



## Guide Dogs 2011

# Our work

### Research

- We fund ophthalmic research which will aid the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of remaining vision in those with sight loss in order to positively impact on mobility and, as a consequence, an individual's independence
- We carry out canine research for better health and welfare of our dogs, and to ensure they are well suited to the needs of their blind and partially sighted owners
- We awarded four new grants to research teams at leading UK universities in 2010, at a total cost of £746,000

### Campaigning

- More than 45 organisations throughout the UK support our 'Streets Ahead' campaign
- More than 1,200 people have written to their national government representatives in support of our 'Talking Buses' campaign
- Manchester City Council ruled out shared streets for residential zones as a result of the 'Streets Ahead' campaign
- More than 30 organisations support our 'Talking Buses' campaign for audio visual equipment to be installed on all new buses
- We continue to campaign for the rights of guide dog owners who are illegally refused entry to shops, restaurants and taxis
- In 2011 Guide Dogs will be focusing on the problem of guide dogs being attacked by other dogs
- We have over 3,000 campaigning supporters
- We participated in the Hardest Hit march on May 11th 2011, along with 8,000 other people from over 80 other charities. This was in opposition to the UK Governments proposed changes to the welfare system

### Vision Support Services

- In 2010 we provided a service for a little under 900 adults and 500 children and young people through our Vision Support Services contracts. Services included mobility and independence services that help to improve people's skills and confidence
- The skills that blind or partially sighted people learn through our Vision Support Services help them to maintain a safe and independent life, both in and outside of their homes
- In 2010, nearly 20% of the children and young people we helped were from black and minority ethnic communities
- In 2010, we delivered VSS services under contracts to 19 local authorities across the UK. All direct costs are met by the local authorities
- We work within our local communities to build meaningful relationships with key diverse groups in order to improve the lives of all blind and partially sighted people