



Kathy Champion and her dog, Angel
2009



Southeastern Guide Dogs

May 12, 2009

Calendar Girls, Inc.
18142 Riccardo Ct
Fort Myers, FL 33912

Dear Friends:

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. is pleased to forward you the enclosed photo of Kathy Champion and her guide dog "Angel" This is the student who has benefited from your generous Student Training Sponsorship. The team graduated in Southeastern's March/April 2009 Class.

After a 27 year career in the United States Army as a Civil Affairs officer, 44 year old Kathy is getting ready to retire. With the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and a PhD in Biological Sciences, Kathy served as a medical advisor and technician in foreign countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, and Bosnia.

In October 2007, Kathy was diagnosed with optic neuritis due to a virus she contracted while serving our country in Iraq. Regaining her freedom and the need to be outdoors, brought Kathy to Southeastern for her first guide dog, Angel.

Kathy has always referred to her two children as Angels. So when we told her she was matched with a dog named Angel she knew it was fate and the bond began to grow before they even met. And although Angel is just as stubborn as she is, Kathy loves that they have found a common ground and have learned to work as a team.

Kathy's strength and courage have been an inspiration to us all. Watching the two walk side by side with confidence and dignity it is clear to see a team that will truly move Forward Together.

Sincerely,

Toni Hemminger

Toni Hemminger
Development Department

Enclosure

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