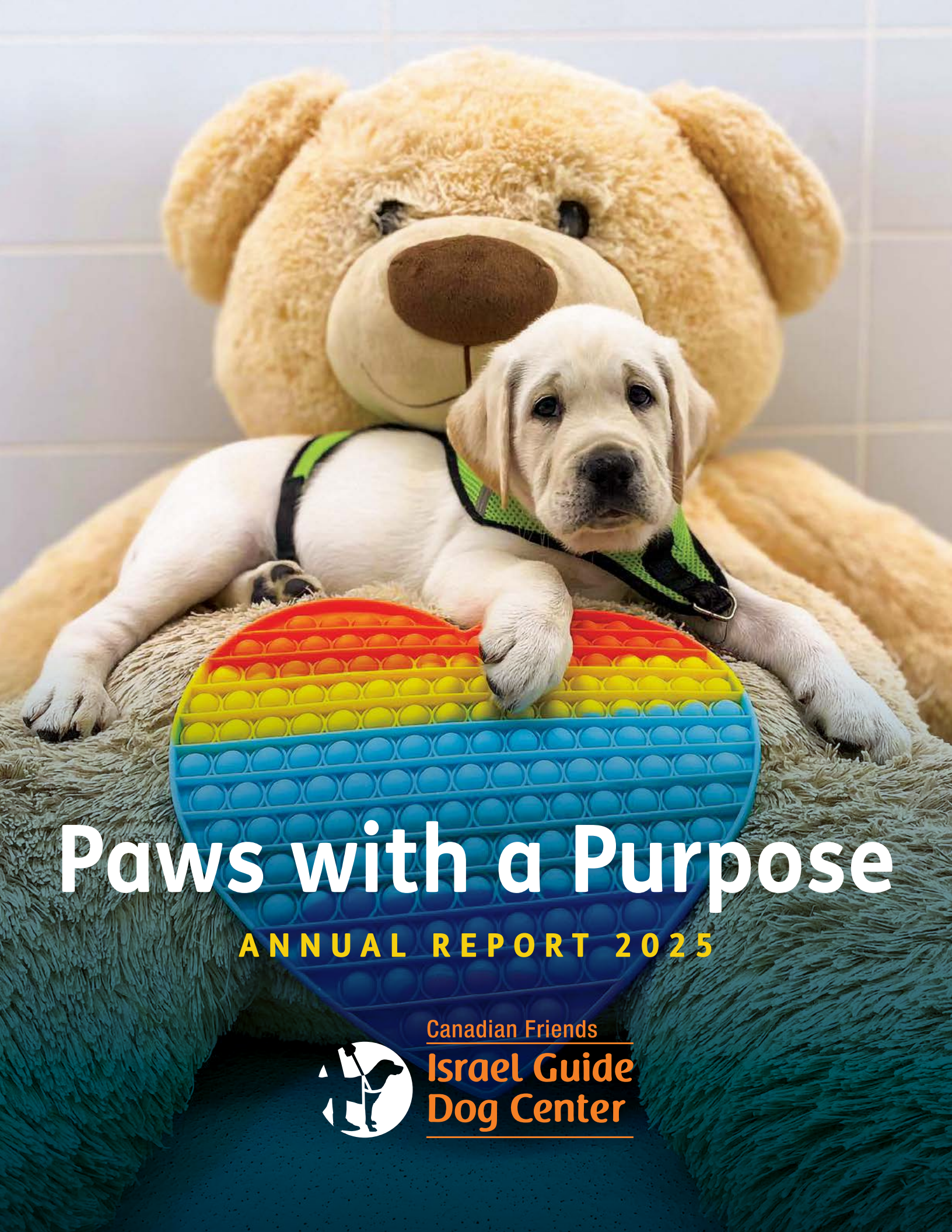


Paws with a Purpose

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Canadian Friends
Israel Guide Dog Center

OUR MISSION

The Israel Guide Dog Center is the only internationally accredited Guide Dog school in Israel and in the entire Middle East, and serves as the country's leading program for training and partnering Guide Dogs for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Our mission is to improve the quality of life of Israelis in need by providing them with safe mobility, independence, and self-confidence through the faithful assistance of specially trained dogs that are acclimated to the unique conditions in Israel.

Since opening in 1991, we have transformed the lives of thousands of people in need with Guide Dogs for the blind and visually impaired, Service Dogs for IDF Veterans with PTSD, and Emotional Support Dogs for children with special needs and families impacted by war.

TOTAL DOGS PLACED TO DATE: 1,436
ACTIVE PARTNERSHIPS: 279

IN 2025, WE PLACED 99 DOGS

33 Guide Dogs

18 Service Dogs (16 PTSD Service Dogs and 2 Autism Service Dogs)

35 Emotional Support Dogs

13 Breeder Dogs





MESSAGE FROM THE ISRAEL DIRECTORS

2025 was a uniquely complex year, beginning with the heavy shadow of war in Gaza and ending with a profound sense of renewal as the hostages were returned.

Even when the path was difficult and filled with challenges, we never stopped raising our puppies, training them, and providing the life-changing dogs that our clients depend on.

We want to say thank you –*toda raba*– for your commitment, compassion, and genuine care for our 2-legged and 4-legged friends. Because of you, every partnership we created has had a profound impact on their lives and the lives of their families and communities.

Together, as partners in this remarkable organization, we will continue to build a more tolerant Israel where independence and dignity are accessible to all.

Despite the war that is currently upon us, we look forward to better days and another year of meaningful work and true partnership.

With deepest respect and appreciation,

Noach Braun
Co-CEO & Founder

Carmel Reiss
Co-CEO





MESSAGE FROM THE CANADIAN DIRECTOR

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." -Maya Angelou

In the last four years, I have had the privilege of traveling across Canada meeting donors, sharing our mission, and expressing my gratitude to those who make this work possible.



What stays with me is not the long hours of travel or countless cups of coffee. It's the moments that linger long after the room empties:

- tears that quietly fall when our clients share how their lives have been transformed
- "oohs" and smiles that ripple through the room as our puppies tumble and play on screen
- excitement from a mitzvah student who has reached their fundraising goal
- voices of care and concern on the other end of the phone, asking about our dogs, clients, and team in Israel during times of war

I hope you also feel a deep sense of pride in being part of this work. Because of you, we are transforming Israeli lives by restoring independence and providing confidence, dignity, and hope—often during life's most challenging moments. The impact is powerful and emotional. And it is deeply felt by everyone it touches.

As you read this report, I hope you not only see the work we've done—I hope you feel the lives we've touched... because that's the true measure of our impact!

With gratitude,

Atarah Derrick
Executive Director

GUIDE DOGS

Hagar Shnell, Director

We form Guide Dog partnerships to create individualized solutions for each client's needs and each dog's strengths.



In 2025 we developed creative ways to address our staffing shortage and enhance our operations:

International Training

We sent three of our Guide Dogs in training to our sister school in Prague. Their trainers worked hand-in-hand with our Israeli trainers, using Hebrew commands. After a few months, the dogs returned to the Center, received short supplemental training, and have now been successfully partnered with clients.

Staff Development

We sponsored 3 trainers to become fully certified Guide Dog Mobility Instructors (GDMIs), which allows them to work directly with clients who have visual impairments.

Infrastructure Improvements

We upgraded our vans to be outfitted with air-conditioning to increase the comfort of our dogs during the intense summer heat, and our trainers moved into a new dedicated space on-campus for our growing team.

33 Guide Dog partnerships created in 2025





PROFILE

Avraham, a married father, grandfather, and great-grandfather lives in Bat Yam. Twenty-five years ago, he was diagnosed with Optic Atrophy and, due to his deteriorating sight, had to stop working as a contractor for Israel's electric company. Avraham finds great joy in taking long walks on the beach and playing music—singing and playing the accordion for groups all over Israel.

Since being partnered with Bogey, a male Yellow Lab, Avraham notices that there are fewer obstacles in his way. He says, "Now, I walk safely and proudly, something I never felt when I was using a cane. Bogey is amazing! He's a great match. I love to walk and Bogey loves to play and swim at the beach. And, he's a bit of a rascal, which actually suits my personality well."

PTSD SERVICE DOGS

Yariv Melamed, Director

Since the outbreak of the war with Gaza, PTSD has surged in Israel.

To increase the number of PTSD Service Dog partnerships, in 2025 we prioritized:

Candidate Screening

We receive more than 100 inquiries each year about securing a PTSD Service Dog. After the initial assessment, we conduct comprehensive in-home interviews to explain our work, review the requirements for having a Service Dog, and perform a demonstration with a dog in training.

Strong Partnerships

When a Service Dog is ready to be partnered, we review our waitlist to find a good match. The new partners then participate in eight full-day sessions at our Center, supplemented by two home visits to ensure seamless integration into each candidate's life.

We also provide follow-up visits and calls to new partners, as well as ongoing support for all 58 current PTSD partnerships.

International Re-certification

In 2025, we were successfully evaluated and recertified by Assistance Dogs International (ADI).

16 PTSD Service Dogs placed in 2025

Israel's Ministry of Defense estimates that currently there are 20,000 IDF veterans with PTSD and by 2029, that number will increase to more than 50,000



Service Dogs *are professionally trained to perform specific tasks that mitigate a person's disability. At the Center, we train PTSD Service Dogs according to the highest international standards. Under the Israeli law, these dogs are granted full public access rights and are permitted in all public spaces including restaurants, shops, hospitals, and other facilities.*



PROFILE

Yotam, a retired IDF soldier, experienced severe anxiety during last year's missile attacks from Iran. In the past, these moments would drive him to isolate himself in his room, even during alarms. This time, his Service Dog, Linda, was there. With Linda beside him, he went into the shelter with his family. The physical contact helped him regulate his anxiety and breathe again. That moment became a turning point. Gradually, he began sitting in the living room more often. After a long period of withdrawal, he was once again spending time with his family. It was a small change in behaviour, but a profound one in reality.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOGS

Ami Toren, Director

As war continues to impact families, the demand for our Emotional Support Dogs continues to rise.

To address this need, in 2025 we prioritized:

Training

We formed a "Special Needs Patrol" to ensure all Emotional Support Dogs have completed basic training before placement. This team of three expert volunteer trainers provide behavioural evaluation and training for dogs awaiting placement.

Enhanced Assessment

Our dogs participate in an extensive assessment process. To reduce kennel stays, we launched the "Behavioural Assessment and Response Test (BART) Same Day Model," allowing dogs to be assessed and returned home with their puppy raisers within a single day. They return at a later date to complete other assessments.

Autism Service Dogs

We completed a two-year pilot program, training Service Dogs for children on the autism spectrum. In total, four teams were partnered.

Expanded Relationships

We have built a relationship with Israel's National Insurance Institute to support a two-year initiative that will provide 25 dogs to families coping with disabilities and emotional trauma.

In 2025, 35 Emotional Support Dogs placed and 2 Autism Service Dogs placed



Emotional Support Dogs *provide therapeutic comfort through their mere presence and companionship rather than through trained tasks. They do not require specialized training and in Israel have no legal standing. These dogs are generally restricted from public spaces where pets are prohibited.*



PROFILE

A NOTE FROM LEVI'S MOTHER, ORIT

"Every morning, Wendy helps me wake my son, Levi. She licks him until he wakes up, then accompanies him as he gets dressed and brushes his teeth. She knows when he's upset and comes to him, and he senses her presence. He knows to go cuddle with her when he needs to. Socially, she's amazing—she brings friends closer to him because she's always at the center of every room, wherever she goes (how could she not be?).

Now, when sirens go off, Levi runs to make sure Wendy comes with us to the safe room. There, she helps keep him calm and it's amazing to see their connection. Wendy is part of the family, and the world wouldn't be the same without her."



BREEDING & KENNELS

Orna Braun, Director

It's hard to resist cute pictures of puppies! But there is so much more to creating each adorable puppy and helping them thrive so that they can each change someone's life.

Veterinary Health & Breeding Center

In April, we dedicated our multi-functional Veterinary Health and Breeding Center. The new facility has updated surgery & examination rooms, as well as laboratories equipped with cutting-edge technology.



Improving Health Evaluations

Because our dogs' health is critical, we've refined our ongoing health monitoring efforts to proactively identify and manage emerging medical issues. We also hired a Veterinary Technician, Ganit Feldman, who provides clinical and specialized care to our dogs.

Genetics

In 2025, we started working with an Israeli veterinary and genetic testing company to provide DNA-based health and identification services. Every dog selected as a breeder undergoes rigorous DNA panel testing that analyzes multiple genes associated with 15 health conditions.

Breeding

The stress of war clearly impacted our 4-legged friends, resulting in a lower-than-expected conception rate. Luckily, the conception rate improved in November and December 2025, giving us many more litters than originally planned in January 2026.

OUR BREEDING PROGRAM HAS:



- **14 males**
- **32 females**
- **109 puppies born in 2025**
- **4 new breeding dogs introduced from overseas**

Every year we provide health services for more than 400 dogs and puppies

PUPPY RAISING DEPARTMENT

Eli Ben Boher, Director

Puppy raisers are the Israeli volunteers who selflessly commit to raising and socializing puppies for their first year of life.





In 2025 we focused on:

Retention

We sought to retain experienced puppy raisers to raise another puppy. Seasoned raisers possess the deep practical knowledge and consistency needed to socialize puppies effectively.

Recruitment

Improved screening and selection of puppy raisers to reduce the number of puppy raisers that relinquish their puppies after realizing the demands required. In 2025, only two puppies were returned during their first month of placement.

Support

We updated training content to enhance our materials and resources, focused on using experienced puppy raisers as mentors, and implemented a daily messaging system for new families.

160 puppies were raised  ***398 Israelis volunteered as puppy raisers***



"Raising a puppy as a foster family is an extraordinary experience - exciting, challenging, and meaningful.

From the first moment Yoyo entered our home, she became an integral part of the family. We learned that every small action we take can affect her future as a Guide Dog and change the life of a person with blindness.

We learned about tolerance and sensitivity, as well as the importance of giving to others without expecting anything in return.

It's an experience that demands a lot from us, but gives us much more."

-Eitan Family



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Erez Barkai, Director

Our commitment remains clear: to help build a reality where independence, accessibility, and dignity are part of everyday life. In 2025, the Center advanced this goal by helping shape public policy, advocating for expanded access, and contributing to professional knowledge-sharing efforts.

Regulatory Leadership and Public Policy

We strengthened our role as a professional voice for Guide and Service Dogs in Israel, representing training centers in discussion with government authorities and participating in Ministry of Justice forums on legislative change. We also built relationships with policy makers, helping keep disability and social issues on the agenda.

Global Influence

Our reach expanded internationally through participation in the Assistance Dog International (ADI) and International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) committees, deepening collaboration between Israeli and global partners.

Expanding Israeli Rights

We continue to support individuals exercising their rights, assisting with cases of access refusal, and helping travelers navigate Israel's regulatory environment with greater confidence. We also provide accessibility and awareness training across sectors, including airlines, public transportation, and businesses.

Innovation and Support

The Center introduced AI-based tools to support independence and daily life, along with new educational content focused on safety and strengthening client-dog bonds. During periods of national tension, including the war with Iran in June 2025, we advanced the "Purple Home Front Initiative," offering workshops and practical resources to help graduates maintain independence.

Knowledge Sharing

We convened Israel's Service Dog Training centers for a first-of-its-kind seminar to build shared professional standards, while continuing to use graduates' experiences to raise awareness and drive social change.

Together, these efforts strengthened our impact and helped advance accessibility and inclusion across Israel.



“Freedom. That’s What It’s About.”

Eddie and Harriet Rice first connected with the Israel Guide Dog Center while attending a presentation in Florida featuring founder Noach Braun, a client and their guide dog. What began as a single donation quickly became a lasting relationship.

“With Noach, boom, all of a sudden you’re a friend,” Eddie recalls. “And ever since then, it has become our number one charity.”

For Eddie, the connection is deeply personal. Living with a disability himself, he understands how important mobility aids and support services can be in creating independence and improving quality of life.

“I know what having a disability means to a family and to the individual,” he says. “Whatever I can get to make my life easier, I’m going to do. That’s what I want for other people too.”

A lifelong dog lover and longtime disability advocate, Eddie has spent nearly three decades serving as chair of B’nai B’rith Canada’s committee for Canadians with disabilities. He is continually inspired by the expanding impact of the Center’s work, from guide dogs for people who are blind or visually impaired to service and emotional support dogs for Israelis facing other physical and emotional challenges.

“The areas of work these canine companions can accomplish is just expanding and amazing,” he says. “People don’t give animals enough credit for how smart they really are.”

Over the years, Eddie and Harriet have sponsored guide dog partnerships, made gifts in honour and memory of loved ones, and included the organization in their legacy plans.

“Because I know what it’s accomplished during my lifetime,” Eddie says. “If there are funds available in the future, that’s where I think they would do the most good.”

For the Rices, supporting the Israel Guide Dog Center is about helping people achieve greater independence, dignity, and freedom.

“Freedom,” Eddie says simply. “That’s what it’s about.”



This year, our **Freedom Unleashed** crowdfunding campaign raised more than $400,000 in support of the Guide Dogs for Israelis.

The campaign kicked off with two outstanding launch events in Montreal and Toronto featuring Shai DeLuca, bringing together supporters, volunteers, and ambassadors in a shared commitment to changing lives in Israel.

Beyond the funds raised, the campaign helped galvanize our community, expand awareness of our mission, and inspire hundreds of people to take action. We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped make Freedom Unleashed such a powerful success.





PUPPY POWER!

Name A Puppy That Will One Day Change The World

What you see here are no ordinary cute puppies–they are superheroes in the making, ready to bring confidence and independence to Israelis in need.

But even superheroes need a partner. With your help they will be able to reach their full potential.

When you name a puppy at the Israel Guide Dog Center, you become part of that heroic journey. You'll choose your hero's name and follow the puppy's adventures from birth until it is partnered–changing a life forever.

Your $5,000 sponsorship helps support their transformation, providing the care, training, and support they need to become a Guide Dog, PTSD Service Dog, or Emotional Support Dog.

Every hero's story begins somewhere. This one begins with you!

If you are interested in naming one of our superhero puppies, please contact Atarah Derrick at atarah@israelguidedog.ca and 416-577-3600



IN MEMORIAM

Benzi Elkon z"l

Our entire Israel Guide Dog Center family mourns the loss of our dear friend, client, and passionate advocate, Benzi Elkon.

More than 30 years after serving in an elite IDF Special Forces unit, Benzi began experiencing the devastating effects of PTSD. In 2022, the Center partnered him with Lugo, a black Labrador Retriever. Lugo was Benzi's steady presence in moments of distress, a source of comfort during flashbacks, and a loyal companion.

With Lugo by his side, Benzi poured his heart into the people he loved—his beloved wife, Irit, his children, and the community around him.

While Lugo offered unwavering support, some wounds run deeper than what even the greatest support can help. After a long and courageous effort to carry his immense pain, he passed away in 2025.

Benzi was a powerful voice for IDF veterans living with PTSD, helping to shine a light on a condition that is so often unseen. From leading an awareness-building bike ride across Israel to traveling internationally to share his story, Benzi inspired countless people with his courage, honesty, and compassion.

We remember Benzi for his strength, his advocacy, and the lives he touched so deeply. His absence is felt profoundly, and he will be missed; but his memory will certainly be a blessing for all who knew him and for his legacy of resilience.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

This is our most recent internal Financial Report and Budget for 2026.

	2026 Budget in CAD	Actual 2025 in CAD
INCOME - OVERSEAS		
Funding from US Friends	$4,724,571	$2,251,815
Direct Donations from US Donors	$524,952	$566,263
Transfers from British Friends	$43,746	$977,134
Funding from British Friends	$30,622	$104,439
Funding from Canadian Friends	$612,443	$719,062
Direct Donations from Canadian Donors	$875	$4,964
Donations from - Other Countries	$153,111	$162,636
TOTAL INCOME - OVERSEAS	**$6,090,321**	**$4,786,312**
INCOME FROM ISRAEL		
Donations from Israel	$1,210,015	$2,226,116
Donations Israel - Ministries & PTSD	$1,367,937	$1,053,362
CanVelo Donations	$113,302	$101,891
CanVelo Income	$36,309	$90,497
In-Kind Donations	$335,313	$201,414
TOTAL INCOME - ISRAEL	**$3,062,877**	**$3,673,281**
TOTAL ALL INCOME	**$9,153,198**	**$8,459,593**
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Dog Training Expenses	$3,232,066	$2,119,441
Kennel Expenses	$1,068,563	$1,173,392
Puppy Raising Expenses	$798,713	$656,708
NEW Breeding, Fertility & Health Department	$538,055	$0
Maintenance	$669,205	$542,210
Marketing and Fundraising	$1,102,111	$891,249
Administrative Expenses	$1,022,990	$843,759
CanVelo Expenses	$149,611	$125,687
Financing Expenses	$25,810	$12,963
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	**$8,607,125**	**$6,365,409**
FIXED ASSETS		
Fixed Assets – New Building Construction	$1,270,822	$558,546.12
Depreciation	$524,952	$405,294.60
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	**$1,795,774**	**$963,841**
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	**$10,402,899**	**$7,329,250**
SURPLUS/- DEFICIT	-$1,249,701	$1,130,343

This is an internal projected budget
The fixed assets expenses are subject to designated donations
Please remember that we provide all of our services at no cost to our clients.





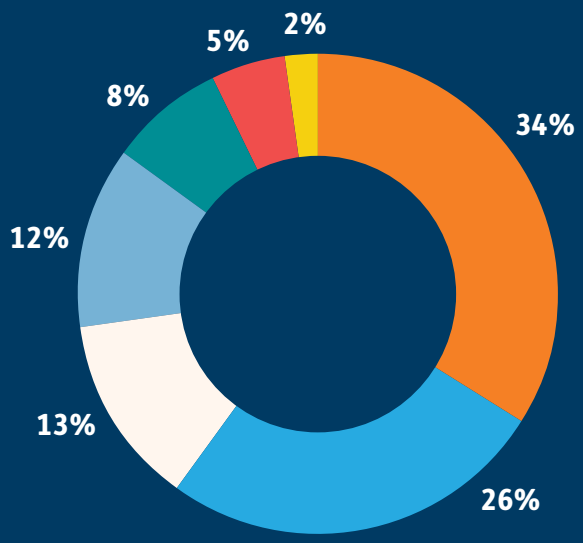
FUNDRAISING & FRIENDRAISING

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR MIRACLES

We rely on individuals, foundations, and community organizations to meet our funding needs.

DONATIONS BY COUNTRY

- USA
- Israel Donors
- UK
- Israeli Government
- Canada
- Other Sources (in-kind, Canvelo income & donations)
- Other Countries



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Service Dogs
16 PTSD Service Dogs &
2 Autism Service Dogs

35
Emotional Support Dogs

13
Breeder Dogs



Canadian Friends
Israel Guide Dog Center

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Photo credits: Special thanks to Eli Ben Boher, Rina Arbel, Staff, and Volunteers