

For Immediate Release

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Photo by Paula Cook.

Watermark® Welcomes The Seeing Eye's Puppies with a Purpose on Board in Baltimore

(Baltimore, MD) – “The Seeing Eye’s mission is to enhance the independence, dignity and self-confidence of people who are blind, through the use of specially trained Seeing Eye® dogs.” On Saturday, September 25th at 1pm, three of The Seeing Eye’s clubs from Lancaster County, PA, York County, PA, and Carroll County, MD will join Watermark® for a cruise through the Baltimore Inner Harbor. The puppies on board will range from five to twenty months. Based in

Morristown, New Jersey, the organization chose this outing to allow their puppies to experience and gain comfort with water-based public transportation, such as water taxis and ferries.

“Working dogs serve such a great purpose for people with special needs. So when I was contacted about having Seeing Eye’s pups in training out on one of our boats, I couldn’t resist,” said Watermark Director of Sales and Marketing Alex Knoll. “These dogs will be the eyes of people who cannot see themselves, so getting them accustomed to all sorts of environments is key to their success, and Watermark is honored to play a role in that training.”

The Seeing Eye has an incredible team of foster volunteers that care for and train their puppies from the time they are seven to eight weeks old until they reach thirteen to sixteen months. The “puppy raisers” do as much as they can to expose the puppies to as many different experiences as possible in the short time they have them. When the puppies return to The Seeing Eye, they will go through medical checks, evaluations, and further training. Paula Cook, Co-Leader of the Lancaster County club, shared her experience:

Our family has been raising puppies for the last 12 years. We are currently raising our tenth and eleventh puppies for The Seeing Eye. Eight of our prior puppies have graduated from the program and become guides. Our favorite part of training is obviously the puppies – it is very exciting to get the puppy, learn their personalities, work with them to learn their commands and work with them on their weaknesses. The biggest reward is to watch them in New Jersey, after they’ve returned for formal training, to watch them take their final “Town Walk” guiding an instructor through

town, avoiding overhangs, uneven walkways and moving traffic. The Seeing Eye does an amazing job perfecting the puppy's work as a guide and finds a perfect match in a partner that needs them for greater independence. The most common question we are asked is: "Isn't it hard to give them up?" Well, yes, it is hard, but it is so worth it when you know the difference the dog can make in the life of a person who is visually impaired! Please visit www.seeingeye.org and click on Explore Puppy Raising for more information.

Watermark is excited to welcome The Seeing Eye's incredible volunteers and paw-sengers on board. For press and media inquiries, please contact Alex Knoll, Watermark's Director of Sales and Marketing, at AlexKnoll@WatermarkJourney.com and Michelle Barlak, The Seeing Eye's PR Specialist, at MBarlak@SeeingEye.org.

About Watermark: Watermark immerses people in the history, culture and fun of the Chesapeake area more completely than any other tour or charter company. Whether you want to learn or just enjoy, no one else offers so many ways to experience this special place, both by land and by water. Watermark® an Annapolis-based, locally owned and operated business, has been creating authentic experiences since 1972. Watermark sub-brands include Annapolis Tours® by Watermark®, offering the original Annapolis colonial tours; Cruises on the Bay™ by Watermark®, with the easiest way to have fun on the water; Yacht Charters on the Bay™ by Watermark®, and Wedding on the Bay™ by Watermark®, offer flawless events on pristine yachts; Destination Education™ by Watermark®, gives teachers the most engaging way to immerse their students in history. For a complete list of walking tours, sightseeing cruises, yacht charters and services offered by Watermark visit www.watermarkjourney.com.

About The Seeing Eye: Established in 1929, The Seeing Eye provides specially bred and trained dogs to guide people who are blind. Seeing Eye dog users experience greatly enhanced mobility and independence, allowing them to retain their active lifestyles despite blindness. The Seeing Eye is a 501(c)3 non-profit supported by contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, bequests, and other planned gifts. The Seeing Eye is a trademarked name and can only be used to describe the dogs bred and trained at the school's facilities in Morristown, N.J. If you would like more information on The Seeing Eye, please visit the website at www.SeeingEye.org, call (973) 539-4425, or email info@seeingeye.org.

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