



**Second Sense**  
Beyond vision loss

*Because of  
you...*

Clients test drive  
guide dogs, pg 1

Joe is getting his  
life back, pg 2

Syed learns  
human guide, pg 1

**Fall  
2017**

# Perspectives

## Guide Dogs Can Be a Great Mobility Choice

*"A guide dog won't get stuck in a crack." ~ Jillian*



*Jillian goes on a test drive with Babbit and Greg, a trainer from Guide Dog Foundation.*

Using a dog guide or a white cane is a personal choice. Both have their pros and cons. A group of people with vision loss came to Second Sense to learn about the process to get a guide dog and the responsibilities that come with the dog.

Each participant had the chance to walk with Babbit, an experienced Guide Dog.

Jillian is thinking about getting a dog. She recently lost much of her vision overnight — she woke up one morning and everything was cloudy.

"I feel that I would travel more efficiently with a dog. When I use my cane I feel that I walk much slower.

"I would be more comfortable traveling to new places. I want to go to school to become a Teacher of the Visually Impaired. I know a dog will help me get around campus.

*continued on page 3 >>*

## Mobility Training Is About Taking the First Step



Because of you, 20 adults are currently getting mobility training: a life-changing opportunity. In honor of White Cane Awareness month we are sharing three of their stories with you.

Lizbeth lost her vision 9 years ago after a brain aneurysm. "I never knew anything like this training was available. My doctors never mentioned it. To have something so wonderful here and not be told about it is staggering.

"If I had known 8 years ago, I would have done so much more with my life instead of basically just staying in my house." ●

**Second Sense uses your donation wisely. See how on page 3.**

Walking out the front door. Jotting down a phone number. Sending an email.

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## The Training You Provide is Changing Joe's Life

*"For 20 years I worked ten hours a day, six days a week. I was a Chief Operating Officer. Now I am nothing."*

Joe is new to vision loss. It happened suddenly and unexpectedly.

He didn't know anything about vision rehabilitation training. He became dependent on his wife. He stopped



*"When I started using this cane last week, it was like having Moses in my hand." ~ Joe*

going out and depression set in.

Then he heard about Second Sense on the radio. He came to a Living with Vision Loss support group and learned about the training that can help him regain his independence. And his life.

A week later he started training with Cody to learn daily living skills, including the iPhone. He also began mobility training with Rachael. He bought his first white cane and felt his life change.

"I like to fly under the radar. I don't like to be noticed. So, using a white cane was a hard decision.

"But, I needed to get out of

my house. I don't look like I can't see, I look just like I always have.

"Now, when people see the white cane, they make compensations for me.

"My goal is to take my disability away from my wife. She is doing everything for me. And she works full-time.

"I survived a quadruple bypass and I can survive this. I know there is a reason why I am still here. I am going to get all the training I can and get myself back together.

"Rachael and Cody tell me I can go back to work if I want. Who knows!" ●

Finding a job. Living an active, independent life. Because of you.

## Lives You Are Changing

**1st** year of mobility

Here are the results from the first year of the new mobility program you brought to Second Sense.

**108**

Adults learned to travel safely and independently with a white cane



**92%**

Clients who achieved their training goals



**1235**

Hours of mobility training provided

Clients learn to travel by foot and public transit



so they can travel safely where they want and when they want

## Guide Dogs

Greg and Steve, two trainers from Guide Dog Foundation, joined Kathy Austin, our experienced guide dog user, to answer questions about working with a guide dog.



*Jillian, with Nancy, her mobility instructor, and Kathy Austin.*

*continued from page 1*

Christian, who just finished a half marathon, wanted to know if the dog could guide him when he runs (the answer is no).

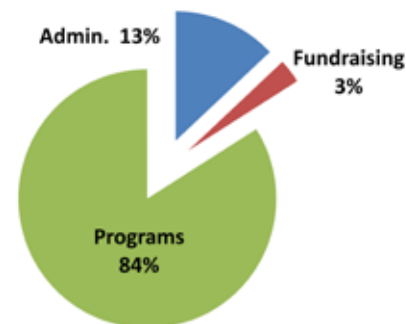
Jillian wanted to know about the cost of getting a dog. "I was worried about being able to afford it, so it is comforting to know that the Guide Dog and the training are free."

Everyone who came to the workshop left with lots of great information and resources.

If you would like to learn more about dog guide ownership, visit our blog page and read some of Kathy's posts. [www.second-sense.org/blog/](http://www.second-sense.org/blog/)

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Now, your donation does even more! A foundation is matching all new and increased donations up to \$50,000 — dollar for dollar. Double your gift and double the impact.





## Mobility Training

“I usually ride the Paratransit service to get here from my home in Englewood. But, today my ride didn’t show.

Dedra wasn’t going to let that stop her. “I picked up my cane and walked to the ‘L’. It was the first time I did that. Rachael’s training really makes a difference in my life.” ●



## Lumen Optical Supports Second Sense

Lumen Optical will launch an exclusive holiday collection created by famed Chicago mosaic artist, Jim Bachor. Patrons at their four locations will receive specialty items with any purchase.

A portion of all purchases, from November 24 through December 31, will be donated to Second Sense.

Jim Bachor, whose mother has macular degeneration, created the image above for this special collection.

## Working as a Team to Get Where They Want to Go



*Polly and Syed practice the "C" grip.*

Human Guide is another mobility option. Two people, usually one sighted and one visually impaired, work together to travel safely and gracefully.

Polly and Rachael worked together to teach this technique to husband and wife teams.

Human Guide uses a combination of verbal and non-verbal communications. The guide’s role is to ensure the partner with vision loss is aware of any obstacles in their path. This includes doorways, narrow halls, stairs and anything else that might affect their smooth travel as a team.

Syed and his wife both learned Human Guide so they can travel as a couple with dignity.