

npower Receives A Tail Wagging Hello From Guide Dogs



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npower has been receiving visits from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association at sites across the north east of England to raise awareness of its services for blind and partially-sighted people.

Over the past two months staff from npower have been meeting guide dog owners and their respective guide dogs during selected lunchtime visits to its offices across the north east. Guide Dogs had previously been invited to the npower site in Worcester and was selected by npower to receive a £20,000 donation, which was used to sponsor four guide dog puppies through their training.

At these visits npower employees have been encouraged to sponsor a puppy, recycle for the charity and get involved in volunteering and payroll giving.

Nicola Wilson, Guide Dogs' Development Fundraiser for the North said: "We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to visit the north east sites of npower. We've had an incredibly warm welcome so far and thanks to everyone's support Guide Dogs will receive an extra £792 annually and we still have three more site visits to attend. npower and their staff have been extremely supportive of Guide Dogs and we simply cannot thank them enough for their continued generosity and support.

"The dogs love all the attention they receive at these visits and the volunteers who dedicate their time enjoy answering all the queries and talking about their experiences as guide dog owners and/or volunteers."

npower currently sponsor four guide dog puppies at Tibury power station and its offices in Swindon and Worcester. Orbie, a five month old golden Labrador is sponsored by the offices in the North East.

Gary Doig, npower's Community Investment Manager in the North East said, "npower was delighted to sponsor our own guide dog puppy, Orbie, through the corporate charity committee. The Guide Dog visits to our North East sites will undoubtedly create a lot of interest amongst our employees, enabling them to learn more about the dogs themselves as well as increase awareness of the great work done by the charity. Hopefully Guide Dogs will also be able to recruit some future fundraisers from amongst our people."

There are around 4,600 guide dog partnerships throughout the UK; each costing about £50,000. The charity relies entirely on voluntary donations to fund its guide dog service.

Nicola explained: "Without the help of employers and staff like npower, Guide Dogs couldn't provide its services for visually impaired people.

"There are still thousands of blind or partially sighted people who never leave the house alone because they lack the confidence and support to do so. Guide Dogs want to change this and provide independence and freedom to every visually impaired person who needs it."

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

About Guide Dogs for the Blind Association:

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association Registered Office: Hillfields, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 3YG. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (291646) and a charity registered in England and Wales (209617) and Scotland (SC038979). Tel: 0118 9835555

About

npower:

npower has 6.8 million residential [gas and electricity](#) accounts throughout the UK. npower is a market leader in renewable energy. npower juice matches [green energy](#) primarily from off-shore wind farms for juice customers at no extra cost. Customers can join the energy industry discussion on npower's interactive debating

website [the brighter energy debate](#) where they can post their questions, views and comments.

Media Contact:

Nicola Wilson

Guide Dogs District Fundraiser North and North Wales

Gibfield Park Avenue

Atherton

Manchester

M46 0SU

guidedogs.org.uk

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