

30

YEARS OF MOBILITY
AND INDEPENDENCE

30 YEARS STRONG
Leading The Way
ANNUAL REPORT 2021



**Israel Guide
Dog Center**
מרכז ישראלי לכלבי נחיה

A YEAR OF LIVING CAREFULLY—AND SUCCEEDING HEROICALLY



Puppy raisers returning their dogs to our center for evaluation – after a year of love and hard work.

OUR MISSION

The Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind is the only accredited guide dog program serving Israel's 24,000 blind and visually impaired citizens—and the only such program in the entire Middle East.

Operations began in 1991, with a mission to improve the quality of life of Israelis who are blind by providing them with safe mobility, independence and self-confidence through the faithful assistance of guide dogs specially trained in Hebrew for the challenging conditions in Israel.

While we have expanded our programs to meet the needs of people with other disabilities, including children with autism and soldiers with PTSD, we will never stray from our primary mission: To provide expertly trained Guide Dogs for people with vision loss.

HONORS AND NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Despite severe Covid restrictions, our staff found creative ways to safely work around the limitations, and we placed 75 dogs, either as Guide Dogs, PTSD Service Dogs or Emotional Support Dogs.
- During lockdowns we utilized our new Puppy Development campus for training dogs and keeping their skills sharp, while we waited to place them with clients. As restrictions ease, we train our dogs in real-life situations in local towns.
- Our PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) Service Dog program has exceeded expectations, and we have been asked by the IDF to expand this crucial program providing specially-trained service dogs to soldiers suffering from the debilitating effects of emotional trauma.
- Expanded support from The Shreiber Health Care Fund to provide medical care and treatment for our guide dogs during the first two years of their working lives.
- Raised standards to qualify our guide dogs, thus ensuring even further that only the highest-performing animals are provided to our clients who are blind.
- We continue to receive significant recognition of our work as a result of receiving Israel's prestigious Midot Award.
- For the ninth year in a row, we received the highest ratings from both GuideStar and Charity Navigator for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.



30 YEARS OF MEETING CHALLENGES AND REBUILDING LIVES

Dear Friends,

Looking back on the past 30 years, I'm filled with an enormous sense of pride at what we have accomplished together. We went from a small, rented house in Netanya where we trained one client at a time, to the beautiful center we call home in Beit Oved – placing 75 dogs per year. None of this would be possible without the love and dedication of our clients, staff, puppy raisers, volunteers – and you!

Thank you for the generous support that makes all we do possible!

It seems like only yesterday when Noach Braun, a young idealistic 26-year-old came to our family home on the first night of Hanukkah in 1986 and infected my father (and the rest of us) with his dream to start a guide dog school in the Holy Land. My Dad helped Noach get into a training program, and we began raising money to support his efforts. We trained our first Guide Dog team in 1991, and here we are, 30 years later.

As of December 31st, 2021, we have trained 739 Guide Dog partnerships for people who cannot see, 17 PTSD Service dogs for soldiers who have seen too much, and 382 Emotional Support dogs for children on the spectrum as well as for other people with special needs. That's 1,138 lives that have been directly affected because of these amazing animals, but many others have also been touched – family members, coworkers and members of the community have all benefited as these partnerships navigate life together.

That's enough looking back – we need to look forward – and set our sights on helping many more people in the future. Although it is always our goal to increase the number of partnerships we produce, Covid had a significant impact on the number of dogs accepted into training this year (more about this on page 4). We are taking proactive steps to address these outcomes while we work to get through these unprecedented times.

We feel a strong moral obligation to our dogs – we never force a dog to do anything – we want them to be happy and feel loved and needed. We also feel an obligation to our clients – to provide them with the highest caliber dog possible to exceed all their expectations.



Mike & Sue Leventhal with future guide dogs

And finally, we are committed to you – our supporters. We promise to use your gifts in the most efficient and effective way possible to transform our clients' lives. We have built our reputation over these past 30 years, and we treat this as a sacred trust.

So, **thank you** for being a huge part of our success. We look forward to sharing our journey with you for many years to come!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Leventhal".

Michael J. Leventhal
Executive Director

PROFILE:

Itzik Ben David

One of Our Earliest Clients Becomes One of Our Latest



Itzik Ben David is a remarkably accomplished man. He's a businessman, father of four and tireless advocate for people with different abilities. "I've been totally blind for the past 45 years," Itzik told us, "I started losing my vision as a child and by the age of 19, I was totally blind. As a younger man I had a small corner store in Ramat Gan and after that engaged in a variety of businesses. I'm a businessman, that's what I do best. I've always been my own boss."

One of our earliest clients, in 1994 Itzik received his first guide dog named John and joined our team working in Public Relations. "In the early days of my guide dog partnerships, I traveled all over Israel and abroad to raise awareness for the Center. I was married and had small children—but my guide dogs allowed me to take them to their



respective schools and after school courses. My guide dogs enabled me to go anywhere and do anything."

Over the years Itzik has been an accessibility advocate and helped design a system of automated talking devices—so people who are visually impaired can move around a hospital

and listen for audio cues to find their destination.

"I've been a client of the Guide Dog Center for almost 30 years. My standards are very high regarding what I need and expect from a guide dog. My new guide dog Bobby is a very good guide. He is a trouper, and I enjoy walking with him. I feel safe, confident, and strong. He has had to fill the large shoes of my previous guide, Bingo. But Bobby is doing amazingly well. During the final days of the home course, we literally ran all over the city together. We've only been a team a short time now, but he has surpassed my expectations. He is a sensitive, caring dog, and pays close attention – we have a good connection already."

Bobby was named for a world-famous comedian and a good friend of the center, "Rabbi Dr. Robert A. Alper." Thankfully Rabbi Alper agreed the name would be a bit cumbersome, so we shortened it to "Bobby!"

Itzik closed by saying, "It's important that there is an internationally accredited guide dog school in Israel to provide guide dogs who understand Hebrew commands for Israelis with blindness. I rely on the center to provide the critical follow-up client services and dog health care, here in Israel, at no charge to the client-- thanks to the generosity of thousands of donors from around the world."

Itzik and Bobby were the last team to graduate in 2021 – our 739th Partnership!

PROFILE:

Dr. Carmit Rubin & Yani

Fighting the Covid War Together

Carmit told us recently, “My family, academia and statistics, are the most important parts of my life. My guide dog Yani has now become another important part.

I’m lucky to live close to my parents, who are wonderful and supportive. I also work close to home. Much of my work can be done by computer, which gives me flexibility. I work two days from home and two days at the Bio Medical Center where I’m a biostatistician.

An exciting part of my work is that I’m directly involved in the “corona war.” I feel good doing my part, not only protecting my family, but also Israel and the world.

When my sight started to deteriorate, I experienced some mobility problems and realized I could no longer walk safely by myself. The final straw was when I fell and broke my elbow. That’s when I applied to receive a guide dog. I have a rare and aggressive eye disease that causes blindness and sensitivity to various types of light.

This aggressive disease is manifested by attacks of severe pain which are uncontrollable and unexpected. I never know when or where these attacks will occur. Now that I am partnered with Yani, I am more relaxed and secure, and my children are relieved as well. Yani, my first guide dog, is gentle and quiet.

I attended the May 2021 course, and the war broke out while we were at the Center. Thousands of rockets rained down on Israel—and it was frightening being away from home in an unfamiliar place. The other woman in the course, Hodaya and I, spent some nights sleeping together (with our dogs of course) in the student lounge. We preferred to be together in case we needed to go to the shelter.



My two teenage daughters are glad to have Yani in the family and happy he’s taken over their job of guiding me. The biggest change that has occurred since I was partnered with Yani is I don’t worry anymore about going out alone without one of my daughters with me. My daughters can be like other teens and lead their own lives without worrying about me because Yani is here to guide me.

The other evening, we all met down in the street for ice cream. My daughters came back from their activities and met me and Yani at the ice cream parlor. With Yani, I was able to get there on my own. It is a relief for all of us to be normal and independent, like other families. I don’t need to rely on them, and they don’t have to worry about me.”

We wish to acknowledge and give thanks to all our staff at the Center in Beit Oved.

Despite the challenges faced by a global pandemic, you continued to work with total dedication and commitment on behalf of our clients even under very difficult and challenging circumstances. We are so proud to be associated with you!

THE PANDEMIC EFFECT: RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE OF COVID

For 30 years we have measured our “Success Rate” as the ratio between the number of puppies born and the number of successful guide dog partnerships created. Keeping in mind that it is nearly a two-year process from birth until graduation, we must follow each litter to really have an accurate measure.

This year we experienced a significant drop in the number of dogs that were evaluated and accepted into guide dog training. This was very upsetting to our breeding department and trainers, as we have a long waiting list and want to provide as many guide dogs as possible. After considerable soul-searching, and research, we found that guide dog schools around the world were reporting similar results.

We have determined that the lockdowns had a significant impact on the ability to train and socialize our puppies.

Every puppy born spends the first two months with us and attends puppy

kindergarten. We expose them to lights, sounds, different materials, even cats! After they are weaned from their mothers, they spend the next year with puppy raising families all over Israel. These amazing volunteers expose the puppies to as many experiences as possible – all while teaching them lessons of obedience and self-control. They take them to classes, the library, the supermarket, a café, public transportation, parties, etc. Our goal is to reduce stress. The more experiences the puppy has, the less stress they will have as working dogs when they encounter the same situations in the future.

When Israel went into a strict lockdown, the ability to expose the puppies to these various experiences

disappeared. Most only went out to relieve themselves, and then back into the apartment. The lack of exposure to all the normal activities of daily life had a devastating effect. During the evaluations, many of the dogs were much more timid and less confident. So, while these dogs could still be used to help people with Emotional Support issues, they did not have the required skills to become our top dogs – Guide Dogs for people who are blind.

In addition, we believe people wearing masks also had an effect. If the puppies cannot see facial expressions, they cannot pick up on social cues. While there is some debate on how much the mask issue impacted the evaluations, there is no question that it is a factor.

Our plan moving forward:

We have decided to increase the number of puppies being born from our current 120 per year with the hopes that greater numbers will translate to a greater number of dogs entering guide dog training. To do this, we had to take a few female dogs out of the guide dog training track and move them into the breeding department. So, we expect some short-term pain (reduced number of dogs being trained as guides this coming year) with an eye to an increased number in the future.

While we see signs that the world is adjusting to the new normal – and finding ways to live with the virus – we felt it was important to be transparent and let our supporters know how our dogs and clients have been adversely impacted by the Covid lockdowns.



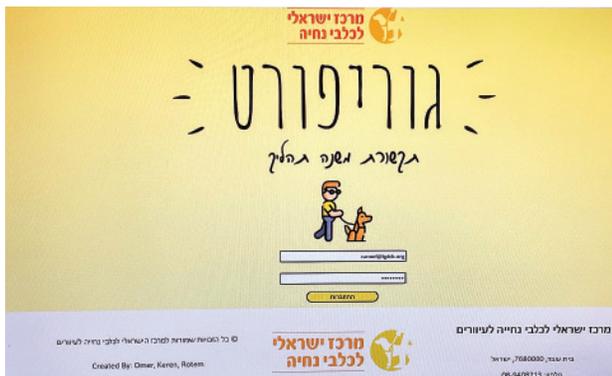
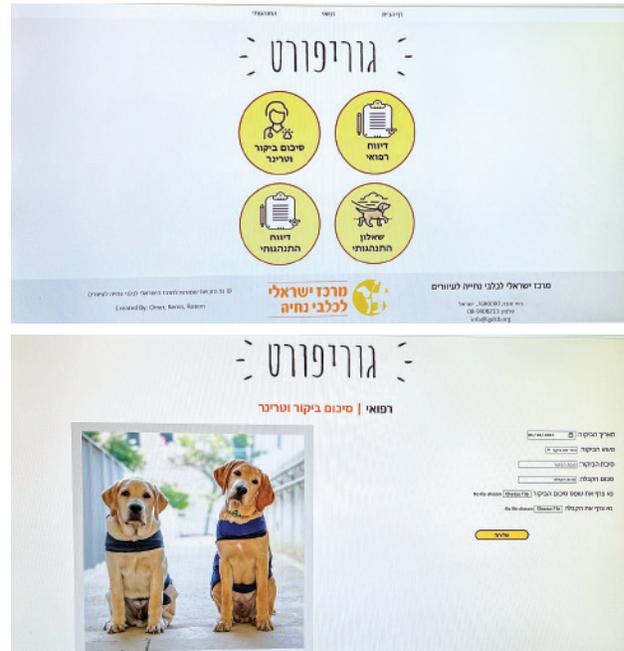
THE GUR APP: LEADING THE WAY INTO THE FUTURE

The word 'Gur' means Puppy in Hebrew

Our team has developed a groundbreaking method for gathering data, responding to questions, and providing immediate assistance to our puppy raisers: a Mobile App, especially designed for two-way communication between our puppy raisers and our puppy managers. **We are the first guide dog school in the world making full use of this hand-held communication system.**

We developed the Gur App with the help of students and staff from the Sami Shamoon College of Engineering and the Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheva. This system is intended to automatically provide age-specific tasks and instructions to the puppy raisers. Our puppy raisers will also enter milestone data for us to track, and each puppy will have an updated record in our system.

More importantly, puppy raisers can ask questions and receive almost immediate feedback from our puppy managers through the App. We also hope to add video, so we can see if there is a physical or behavioral problem – in real time.



Ultimately, our goal is to use the information as a tool to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our training procedures. By tracking certain milestones, we hope to see patterns develop and identify marker traits to determine the best career path for the puppies sooner, either as Guide Dogs, PTSD Service Dogs, or Emotional Support Dogs.

The Israel Guide Dog Center wishes to extend our deep appreciation to the **Taubman Foundation**, for their support in developing the Gur App.



ABOUT PUPPY RAISING:

Our puppies stay at our Center with their mothers their first 7 weeks until they are weaned. At that point, the puppies go to our volunteer puppy raisers and remain with them until about the age of one. Every month, the puppies need to learn new skills and our trainers need to follow up on their progress. As our puppy raisers are scattered across Israel, we needed to develop a method to evaluate and maintain records for all the puppies in our care – typically over 350 dogs and puppies at any given moment.

LEADING THE WAY FOR BLIND ISRAELIS: 1991-2021

A Timeline of Accomplishments

A DREAM IS BORN

when Noach Braun, a then 26 year-old ex-IDF paratrooper, first conceives his goal to establish a guide dog center in Israel: to help blind Israelis live life more fully.

A GUIDE DOG SCHOOL

in Columbus, Ohio, accepts Noach for training instruction.

WE INITIATE OUR EFFORTS

to learn, adapt, and implement the latest, most effective guide dog training methods, by sending our trainers to other schools around the world, and by inviting expert trainers to visit our program as well. Our goal is to be the best – to provide blind Israelis with the best-trained guide dogs possible.

WE ESTABLISH OUR

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program, educating U.S. students about the needs of the blind and the value of guide dogs in helping visually impaired people, as well as giving them an opportunity to sponsor puppies for their Mitzvah Projects. Our goal is for students to feel connected with a great project in Israel.



WE FINISH CONSTRUCTION

on The Lady Kaye Campus, the permanent home of the Israel Guide Dog Center.

PROLOGUE • 1986 • 1987 • 1991 • 1992 • 1994 • 1995 • 1997 • 1998 • 2004 •

THE DREAM TAKES SHAPE.

The Israel Consulate's office introduces Noach to Norman Leventhal, U.S. businessman and philanthropist active in Jewish causes. They meet on the first night of Chanukah (it's interesting that an organization for the blind is founded on the Festival of Light) – and they join forces to make the dream a reality.

WE BEGIN WITH A DOG and a dream in a ramshackle house on a moshav (agricultural community) in Netanya, and quickly establish ourselves as the only accredited program in Israel providing guide dogs to blind and visually impaired Israelis.

We celebrate our first graduate, Haim Tsur, and his guide dog, Tilly.



WE MOVE to our permanent home in Beit Oved, just 20 minutes south of Tel Aviv.

WE ARE ACCEPTED as a full member of the International Federation of Guide Dog Schools, which recognizes the excellence of our program.

WE GRADUATE OUR 200TH PARTNERSHIP: Chaim Abin and Cleo

WE CREATE OUR 100TH PARTNERSHIP: Rafi Almaliach and Loti.

WE ESTABLISH OUR CANVELO

sports club, integrating blind Israelis into team sports with sighted members. The club promotes camaraderie, fitness, and self-confidence among our members with vision loss. CanVelo's activities also raise awareness about the abilities of people who are blind and visually impaired.

WE FORMALIZED OUR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

PROGRAM – in which dogs that don't qualify as guide dogs are provided as support animals to blind children, autistic children, soldiers with PTSD and other adults with a variety of special needs. This quickly became a very popular program.

SIX OF OUR CLIENTS TAKE PART

for the first time in the annual March of the Living from Auschwitz to Birkenau. Our clients – together with their guide dogs – lead a delegation at the head of The International March of the Living commemorating the tens of thousands of disabled people – particularly the blind – who were among the first slaughtered by the Nazis.



WE CELEBRATE OUR 500TH PARTNERSHIP:

Etan Negev and Loti

GUIDESTAR AND CHARITY NAVIGATOR give us their highest possible ratings.

WE ALSO RECEIVE THE MIDOT SEAL OF

EFFECTIVENESS – Israel's highest honor given to nonprofits – in recognition of the excellence of our financial management and our work.

PTSD SERVICE DOGS

Began a pilot program to train service dogs to help IDF veterans who are suffering from service-related emotional trauma.

WE GRADUATE OUR 300TH PARTNERSHIP:

Avi Harari and Dinka

WE GRADUATE OUR 400TH PARTNERSHIP:

Adolf Aristehyan and his guide dog, Sally.

2006

2008

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2016

2017

2021

WE BEGIN INCORPORATING the Clicker Method into our guide dog training – as we continue to adopt the latest and best training methods. The result: faster training times, higher numbers of qualifying puppies and greater efficiency for our program as a whole. Most importantly, dogs trained this way are more effective, responsive guide dogs.



WE COLLABORATE WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS, such as the ELIYA schools – kindergartens for children who are blind or visually impaired. Together, we sponsor monthly visiting dog programs so that children can pet, cuddle, play, and practice walking with our dogs and puppies.

WE CREATED THE INTEGRATED PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION INITIATIVE, a pilot program employing a Ph.D. clinical psychologist to help assess each client throughout the Partnership process. This initiative helps custom-tailor our program for each client – and provides counseling and support. Of particular interest was the discovery about the depth of the grieving process when a client needs to retire a guide dog and get a replacement.

GUR REPORT Created an App for our puppy raisers for two-way communication with our puppy managers. We are the first guide dog school to use this comprehensive tool.

WE BROKE GROUND on our new Puppy Development and Enrichment Campus! Our goal is to double guide dog partnerships over the next 10 years.

739TH PARTNERSHIP Graduated Itzik Ben David and Bobby – the last team of 2021. (See page two.)

Honored and Challenged by the IDF

In April 2021, Itzik Saidyan, an IDF veteran suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), set himself on fire in protest over how he felt the Ministry of Defense was not adequately addressing the needs of IDF veterans with service-related emotional trauma. This tragic, desperate act brought a rarely talked about issue to public consciousness. PTSD is commonly referred to as an “invisible injury”, but people are now looking to the government to do something to help these young soldiers cope.

Our PTSD clients have told us it was very difficult to admit their suffering. In a country where almost everyone serves in the military, men are expected to be tough and not express their emotions. It is estimated tens of thousands of IDF veterans suffer in silence.

The Israel Guide Dog Center was quickly identified as a service provider. We had just completed our pilot program to

help veterans with our specially trained PTSD Service dogs, and our results were remarkable. Not only do our dogs wake someone from a nightmare or calm them during a panic attack, but they help them establish a healthy routine in caring for and walking the dog. The dogs' special skills provide a primary coping mechanism that gives these young heroes a reason to get back to living a full and productive life.

Although the Ministry of Defense wanted us to produce many more PTSD dogs, we agreed to increase production to 10 dogs per year for the next two years and monitor the success of the program.

Our primary mission is to provide guide dogs to people who are blind or visually impaired. We have not lost sight of our responsibility to our clients and donors, but the dogs we use for the PTSD program are ones that don't quite meet our exacting standards for guide dog work. So we simply allow them to change careers - to become the best friend, protector, and therapy for a soldier suffering from PTSD.

We are proud to be at the forefront of this effort to ease the suffering of so many IDF veterans. We hope to increase the number of puppies that will serve those who have so bravely served Israel.



Elvis and Me: Coming Full Circle

BY NETA SEGEV

Our story begins at an open house at Ben Gurion University. As I wandered around the booths, I saw a young woman walking with a Labrador puppy wearing a little blue vest that said, "Guide Dog in Training." I asked her how I could get a puppy like that, and she referred me to the Israel Guide Dog Center. I called, filled out an online form, and waited.

Now I'll fast forward to the next summer during my semester break between my first and second years of study at the

university. I received a telephone call and was told that puppies had been born and that my turn had come to receive one. He arrived – a six-week old fluffy puppy who loved to chew. My job was to educate and train him for the day when he would be ready to leave me and move on. He went everywhere with me: to class, exams, on buses, to the mall, and to the beach. One year later, I tearfully parted with him but sensed he was going to do something good for someone who needed him.



Years went by. The puppy now named Elvis lived with Shmulik and helped him in his everyday life. I continued with my life. I met my husband, Shay. We traveled abroad, adopted our dog Maya, moved to northern Israel, and had two children.



Last year I suddenly got a phone call from Shmulik who told me that Elvis was 10 years old and the time had come for him to retire. He asked me if I was interested in taking Elvis back. I asked Shay, who immediately agreed. After I had not seen Elvis for many years, we drove to Beit Oved to take him back. I was calm until we entered the campus of the Guide Dog Center, where I burst into tears. I was reminded of a time many years ago and felt I had completed a marvelous circle.

Elvis, you've worked hard and now it's time for you to relax and enjoy hiking in the Galilee.

Welcome back!

WHEN A DOG "RETIRES"

Most guide dogs will work for approximately 8 years until the dog turns 10 years old, and then it begins a well-earned retirement. We prefer for this to be a planned retirement, so we can match our clients with the perfect replacement dog.

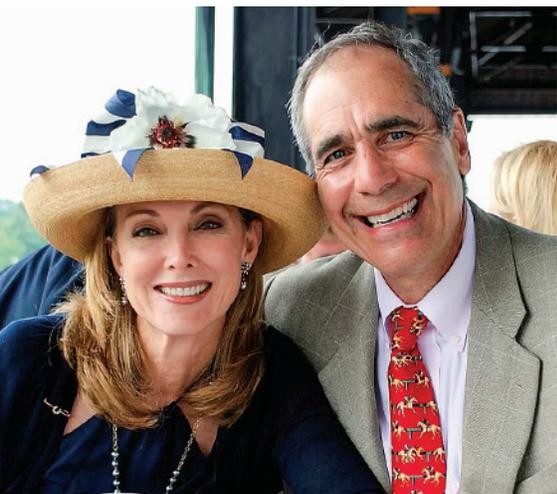
It is up to our client to decide about what is best for them both. Half our clients live alone and caring for two dogs in a small apartment may not be practical – but again – it is their decision. The retired dog could go to a friend or family member who lives nearby so a relationship can be maintained. If this is not an option, we frequently contact the original puppy raiser, who almost always takes the dog back. If not, we have a long list of volunteers who want to add a retired dog to their family.

None of our dogs have ever gone to a shelter!

IN MEMORIAM

Roger S. Sofer

A Visionary for Blind Israelis



Roger Sofer had a magnetic personality, and he never met a stranger.

The incredible story of his life began in Queens, New York. It led him to the University of Tampa on a baseball scholarship, then to Fort Dix with the Army. He went back to Florida where he worked as a cab driver, then home to New York as a sales rep, and finally to Houston, Texas, where he eventually founded a financial planning firm.

His gift to connect with people nurtured a lifetime of friends that ranged from doormen to congressmen. He immediately shared his love of dogs, horses, and Israel with anyone he met. His genuine commitment to Israel was so authentic that everyone was absorbed in his stories. His immense knowledge could not be denied. The information on Israel would make an indelible impact on his audience, not only because of its accuracy, but because it was told in his personalized way, interspersed with humor and humanity.

He was the “go to person” for subjects about Israel and horse racing and would receive daily questions via phone calls or emails on the subjects. During those conversations, people would always share a dog story with him, simply because they knew of his unconditional love for all dogs.

Roger served as a member of AIPAC’s National Board of Directors for nearly two decades. He focused on growing AIPAC’s presence in Houston. When Roger spoke about his love for Israel, his passion was felt by everyone in the room.



He formed personal relationships with elected officials from both sides of the aisle, traveling to Washington and Israel countless times to stay informed about the threats facing America and Israel. For decades, elected officials from Texas and around the country consulted with Roger on issues related to the Middle East.

Roger was a giant in the Houston business and civic communities. He will be remembered for his incredible wit, loyalty, and devotion to everything important in his life. His enthusiastic example and bold leadership will be missed by all. He is survived by his wife Linden Sofer, four children, and three grandchildren.

After his passing, his dear friend Irwin Barg spearheaded an effort to combine Roger’s two loves and find a way to keep his name alive by establishing the Roger S. Sofer Endowment Fund which raised over \$100,000 for the Israel Guide Dog Center. Roger’s name will be permanently honored on the Visionaries Wall at the center.



Roger’s name has been added to our Visionaries Wall. If you would like more information about our “Visionaries Program” Please contact Michael Leventhal at 215-343-9100 or mike@israelguidedog.org



Name a Puppy and Follow Its Progress!

YOU CAN NAME AN ISRAELI PUPPY IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE!

For a donation of \$5,000 you can name the puppy, and follow its progress from birth until placement. The quarterly updates will be posted on the puppy's webpage that you can share with family and friends.

GUIDELINES FOR NAMING A PUPPY:

- The name will be spoken often by the handler. Is it comfortable to say without drawing unwanted attention? We also need to avoid common Hebrew names or words, so the dog is not accidentally distracted while it is working.
- Our trainers work with approximately 80-120 dogs every year and duplicate names can cause confusion in the kennels. If the name you prefer has been used during the last 12 months, there may be a delay before we can assign the name again. We will let you know if this is an issue.
- When choosing a name, you will also be able to request the gender of the dog. As much as we would like to, we cannot fulfill other special requests such as breed or color. Thank you for your understanding.
- Our Puppy Breeding Department intentionally spaces litters throughout the year, so depending on the timing of your sponsorship, there may be a delay before the puppy is born. Please be patient – good things come to those who wait!
- Because we have a limited number of puppies born each year, and we want as many people as possible to share this experience, we reserve the right to limit Puppy Naming to one puppy per donor per year.

If you are interested in naming a puppy, please email Michael Leventhal at: mike@israelguidedog.org or call 215-343-9100.

Every puppy is evaluated at 12-14 months old, and will follow one of these 5 career tracks:

- **BREEDING DOG:** The best of the best are selected to enter our breeding department. These dogs will live in the homes of our volunteer foster families until they whelp at the Puppy Development Center. Our female dogs are retired after giving birth to three or four litters.
- **GUIDE DOG:** Dogs selected for Guide Dog training will learn the important skills necessary for leading a visually impaired or blind person past the obstacles of daily life. Training takes approximately four-five months, and then an additional month of training with a partner selected especially for them. They will be retired at approximately the age of ten.
- **PTSD SERVICE DOG:** Dogs are selected to continue training for people with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The training period takes approximately two months to complete. They will also be retired at the age of ten.
- **EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOG:** These exceptional dogs have undergone extensive obedience training during the year and will be placed with families with Special Needs – primarily children on the Autism spectrum, children with vision impairment, or others with special needs. They will remain with the family for life.
- **AMBASSADOR DOGS:** These wonderful dogs do not have the qualities to become Breeding, Guide, PTSD Service or Emotional Support dogs. Nevertheless, they have a lot of love and joy to give. They will be great companions. These dogs are placed with loving families.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

This is our most recent internal Financial Report and Budget for 2022.

REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021	2022		2021		2020	
DESCRIPTION	IN \$ US	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
INCOME - OVERSEAS	3.14	(Shekels)	(Shekels)	(Shekels)	(Shekels)	(Shekels)
Transfers from US Friends	\$2,149,682	₪ 6,750,000	₪ 5,570,072	₪ 7,500,000	₪ 4,208,930	₪ 7,500,000
Direct Donations from US Donors	\$207,006	₪ 650,000	₪ 599,238	₪ 650,000	₪ 680,722	₪ 650,000
Transfers from British Friends	\$382,166	₪ 1,200,000	₪ 2,716,380	₪ 1,200,000	₪ 1,090,791	₪ 950,000
Direct Donations from British Donors	\$15,924	₪ 50,000	₪ 93,359	₪ 50,000	₪ 108,741	₪ 10,000
Transfers from Canadian Friends	\$318,471	₪ 1,000,000	₪ 748,160	₪ 1,000,000	₪ 889,060	₪ 1,000,000
Direct Donations from Canadian Donors	\$3,185	₪ 10,000	₪ 0	₪ 10,000	₪ 457	₪ 20,000
Donations from - Other Countries	\$76,433	₪ 240,000	₪ 309,973	₪ 200,000	₪ 193,295	₪ 180,000
TOTAL INCOME - OVERSEAS	\$3,152,866	₪ 9,900,000	₪ 10,037,182	₪ 10,610,000	₪ 7,171,996	₪ 10,310,000
INCOME FROM ISRAEL						
Donations from Israel	\$728,662	₪ 2,288,000	₪ 2,180,171	₪ 1,308,000	₪ 1,499,713	₪ 1,258,000
Donations Israel - Ministries	\$482,484	₪ 1,515,000	₪ 778,522	₪ 717,000	₪ 995,636	₪ 514,000
CanVelo Donations	\$41,401	₪ 130,000	₪ 296,727	₪ 100,000	₪ 67,394	₪ 200,000
CanVelo Income	\$41,401	₪ 130,000	₪ 120,496	₪ 100,000	₪ 41,315	₪ 100,000
Graduate Participation in Medical Exp.	\$0					₪ 0
In-Kind Donations	\$253,662	₪ 796,500	₪ 779,900	₪ 735,500	₪ 761,313	₪ 551,500
TOTAL INCOME - ISRAEL	\$1,547,611	₪ 4,859,500	₪ 4,155,816	₪ 2,960,500	₪ 3,365,371	₪ 2,623,500
TOTAL ALL INCOME	\$4,700,478	₪ 14,759,500	₪ 14,192,998	₪ 13,570,500	₪ 10,537,367	₪ 12,933,500
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Dog Training Expenses	\$1,513,446	₪ 4,752,222	₪ 4,101,907	₪ 4,131,100	₪ 6,530,222	₪ 7,307,280
Kennel Expenses	\$725,645	₪ 2,278,524	₪ 1,714,274	₪ 2,125,500	₪ 2,125,500	(New detail in 2021)
Puppy Raising Expenses	\$303,028	₪ 951,508	₪ 837,723	₪ 883,000	₪ 883,000	(New detail in 2021)
Maintenance	\$373,248	₪ 1,172,000	₪ 1,021,506	₪ 1,160,500	₪ 1,014,305	₪ 1,202,243
Marketing and Fundraising	\$537,502	₪ 1,687,755	₪ 1,625,947	₪ 1,620,650	₪ 1,568,204	₪ 2,147,181
Administrative Expenses	\$604,373	₪ 1,897,730	₪ 1,774,083	₪ 1,720,000	₪ 1,599,609	₪ 1,951,308
CanVelo Expenses	\$82,803	₪ 260,000	₪ 279,220	₪ 200,000	₪ 127,460	
Financing Expenses	\$14,331	₪ 45,000	₪ 32,559	₪ 42,000	₪ 29,386	₪ 48,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$4,154,375	₪ 13,044,739	₪ 11,387,219	₪ 11,882,750	₪ 10,869,186	₪ 12,656,012
FIXED ASSETS						
Fixed Assets - New Building Construction	\$196,019	₪ 615,500	₪ 585,196	₪ 495,500	₪ 96,068	₪ 463,500
Depreciation	\$318,471	₪ 1,000,000	₪ 950,000	₪ 1,224,754		
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	\$514,490	₪ 1,615,500	₪ 1,535,196	₪ 1,720,254	₪ 96,068	₪ 463,500
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$4,668,866	₪ 14,660,239	₪ 12,922,415	₪ 13,603,004	₪ 10,965,254	₪ 13,119,512
SURPLUS/-DEFICIT	\$31,612	₪ 99,261	₪ 1,270,583	-₪ 32,504	-₪ 427,887	-₪ 186,012

This is our most recent internal Financial Report and Budget for 2022. The column to the left is the 2022 Budget in US Dollars. The rest of the report uses the currency in Israel (NIS - New Israel Shekel). The fixed assets expenses are subject to a designated donation. The audited financial reports for 2021 will be ready in June 2022.

Please remember that we provide all of our services at no cost to our clients who are blind.

FUNDRAISING DURING A PANDEMIC:

To make Dreams come true, we need help from our friends!

We rely on individuals, foundations, synagogues and schools to meet our funding needs.

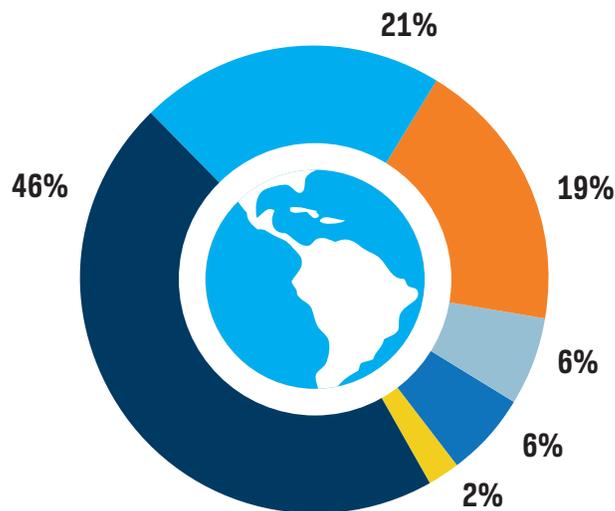
The Shekel is much stronger - so it takes more dollars to cover the same expenses.

GIFTS BY DONOR TYPE	# GIFTS	AMOUNT
Foundations	209	\$1,801,395
Individuals	2,885	\$912,272
Bequests	8	\$187,003
Tribute Cards	333	\$112,108
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Gifts	590	\$73,989
Schools / Synagogues	52	\$6,006
	4,077	\$3,092,773



DONATIONS BY COUNTRY

- USA
- United Kingdom
- Israeli Donors
- Israeli Government
- Canada
- Other Countries



CURRENT GUIDE DOG USERS:



61% male



39% female

TOTAL DOGS PLACED SINCE 1991

Guide Dogs	739
Emotional Support & PTSD	399
LIVES CHANGED!	1,138

PUPPIES BORN IN 2021

Male	56
Female	67

FUTURE HEROS 123

AVERAGE WAIT TIME FOR FIRST-TIME

GUIDE DOG USER:

12 MONTHS

(Down from 20 months in 2017)

Photo credits: Special thanks to Eli Ben Boher, Tomer Eden, Noach Braun and the Sofer Family



Israel Guide Dog Center

מרכז ישראלי לכלבי נחיה

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