

GUIDE DOGS VICTORIA



Your gift creates clear and lasting change

Leave a gift in your Will
and change lives.



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A MESSAGE FROM

Karen Hayes, Bequestor

I often tell people that being the CEO of Guide Dogs Victoria is the best job I have ever had.

Working in this fabulous organisation brings me happiness every single day! But even more importantly, I want to ensure the future success of Guide Dogs Victoria far beyond my tenure as CEO. That's why I, along with my husband Graeme, decided to join the Otus Fellowship and leave a gift in our Will to Guide Dogs Victoria. We think it's important to leave a legacy, but we also want to support the fabulous work of Guide Dogs Victoria to live on for many more years – supporting Victorians who have vision loss to lead the lives they want to lead.

Karen Hayes
Otus Fellowship Member
CEO Guide Dogs Victoria



Guide Dogs Victoria

Since 1957, Guide Dogs Victoria has been providing vital support to Victorians who have low vision or blindness.

Since our founding days, our services have grown far beyond just Guide Dogs to include a wide range of community initiatives, and training and education programs.

Today we work to ensure people with low vision or blindness are active and involved members of the community. We do this by teaching practical skills to help children and adults reach their personal potential: regardless of when or how they became affected by low vision or blindness. These skills are developed under our Orientation & Mobility training programs and with the support of Occupational Therapists.

The number of Victorians who need our services is growing every year, and vision loss will significantly increase over the next decade due to conditions of ageing and diabetes.

At Guide Dogs Victoria, it is essential that we plan for the future and ensure our sustainability, so that we can continue to support Victorians for many years to come.

About Otus

Otus was born in 1993, and at an early age was assessed as the top of his litter.

It seemed natural that he would be selected to become a Guide Dogs Victoria stud dog.

Otus went on to become one of our most successful stud dogs and the Gifts in Wills supporters group at Guide Dogs Victoria was named: 'the Otus Fellowship' in his honour.

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Guide Dogs

The partnership between a Guide Dog and their handler is a bond of trust like no other. In fact, a saying that we use in Guide Dog training is “Before Guidance Comes Trust”.

A Guide Dog can create profound change for a person with low vision or blindness by offering a perfect blend of independence and companionship. Think about your daily activities like going to the shops, visiting a friend, or dropping your kids to school. Now imagine trying to do these things if you were blind.

A Guide Dog can open a new world of opportunity and independence for a person with vision loss. What’s more, they offer companionship and confidence through the relationship they form with the person they are matched with.

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**Anything is possible
with the right support.
We tailor each program
to the needs of that
individual client.**

HOW WE

Make it happen

Everyone experiences the world differently. Whether we're conscious of them or not, we all learn skills to help us navigate our daily environments

Getting on a train, going to work or school, or functioning at home — each one requires a set of practical abilities.

These skills are essential in getting us out and active in the community: safely exploring the world and our own personal potential. These kinds of skills can be learned in Orientation & Mobility training, or with the support of Occupational Therapists.

Anything is possible with the right support. We tailor each program to the needs of that individual client, to support the achievement of their personal goals.

At Guide Dogs Victoria, we provide services to Victorians of all ages.



Mobility and Independence

We strive to empower our clients to achieve their unique goals with whatever mobility aids or training is necessary.

We offer a comprehensive range of Orientation and Mobility services that are available to people of all ages, including children.

Our wonderful Guide Dogs are the most recognised mobility aid, but they are just one service that we can offer to our clients.

‘Orientation’ refers to our understanding of where we are in the environment.

‘Mobility’ relates to our ability to move safely and confidently through the environment.

Our Occupational Therapists teach skills to independently perform all kinds of daily tasks, and to support each client’s journey to achieve their personal goals.

Our wonderful Guide Dogs are the most recognised mobility aid, but they are just one service that we can offer to our clients.



Our Guide Dogs provide so much more than mobility benefits, they can enhance social participation, well-being, and encourage their handler to try new experiences and challenges.



ALL ABOUT

Our Dogs

Our Guide Dogs undertake comprehensive, world-class training by our respected Dog Training team.

This includes comprehensive safety and relationship training, and detailed behavioral analysis from an early age. We think it's important to learn each dog's skills and temperament to gain an intimate understanding of how they might eventually match with our clients.

Every Guide Dog goes through an intensive training program to learn the skills required to navigate communities – from busy city streets, to the uneven paths and tracks of rural environments. After training, dogs are matched with their handler through a detailed selection process that caters for individual personality, mobility needs, and lifestyle.

The average working relationship of a Guide Dog and a person with low vision is between eight and ten years. As a result, it is absolutely essential that a handler and a Guide Dog share a powerful bond, built on trust, companionship and a strong connection.

HOW TO

Leaving a gift to Guide Dogs Victoria is a simple process

Through leaving a gift in your Will, you can make a profound change to the life of a person who is blind or has low vision.

You may never meet the person whose life your kindness changes, but they will never forget you.

All gifts are greatly valued and significantly help in our future planning.

Having a valid Will is the only way you can ensure that your wishes will be met as a Will needs to be regularly updated and reviewed to reflect your current circumstances.

When creating your Will, firstly provide for your family and friends, and then consider leaving a lasting legacy to Guide Dogs Victoria.

A gift can take many forms:

Residuary

The remainder of your estate after specific gifts have been disbursed

Percentage

A percentage of either residue or the entire estate

Pecuniary

A specific gift of cash

A Specific Asset

Real estate, shares or other particular items of value

HOW TO

Leave a gift in your Will

Consult your legal advisor to ensure the option you have chosen best reflects your intentions.

Discuss your decision with your family and loved ones. This will ensure they understand and support your reasons for choosing to help Guide Dogs Victoria in such a special way.

Once you have remembered us in your Will, please let a member of our Gifts in Wills team know.

You don't have to tell us, but we would love the opportunity to thank you and welcome you into the **Otus Fellowship**.

Thank you for considering a gift in your Will to Guide Dogs Victoria. We would love to welcome you into our exclusive Otus Fellowship, in recognition of your gift in your lifetime.

By becoming a member of the Otus Fellowship, you will be invited to special events that will help you see how your future gift will benefit Victorians who are blind or have low vision.

Contact our friendly Gifts in Wills team on 1800 804 805

They would love to hear from you and are there to help ensure you have all the information you need. All calls will be treated in confidence.



The Otus Fellowship was established in 2007 to honour and acknowledge the generosity of people who have remembered Guide Dogs Victoria in their Will.

**It gives us the opportunity to thank you
personally and recognise your generosity
and concern in assisting with our work.**

Telephone:

1800 804 805

Email:

giftsinwills@guidedogsvictoria.com.au



**To join the Otus Fellowship, all
you need to do is notify us of
your gift to Guide Dogs Victoria.**

For a confidential discussion on leaving a gift
and joining the Otus Fellowship, please call
us and ask to speak to our Gifts in Wills team.



INTRODUCING

The Otus Fellowship

**It is an honorary and exclusive
membership that brings together
like minded supporters of Guide
Dogs Victoria.**

It does not involve any fees or responsibilities.
Otus Fellowship members receive a Certificate
of Appreciation, a special membership pin,
are invited to exclusive Guide Dog events, and
are kept up to date with what is happening at
Guide Dogs Victoria.

The Otus Fellowship was named to honour
one of our champion stud dogs, Otus, a living
legend at Guide Dogs Victoria. His first litter
produced six Guide Dogs and one Pets as
Therapy dog. Otus officially retired from the
program in 2004 at 10 and a half years. He was
honoured in November 2004 when he received
a medallion from the Board of Directors. He is
still fondly remembered by a large number of
Guide Dogs Victoria supporters.

If you choose to join the Otus Fellowship,
you will join a like minded group of donors
who, by planning a future gift in support of
our services, will help us to change the lives
of Victorians with blindness or low vision.

THANK YOU FROM

Guide Dogs Victoria

At Guide Dogs Victoria we receive less than 10% government funding, so we are heavily reliant on philanthropy to ensure we can continue to deliver our life changing services to the Victorian Community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider leaving a gift in your Will to Guide Dogs Victoria, and helping us to continue to breed, raise and train our beautiful dogs.

Telephone
1800 804 805

Website
www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au

Email
giftsinwills@guidedogsvictoria.com.au



LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Frequently Asked Questions

Who needs to make a Will?

Everyone over the age of 18. Without a Will your assets may not reach your loved ones and the causes you care about.

How do I make or change my Will?

We would strongly advise the use of a solicitor to obtain expert advice, to ensure accuracy and that the option you have chosen best reflects your intentions. We also advise that you consult a solicitor when writing or making changes to an existing Will to ensure your Will is accurate and best reflects your intentions.

You need to choose an Executor who will be responsible for making sure your wishes are carried out. This person can be a legal professional, trusted family member or friend.

Where do I find a solicitor?

If you do not have a solicitor, you can consult the Law Institute of Victoria to find a solicitor in your area who specialises in Wills and Estates.

What are the main types of gifts in Wills?

- **Residual legacy:** A residual legacy is a portion of your estate, or the balance remaining after loved ones and expenses are provided for. The remainder or a portion of the estate is donated after other gifts, expenses and debts are settled.
- **Specific amount of money:** This type of gift is sometimes called a 'pecuniary legacy'. This allows you to nominate a specific or fixed amount of money.
- **Specific items of value:** Anything of value such as property, shares, jewellery or works of art, may be specifically named in your Will as a gift.

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What type of gift would Guide Dogs Victoria prefer?

Whilst any gift is greatly appreciated, a residual legacy is the best option because it maintains a relative value and automatically adjusts to changes in the value of your estate. This is the legacy type we ask our supporters to consider because it should not decrease in value over time.

Why should I leave a gift in my Will to a Guide Dogs Victoria?

By including Guide Dogs Victoria in your Will, you are helping us to provide vital services to Victorians who are blind or have low vision - the breeding, raising and training of Guide Dogs is a significant part of this activity.

You may never meet the person whose life your kindness has changed, but they will never forget you.

Why should I let you know that I have left you a gift in my Will?

Informing us of your generous decision is important as it allows us to thank you personally and to welcome you into our Otus Fellowship; a group of likeminded supporters of Guide Dogs Victoria's work. As an Otus Fellowship member you will receive invitations to our exclusive events and be kept informed of new developments at Guide Dogs Victoria.

What about if I want my gift to remain anonymous?

We would still love to thank you privately, however, we respect all our donor's wishes and your details will be held in strictest confidence. You will control the level of contact that you receive from us.



For more information or for a confidential discussion, please do not hesitate to call our Gifts in Wills Team on Ph:1800 804 805 or email: giftsinwills@guidedogsvictoria.com.au.

WORDING TO

Take to Your Solicitor

Please complete the form below and take it to your solicitor. It is essential that you use our correct name - Guide Dogs Victoria - to avoid confusion and subsequent legal costs.

I GIVE TO GUIDE DOGS VICTORIA
(ABN 68 004 621 461)

- ☐ The rest and residue of my Estate or
- ☐ _____ percent of my Estate or
- ☐ _____ percent of the residue of my Estate or
- ☐ The sum of \$ _____

free of all duties and testamentary expenses to Guide Dogs Victoria for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of that organisation shall be sufficient discharge to my executors for this bequest.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Otus Fellowship

Please return to:

Gifts in Wills team
Guide Dogs Victoria
Private Bag 13
Kew, Victoria 3101

I WISH TO ADVISE YOU THAT A GIFT TO GUIDE DOGS VICTORIA IS INCLUDED IN MY WILL AND THAT AS AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE OTUS FELLOWSHIP:

- ☐ I would like to formalise my request to become a full member of the Otus Fellowship
- ☐ I would prefer not to be included in the Otus Fellowship
-

Please ensure that the information below is correct and make appropriate changes if necessary.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Date of Birth: _____

