gift in your will has the power to make a big difference and improve the lives of people who are blind or vision impaired and families of children with autism.

For further information or to receive a legacy brochure please contact Pádraig Mallon Irish Guide Dogs CEO on **1850 506300** or email **legacy@guidedogs.ie**.

www.guidedogs.ie



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for the blind



Padraig Mallon, CEO



Welcome from CEO

I'm glad to have the opportunity to write to you to thank you for your support for Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind. With so many competing causes in these very challenging times, we are grateful that you sufficiently value our work with people who are vision impaired and families of children with autism to give us your time as a volunteer or to trust us with your donations.

We are privileged to have trained close to 200 people this year, people of all ages and from all over the country. Through our work we have helped them achieve improved mobility, greater independence and a much improved quality of life. We have been doing this work, with your help, for 38 years. In that time we have trained more than 800 Guide Dog partnerships and more recently we have been privileged to train almost 280 families with an Assistance Dog for their child with autism. Our plans are to continue to grow our outputs in order to meet an ever-increasing demand for all of our services.

All plans need people to bring them to life. It is because we have such great people associated with us I have great confidence we will succeed. Thank you to our staff, our volunteers who care for our dogs and raise the funds we require to fund our work and to all who donate so generously of their time and money. You are enabling us to do what we do and make a real contribution to the lives of so many people today, tomorrow and into the future.

Padraig Mallon, CEO

Contents

Welcome from CEO	3
Top 10 achievements from 2013	4
News round-up	6
Exclusive interview with Roy Keane	8
Photos of 2013 fundraising events	10
Photos of our services and our dogs	12
Thank you	14
How you can help	15

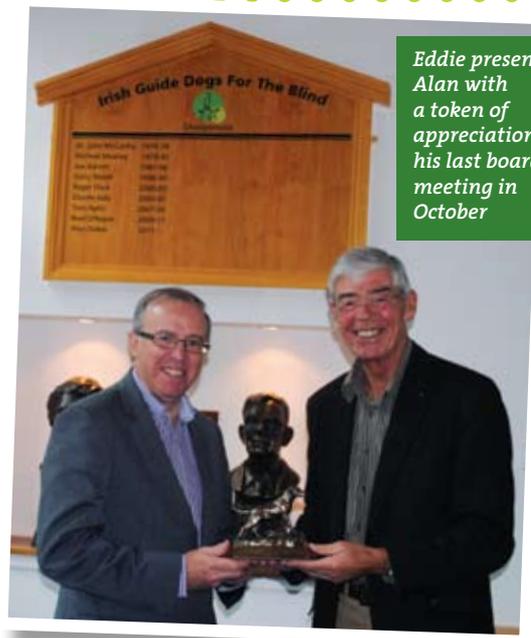
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New Chairman for Irish Guide Dogs



In 2013 Eddie Murphy, Chairman and Managing director of Ford Ireland, was appointed Chairman of the Board of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind. Mr Murphy recently took over the voluntary role from Alan Dukes, the former Fine Gael leader. Mr Dukes served as our Chairman between 2011 and 2013. Mr Murphy will be the Chairperson of the Board until 2016.

"I look forward to working with Padraig, our CEO, our staff and the huge network of volunteers," said Mr Murphy. "It is a fantastic charity. I relish the upcoming challenges and opportunities of the role. On behalf of all of us who have had the privilege of working with him, I would like to thank Alan for all of his hard work and dedication over the nine years which he served as a Board Member."



Eddie presents Alan with a token of appreciation at his last board meeting in October



Top 10 achievements from 2013

It has been a great and eventful year here at Irish Guide Dogs.



Pictured is Instructor Aileen's Foy August Assistance Dog class

1 We trained almost 200 people across all of our services including our Guide Dog and Assistance Dog programmes as well as our Independent Living Skills, Orientation and Mobility and our Child Mobility Programmes. To date we have supported more than 800 Guide Dog partnerships.



Thank you to all who took part in our SHADES street collections in May



An Taoiseach Enda Kenny pictured with James Dunne, his daughter Tessa and Assistance Dog Indy

2 To mark World Autism Day in April we met with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Minister for Health James O'Reilly at Dáil Eireann. Since our Assistance Dog programme was launched in 2005 we have supported almost 280 families. We closed the waiting list for the programme in summer 2012 due to an over-demand. We plan to reopen the list in January 2014.

3 We are completely reliant and grateful to YOU for ensuring we can change people's lives – 80% of our funding comes through voluntary donations and events. We held our most successful SHADES fundraising campaign to date, raising almost €200,000. Thank you to all of you who helped in any way. Save the date for SHADES 2014 – April 28th to May 2nd.



4 Through our services our clients are able to live their lives more independently with greater mobility in many different ways. In 2013 teenager Dardan Daka, one of our mobility clients, took part in a RTE TV show in Costa Rica, *In Your Shoes*. There are countless other smaller but hugely significant success stories. Anne Marie Kelly's son Cian who has an Assistance Dog Edwen (pictured left) told us that Cian has gained so much confidence because of Edwen he is now able to travel to school on the school bus, something he would not have been able to do before.



5 Our corporate supporters continue to help us change lives for the better. In 2013 we were selected as Depuy and Energia's Charity of the Year. Ford Ireland donated fleet vehicles and a brand new Ford Focus to raffle. ECCO donated footwear to our kennels team for the ninth year in a row. Thank you all.



6 We held the first Kinsale10 run, a race solely supporting Irish Guide Dogs. Sonia O'Sullivan launched the event for us (Sonia is pictured above with Ube). We had a glorious day of sunshine at Garretstown beach, Cork on 25th August with more than 300 runners taking part.



7 In September we launched a joint brochure with the NCBI encouraging people who are visually impaired to apply for long-cane training and our Guide Dog programme. We also encouraged people to sign up for a Guide Dog on World Sight Day. We were lucky to get support from Rosanna Davison pictured above with Guide Dog owner Patrick Costigan and Guide Dog Quandro.



8 We held a fantastic Open Day at our HQ in August. More than 1,000 people took the opportunity to visit our training centre, watch our dog demonstrations (pictured left) and we raised more than €16,000 in fundraising income.



Mairead Farrell helped raise awareness of our 2014 Calendar. Mairead is pictured with Assistance Dog Zeta

9 As always many tireless volunteers, branch members and staff held events for us throughout the country raising much-needed income. From golf classics to coffee mornings; cycles to fashion shows, it all makes a big difference. A new branch also launched in North Dublin during the year.



Sinead O'Keeffe, Commercial Manager, collects a cheque for €47,000 from Guide Dog Owner Billy Shanahan and his Guide Dog Bess as well as some of the Blazing Bikers fundraisers from Cork, Tipperary and Waterford

10 Christmas at Guide Dogs is always a very important time for us to generate much-needed funds. In 2013 we produced a brand new range of Christmas cards and a seasonally themed calendar. The gorgeous photos of our dogs and pups by volunteer photographer John Ryan and witty captions proved very popular with dog lovers and public alike.



In brief

Accreditation as a Guide Dog School

Irish Guide Dogs is proud to be a member of the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF). Comprising 82 member schools, the role of the IGDF is to serve people who are blind or vision impaired around the world, by training and providing Guide Dogs. In October 2013 we underwent our five-year assessment to ensure our operational work meets the high international standards set by the IGDF. We are pleased to say we were highly commended for our high standards. To learn more about the IGDF, you can visit its website www.igdf.org.uk.

Continuous Improvement Programme

Irish Guide Dogs is committed to a LEAN or Continuous Improvement Programme in order to reduce waste, improve processes and provide a better overall service for our clients. We strive to be as cost-effective as possible to give our generous supporters the best value for money.

In 2013 the Continuous Improvement project team focused on our kennels and through the project we were able to save time and money, resulting in a better working environment for our staff and a more efficient use of time. We will be focusing on other departments in 2014.

Brand Work Project

This time next year, Irish Guide Dogs may have a whole new look! We are busy working on an exciting brand development project with RichardsDee brand agency, which we hope will strengthen our brand and reputation as well as increase awareness of our services.

Fireworks Awareness Video

The Halloween period can be a stressful time for many of our clients. Guide and Assistance Dogs have been forced into early retirement because of traumatic shock caused by exposure to fireworks. In 2013 Irish Guide Dogs produced a public awareness video to help spread the word about the dangers of fireworks. It is available to watch on our YouTube, Facebook and www.guidedogs.ie.

Vision health strategy needed for Ireland



Padraig Mallon, Irish Guide Dogs CEO, pictured with Avril Daly, Fighting Blindness CEO

Irish Guide Dogs is part of the National Coalition for Vision Health, a multi-agency group comprising people working in vision-related advocacy and healthcare charities, healthcare professionals and patient representatives. The expert group launched a report earlier in 2013, *Framework to Adopt a Strategic Approach for Vision Health in Ireland*, which calls on the Government to help prevent sight loss and be more proactive about visual health. The report outlines five national objectives to improve vision health in Ireland:

1. Improve outcomes and the overall experience of people by ensuring adequate accessible services are

- in place.
2. Recognise and resource sight loss prevention and early intervention.
3. Support the general public to achieve a better understanding of good eye health and the primary risks associated with sight loss.
4. Position research as a key factor in promoting healthy vision, combating eye disease, eliminating avoidable sight loss and improving quality of care.
5. Engage people who are vision impaired in the design and delivery of support services.

Download the full report from our website www.guidedogs.ie. We will keep you updated on our progress.

UCC evaluates Assistance Dog programme

The Department of Epidemiology & Public Health in UCC has undertaken an evaluation of our Assistance Dog Programme for children with autism, led by Dr Louise Burgoyne & Dr Tony Fitzgerald. The evaluation found the programme has significant benefits for parents and guardians of children who have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The study compared the experiences of families who have an Assistance Dog compared with families who are currently on the waiting list and do not have a dog. The study measured parents' and guardians' perception on: child safety from environmental hazards; public acceptance and awareness of ASD; levels of caregiver strain; levels of competence with managing a child with ASD; and benefits and constraints of having an Assistance Dog.



Noah Coughlan with his much-loved Assistance Dog Picasso

Parents and guardians with an Assistance Dog rate their child as significantly safer from environmental dangers compared with those on the waiting list and they rate themselves as significantly more competent in managing their child with ASD.

Launched in 2005 the Assistance Dog Programme was the first of its kind in Europe. Today there are almost 280 families in Ireland with an Assistance Dog. The primary function of an Assistance Dog is to help a child by promoting calmness and acting as a safety aid to the parent.



Guide Dog-in-Training Ned is pictured with Jerry Buttimer TD, Neil Ashworth from the NCBI and Deirdre Moriarty from Irish Guide Dogs

In brief

Cork 0 to 100

Cork photographer Carol Murphy (pictured right) is putting together a unique project to help raise awareness of Irish Guide Dogs. Her aim is to capture a portrait of a female and male who live in Cork of every age between 0 and 100 (and possibly older than that!). Carol has pledged the money raised through this project to Irish Guide Dogs. Carol is still looking for people in Cork to volunteer. Call her on 086 873 6834 if you are interested in taking part.



Information campaign encourages increased independence for vision impaired

Hundreds of people who are vision impaired are completely dependent on relatives and friends to get around their communities. At Irish Guide Dogs we work hard to ensure people are as independent and mobile as possible. In September we launched an information campaign with the National Council for the Blind (NCBI) to increase awareness of the free mobility services available to people who are vision impaired.

Jerry Buttimer, TD and Chairperson of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children, launched the brochure at our HQ. "I am delighted to raise awareness of the services offered by Irish Guide Dogs and the NCBI," said Mr Buttimer. "Often people who are vision impaired may simply not know that these free services are available or may think that they just don't need

help. However some basic mobility training can make a big difference for many people and can be the difference between getting by and living your life as fully as possible."

"Sight loss is one of the leading causes of loss of independence. Our ethos is giving people an opportunity to go forward to a better life with independence and mobility," said Pdraig Mallon, CEO of Irish Guide Dogs. "We hope this information campaign encourages people to get in touch with both organisations to find out how we can help."

The information brochure was distributed to 5,000 people on the NCBI database. If you know someone who would benefit, please contact us on 1850 506300 for a copy.

Awareness of access issues

Irish Guide Dogs tries to create better awareness among a wide audience of the benefits of mobility training for persons with vision loss. Reduced mobility greatly affects quality of life and limits opportunities for social participation among people who are vision impaired.

In May Léan Kennedy, our Access and Education Officer, spoke at the Irish College of Ophthalmologists Conference about the importance of mobility and independence for persons with vision loss. Léan Kennedy also presented lectures on this topic with Victoria Elliott, Child Mobility Officer, and Kim Wulff, Mobility Instructor, to undergraduates and postgraduates studying medicine, health promotion and occupational therapy in UCC and the University of Limerick throughout 2013.

L-R: Jerry Buttimer, TD; Jim Dennehy, Irish Guide Dogs founder; Senator Mary Ann O'Brien; Pdraig Mallon, Irish Guide Dogs CEO; Alan Dukes, Irish Guide Dogs then Chairman; and Parliamentary Assistant Kevin Kelly and his Guide Dog Miles



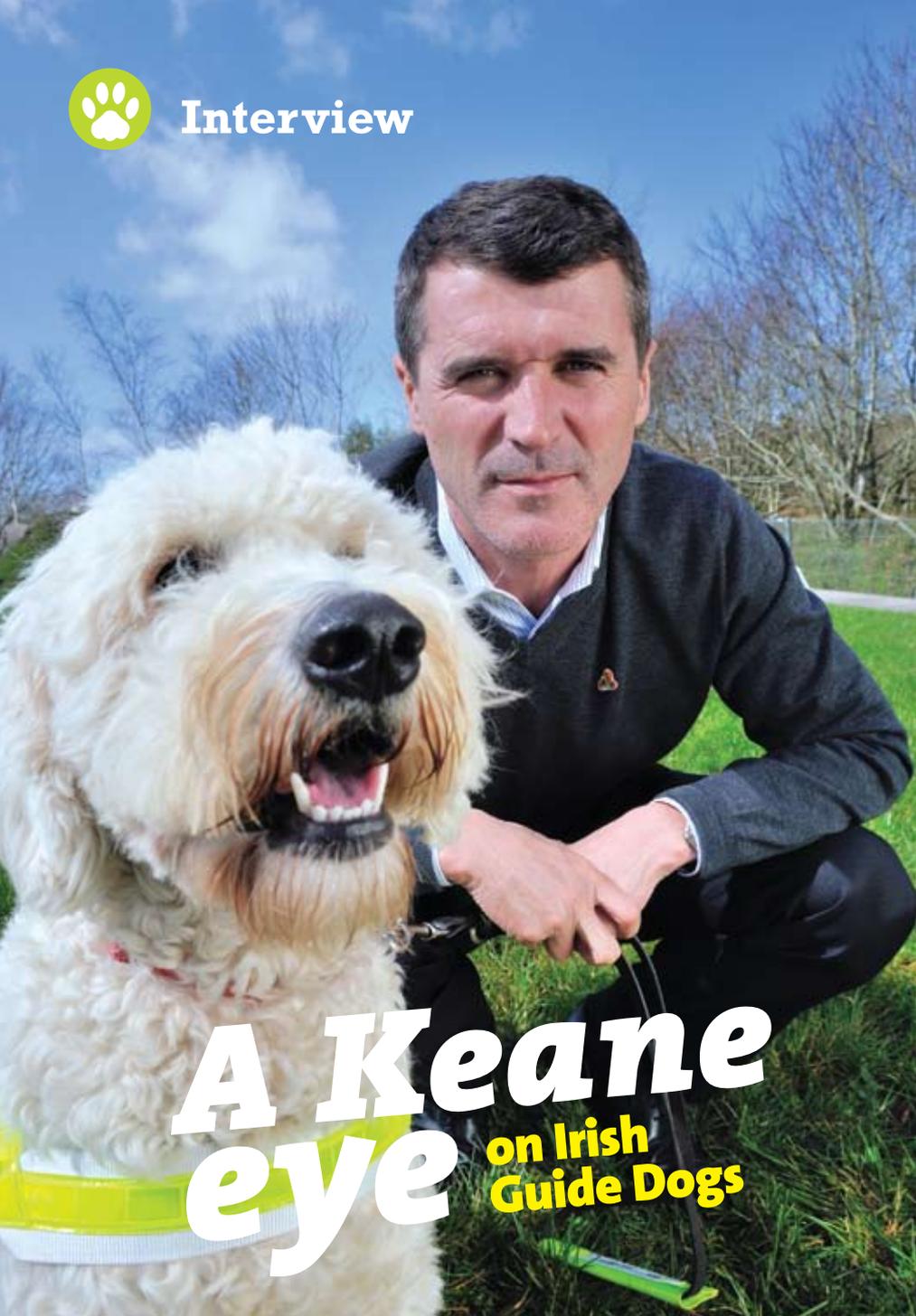
Call for more government funding

A delegation from Irish Guide Dogs met with Ministers, TDs and Senators in May to discuss the need for greater financial support for our services for people who are vision impaired and families of children with autism. The delegation was hosted by Senator Mary Ann O'Brien whose Parliamentary Assistant Kevin Kelly is a Guide Dog Owner. Kevin is Ireland's first vision impaired Parliamentary Assistant.

"We have a huge demand for our services but we require greater funding to meet his demand. We have a waiting list of up to three years for some of our

services," said Pdraig Mallon, CEO of Irish Guide Dogs. "We are delivering a much-needed public service that is in high demand however we currently receive only 20% of our funds through statutory sources. The other 80% is through fundraising and the efforts of thousands of volunteers nationwide.

"20% is not an equitable level for us and we urgently need an additional €500k in statutory funding to ensure we can continue to provide vitally important services for vision-impaired people and families of children with autism."



A Keane eye on Irish Guide Dogs

What attracted you to become patron of Irish Guide Dogs?

Irish Guide Dogs appealed to me because it is such a great cause. I love dogs; it's based in Cork; and they asked me! To be honest I wasn't sure it was going to last this long but that tells you how well it's gone and how much I enjoy what I do – I enjoy the challenge; I enjoy helping out. I'm here to try to raise the profile, help get volunteers involved, meet people who've got Guide and Assistance Dogs, see the people who train the dogs and the puppywalkers. I love doing it.

What advice do you have for people who are considering getting involved with Irish Guide Dogs?

Just go for it, don't hesitate. Come up and take a look around the centre. There

are loads of benefits to being involved. When I leave Guide Dogs I always feel better about myself. I've met lots of blind people over the years and it's just amazing what the dogs do – what they give people. The dogs make you feel better anyway. The hardest part is trying to leave here without stealing a few puppies! There are lots of good causes out there but for me I would back Irish Guide Dogs every day of the week. You can show support in lots of ways. They are always looking for financial support – just come up, have a look around the kennels and buy a calendar!

Did you always love dogs?

Always – we always had dogs growing up. I always felt I looked after them the best although I'm sure my sister and my

Roy Keane's name is synonymous with the work of Irish Guide Dogs. **Paula McGovern** caught up with him to find out more about his motivation for working with us and life in general

brothers would argue! And when I went to England I always had dogs. I think having a dog in your house makes it a home – they're good for the family; they bring something to the home. The Guide Dogs are obviously a level up because of what they give to people; they give them independence. People can go on holidays; they can go to the shops; these dogs are giving people back their life.

What do you think you would have done had you not been a footballer?

I dread to think! Ah I'd like to think I would have done okay. I reckon I would have worked outdoors. The idea of sitting in an office wouldn't have appealed to me. I would have been a hard worker; I do like working hard. I think that's what helped me in my career.

Who were your heroes growing up?

I wouldn't say I had any sort of heroes but there were a lot of sporting people I admired and I liked the idea of what they are doing in their lives – a lot of hurlers and footballers in particular. In terms of soccer, I looked up to players like Bryan Robson and Glenn Hoddle. I used to be a Spurs fan when I was younger and I liked Bryan Robson and the way he played. Ironically I ended up playing with Bryan which was fantastic.

Did you ever think about pursuing another sport instead of soccer?

I was always obsessed with all sports – boxing, hurling and football. I would literally watch any sport and I played them all. Soccer was my love though. When I got to 14 or 15 I thought I had better focus on one because you have to be careful – you can almost do too many



sports. My advice for kids is to play as many sports as you can. Then when you get to a certain age hang your hat on one of them and focus on that to become good at it.

What is your favourite sport to watch?

I still think the best sport out there to watch is hurling. My career is focused on soccer but I have great admiration for GAA players. If I had a chance to watch any game in the world tomorrow I would go to a hurling match. I've been to the Superbowl, Formula 1 racing, Champion's League matches, but the All-Ireland is up there with all of them as a great occasion.

“There are lots of good causes out there but for me I would back Irish Guide Dogs every day of the week. The hardest part is trying to leave here without stealing a few puppies!”

What is the best advice you have ever received?

The best advice I have ever heard is simple advice: train hard, listen to your coaches, and don't miss training. For any kids who are reading this: practice, practice, practice. You have to practice; it's not just going to happen. You think sitting in front of your television wanting to be a footballer; somehow it will just happen, it doesn't. The sportspeople I really admire, the teams I really admire over the years – the likes of the All Blacks – they train hard. There are no shortcuts. Young people have to get that into their heads. Wearing fancy boots or buying the fancy gear won't make you a top player. I never missed training. I'm not patting myself on the back but I wanted to train. I've got young kids now myself and it's like anything else, if you want to play piano, you practice. You want to be a good driver; you practice. It comes from experience. And don't think for one minute there is a magic wand out there.

How do you relax?

If I'm not relaxing with my family I'm

walking my dogs. When I'm out walking my dogs I'm really at ease with myself and clearing my head, even in the rain or the snow. My dogs are great for my health. I've got two dogs a Labrador and a German Shepherd and they are a blessing to me. The health benefits are huge in terms of getting out and about; they're good for my health, good for my head, good physically, and I get great enjoyment out of them. I'd be lost without them. I understand they are a big responsibility; your whole day can be dictated by your dogs; timing, holidays. But again I wouldn't swap them for anything.

The other thing I do to relax is watch films. Since I was a kid I always loved going to the pictures and I'd go to the pictures every day of the week if I could. Give me the big screen, a cup of tea and a bit of chocolate and that's me totally

relaxed!

Which do you prefer: Cork or Manchester?

I've lived in Manchester longer than I lived in Cork but Cork is my home. But I'm also grateful – Manchester has been good to me; England has been good to me. It has given me a career and a life and my kids were born there. Manchester people remind me a bit like Cork people; I like their humour. I think people generally are straight up with you. I do like Manchester but Cork is my home.

Which do you prefer: Soccer or dogs?

Hmmm I don't know. Soccer has given me a great life, but I love my dogs. I really don't know. I'm going to pass on that one! That's the toughest question I've had in the 20 odd years I've been a professional! 🐾

Famous faces help us out in 2013!



L-R: Luke Fitzgerald, Peter O'Mahony, Anthony Nash and Lizzy Lee

While Roy is our main patron, 2013 was an exciting year for us and we had the privilege of working with some famous faces to help raise funds and awareness of our work.

- Rugby star Luke Fitzgerald showed his softer side when he promoted our Puppy Love campaign in February.
- Irish & Munster rugby player Peter O'Mahony took some time out to launch the 'Tussle in the Tent' white-collar boxing night.
- Lisa Cannon launched our National Walk in June.
- Sonia O'Sullivan launched our Kinsale10 in early summer.
- Cork athlete Lizzy Lee encouraged women in Munster to run the Cork Mini-Marathon for us in September.
- Former Miss World Rosanna Davidson took part in a photocall with Guide Dog Owner Patrick Costigan and

Guide Dog Quandro to mark World Sight Day.

- Today FM's Mairead Farrell came on board to promote our Christmas gifts and 2014 calendar.
- Cork goalkeeper Anthony Nash also helped us out to encourage people to buy our Christmas gifts online.

Thank you. We sincerely appreciate your help.



Mairead Farrell



Vital work fuelling our success!

Fundraising is the lifeblood of Irish Guide Dogs – more than 80% of our income is raised through the efforts of our volunteers, corporate supporters and our staff. Here are a few highlights from our fundraising calendar for the year. Unfortunately we cannot include all events and all photos but please know that all of your work is important to us and we really appreciate it. We couldn't offer our life-changing services without your help.

SHADES

SHADES is our biggest national campaign and raised almost €200k in 2013 thanks to your support. We would like to thank all who purchased a SHADES pin or who volunteered in any way. Thanks to Tesco Ireland for allowing us to collect in their stores and our media partners Today FM and the Irish Independent who helped us raise awareness. Plans are already underway for a super-doooper SHADES campaign in 2014. Contact 1850 506300 or email fundraising@guidedogs.ie to get involved.



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1: Volunteers from Artane in Dublin fundraising for SHADES 2: Brian Cooke selling SHADES pins 3: Clodhna NiLaoghaire leads KC from Today FM through a guided walk with Guide Dog Benny 4: Students from the Presentation Brothers, Cork with Guide Dog Nova collecting for us 5: Deirdre Twomey collecting for SHADES 6: Assistance Dog Daisy was the star of the show at a SHADES street collection



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Flag days, bag packs and Ford Focus car raffle

Countless street collections, bag packs as well as Ford Focus ticket sales were held nationwide in 2013. We held our annual Dunnes Stores bag packs in September nationwide. Here is a small section of photos from the different days:



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1: Loreto College students collecting for us at Cornelstown, Dublin with Assistance Dog Gandon 2: Nicola Murray and Varley collecting for us and selling Christmas merchandise in Kilkenny 3: Ooki and Inca collecting at Cavan Tesco in November 4: Our Galway volunteers really got into the swing of things during a Ford Focus ticket street collection on Shop Street in June 5: Jill McElroy with Lacey and Mai in Waterford

Active summer

We received huge support from many people who walked, ran and jogged for us in many mini and major marathons around the country in 2013. We also held our first Irish Guide Dogs running event, our inaugural Kinsale10 in late summer, which is going to be an annual event.

We held our National Walk in June with more than 30 walks around the country. And of course we had a great turnout on our Camino trek which took place in September 2013.

There were lots of other sporting events organised for us and here is a small selection of photos from the year. We have plenty of activities lined up for 2014. Why not make it your resolution to get fit for Irish Guide Dogs in 2014?



1: Sinead O'Keeffe from Irish Guide Dogs with some of the winners from Kinsale10
2: Cork mini-marathon runners and walkers pictured before the race
3: Lisa Cannon launched our National Walk 2013. She is pictured with Annabel, Phoebe and Rosalind Neel
4: Pictured are the fantastic trekkers who took part in our Camino Del Santiago trek in September 2013
5: Athlete Shane O'Sullivan is planning to run five marathons in aid of us



Community fundraising

We are delighted to have a large network of volunteers and branches who fundraise on our behalf each year. We hope you felt supported by us in your efforts and we ask that you continue to offer us your support and commitment. Here is a small selection of photos from the different events organised through the year. There are too many events for us to name and photograph each one but please know that we appreciate all of your hard work and efforts very sincerely.



1: Enniscorthy branch held a Strictly Come Dancing event for us. Pictured are the winners from that event
2: Members of St Finbarr's Hurling & Football club in Cork took part in a Cycleathon for us
3: New York fundraiser Kevin Kennedy with Padraig Mallon, CEO, and Frank Downes, Chair of the Galway Branch
4: Tullamore Community College's second year CSPE class present a cheque to Guide Dog Owner George Percy with Halle
5: Pictured are the brave and fit crew at the finish line of the Mizen to Malin annual cycle
6: Blarney in Bloom was hugely successful in July 2013. Come along to the 2014 show on 12th July 2014!



On the front line

Everything we do is about ensuring people who are vision impaired and families of children with autism are able to access our services easily. Please see a selection of photos of our clients and our 2013 classes as well as some great photos of our dogs in training.

Case studies



Cooking up a storm

Patrick Byrne, 63, from Mayo has over the years been gradually losing his central vision due to myopic degeneration. Before completing our Independent Living Skills training, he didn't think it was possible for vision impaired people to do a full cookery course. Now, he loves making scones and practicing recipes at home. "I was treated exceptionally well by everybody in Irish Guide Dogs. I loved every minute of the course! It brightened up my life."



Patrick Byrne offers some of his home baking to Mary Harney

Independence in action

Greta Streimikyte, 18, is originally from Lithuania but now lives in Dublin and suffers from retinopathy. She trained with Guide Dog Kuro earlier this year. Greta wanted to be able to be independent, go out and about on her own, especially because she was due to start college in September. "Now I have Kuro I am so happy," Greta says. "I can travel to and from college by myself which I wasn't able to do without him. I am independent and have much more confidence, all because of him."



Greta Streimikyte

New adventures possible

Assistance Dog Paddy has been part of the Duffy family for the last six years, helping keep Finn, 11, calm and safe. Finn's dad Liam says the addition of Paddy has enriched the lives of all the family. "We can bring Finn to events which we couldn't enjoy before. Trips to places including Aviva Stadium, Croke Park, Armagh Planetarium and Bunratty Castle would not have been possible without Paddy."



Assistance Dog Paddy and Finn

Confidence-building

David McKee, 60, suffers from retinopathy. Since training with our mobility instructor, he loves to get out of the house for some exercise and fresh air. "It gives me great confidence because I learned how to get all the good-looking women to help me! Thanks to Irish Guide Dogs training, I'm doing what I love to do at my own pace and with confidence."



David McKee



Puppies and dogs in training @ HQ

We not only provide important services we are also the largest working dog breeding and training centre in Ireland. See a gorgeous selection of some of our four-legged friends who have brightened up our work days in 2013 and will be the hero dogs of the future.



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1: Yogi and Quipps settling into kennels at Irish Guide Dogs HQ 2: Are you looking at me? Wiggins gives us his best puppy eyes 3: Guide Dog Mobility Instructor Jane Husband on a training walk with a Guide Dog in Training 4: Assistance Dog Instructor Aileen Foy's class on their last day of training in August. L-R: Karlo Lexi Kenny Zody Kaci and Keefer 5: Umber watches her mother Teelin intently at our HQ Puppy Block 6: Trainer Olive O'Sullivan brings an Assistance Dog in Training for a training walk

Class photos:

Here is a small selection of photos of people we have trained in 2013. Check out www.guidedogs.ie for all other class photos from the year. We are very proud of our classes and our training staff.



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1: **October Assistance Dog Class**
(L-R): Barry Maher with Mundy; Eden Seligman with Nova; John Kelly with Nina; Emer Lynch with Zana; Stephen Cullinane with Quaywee; and Laura Tottman with Spice
2: **January Guide Dog class**
(L-R): Deirdre Noctor with Zara; Micheal Costello with Ugo; Cara Gibbons with Uri; Vincent Stack with Zeff with Instructors David Kenneally and Eoin Slattery in back row
3: **October Guide Dog Class**
L-R: Claire L'Estrange with Penny; Marie Scanlon with Neo; and Philip O'Boyle with Pepe with Instructors Jane Husband and David Kenneally in back row
4: **September Independent Living Skills Class**
L-R: Lyla Faulkner and Dorothy Scanlon with Mobility Instructor Kim Wulff
5: **June Long Cane Class**
L-R: Senan Griffin; Kim Wulff Mobility Instructor; Claire Shorten; and Claire L'Estrange



Thank you

Thank you to all our corporate sponsors!

The following corporate supporters helped us throughout the year:

Corporate sponsors: Ford Ireland, ECCO, Pepsico

Charity of the year: Depuy, Energia, Mardyke Arena, Midleton Park Hotel, Solar Winds, National Roads Authority

Donations: Tesco, Maxi Zoo, Liffey Distributors, The Wine Buff, Certus, Spillane Flooring, Glenilen, Symantec, Google, Royal Canin

Cause-related marketing: Easy Trip, Done Deal

Employee fundraising: Abtran, APCOA, Castrol, Creganna, Ebay, Paypal, EMC, Irish Dental Association, Quintas, Rexam, Ulster Bank, KPMG, State Street, Intel, Trend Micro

Puppy sponsors: Dell, Dinos, Irish Distillers Pernod Ricard, Salesforce, 4x4 Exporter



APCOA staff held a street collection for us on Grafton Street

Pepsico staff volunteered by painting our kennels in summer 2013



Irish Guide Dogs was named Energia's Charity of the Year for 2013/2014

Pat – a true ambassador for Irish Guide Dogs

We are so grateful for the many volunteers who work with Irish Guide Dogs in so many ways. We appreciate and value all of the work you do for us.

In 2013 one of our valued volunteers Pat Corkery sadly passed away. Pat volunteered for Irish Guide Dogs for almost 20 years in as many ways as it is physically possible to do so. Pat puppy-walked many dogs for us, volunteered in our kennels as a night runner, organised many fundraising events for us, raising thousands of pounds and Euro, homed a fundraising dog Unity, chaired the Carrigaline branch of Irish Guide Dogs and also found time for some adventurous trekking – all in aid of Irish Guide Dogs of course.

Her incredible spirit, humour and commitment was uplifting and inspiring. She often volunteered in HQ and was welcoming and friendly to all she met. She is sadly missed. Our thoughts and condolences are with her husband Martin, her children Susan, Jason and Elaine and all of her family and friends.

We would like to extend our sympathies to all of our volunteers and families who were touched by bereavement in 2013.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Above: Pat pictured with Lucy, Casper and Yonka at the 25th Anniversary of Irish Guide Dogs HQ in 2001



Left: Pat pictured with her husband Martin at a walk she organised for Irish Guide Dogs



Map of our branches

We have branches all over Ireland



What we do

Irish Guide Dogs is a trusted charity that supports more than 400 working Guide and Assistance Dog Partnerships nationwide.

We provide the following services:

- Guide Dog Programme
- Assistance Dog Programme
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Child Mobility Programme
- Next Step Programme
- Long Cane Training

Dublin

- A&A branch*
- Balbriggan*
- Dublin North East*
- Dublin South West*
- Dublin West*
- Dun Laoghaire Rathdown*
- Raheny, Howth, Clontarf*
- Swords*

Contact details

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Volunteer support

We need your help!

- There is a huge demand for our services. We have a waiting list of between one and three years for some of our services.
- We continue to provide our services for free to ensure no one is excluded due to lack of income.
- It costs €4.4 million to run the organisation each year.
- One Guide or Assistance Dog costs €38,000.
- Some 80% of our income comes from you!

How you can help!

- Manage a collection box in your area (over a year this can be worth €200).
- Sell one book of car raffle tickets (worth €50).

- Introduce us to your local schools and organisations – we rely on the work of volunteers for our national campaigns.
- Get involved with your local branch – see map above for locations.
- Sponsor a puppy for as little as €1.50 a week. Contact Catherine on cquinlan@guidedogs.ie for more information.
- Volunteer your time with us at our HQ or as a puppy walker. Contact info@guidedogs.ie for more information.
- Make a donation through our website or shop some of our pawsome products www.guidedogs.ie.
- Sign up to our newsletter, like our page on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to keep up to date.

Help us change people's lives!



Help us provide life-changing services to people who are vision impaired and families of children with autism.

We raise more than 80% of our income from voluntary donations and events. We need YOU to make sure we can continue to meet the demands for our service.

Get involved today by managing a collection box, organising an event or joining a local branch.

Sign up to help us today:

Contact fundraising@guidedogs.ie

LoCall 1850 506300

Web: www.guidedogs.ie



irish guide dogs
for the blind



Every small event makes a big difference to us.