

Anonymous giving provides independence for the blind

When a donor witnessed the close relationship between a blind co-worker and the worker's service dog, the donor was deeply moved by the apparent trust between man and dog. This experience inspired the donor to establish an advised fund in 1998 to provide ongoing support for the training of Seeing Eye dogs. The donor had one additional request: to remain anonymous, a request we honor.

The permanent endowment the donor established, the W.H. Crocus Seeing Eye Dog Fund, was named for the first Seeing Eye dog whose training was supported by the fund. A letter from the man who received Crocus stated his deep gratitude to the anonymous donor:

"Crocus is an excellent guide dog in every way and you should know that as Crocus and I walk where we will in the world, it is in large part your good work that has made my independence possible."

Since 1998, the donor has recommended grants nearly every year to The Seeing Eye Inc., a nonprofit educational organization that has trained dogs as guides for blind individuals and is the oldest existing dog guide school in the world. It is the donor's hope that more dogs like Crocus will help the blind and visually impaired achieve the independence and self confidence they desire.

Remaining anonymous is important to this donor and that means it's important to us. This person knows that by working with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, their request for anonymity is honored and the focus remains on the good work funded through the advised fund.



After 18 months of training, Crocus was placed with his blind owner.

PHOTOS COURTESY THE SEEING EYE

Two puppies in training at The Seeing Eye Inc. facility in Morristown, NJ.

