



*News From*

# Cheryl Dinolfo

## *Monroe County Executive*

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### **GUIDE DOGS TRAIN AT AIRPORT TO BETTER SERVE TRAVELERS**

*Monroe Region of Guiding Eyes for the Blind and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Host Training at the Passenger Security Checkpoint*

The Greater Rochester International Airport (ROC) today welcomed representatives and volunteers from the Monroe Puppy Raising Region of Guiding Eyes for the Blind to host a training session for nearly a dozen puppies aimed at acclimating future guide dogs with the air travel process and screening procedures that take place in the passenger checkpoint.

*“We are always working to improve and enhance the travel experience for all who use the Airport,”* said **Dinolfo**. *“Often times, travelers are accompanied by service animals and we are proud to partner with Guiding Eyes for the Blind and TSA in order to help prepare future guide dogs and provide a comfortable, first-rate experience for everyone who flies through ROC.”*

The Monroe Puppy Raising Region of Guiding Eyes for the Blind has hosted five trainings at the ROC Airport since 2011, successfully providing valuable air travel orientation to 52 volunteer handlers and their puppies. The dogs navigate through the Airport terminal, ride the escalators/elevators and familiarize themselves with real-life situations they will face with their future handlers.

*“Raising one of these puppies not only changed my life, but has the potential to profoundly change a visually impaired person’s life.”* said **Linda Damato**, Puppy Raiser Director of Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

Guiding Eyes is a non-profit organization that provides superbly bred and trained guide dogs to men and women who are blind and visually impaired as well as service dogs to children with autism. For more information about this program or Guiding Eyes for the Blind visit them online at [www.guidingeyes.org](http://www.guidingeyes.org).

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