Guide Dog Lands After Parachute Jump

A sponsored parachute jump on a stag weekend has paid for a new Guide Dog in memory of the groom's mother.

Julian Townsend, 37, from Cheltenham, who works as a Design and Build Coordinator with Britannia Construction in Staverton, persuaded 11 of his friends to spend his stag weekend on a sponsored skydive through the Army Parachute School at Netheravon in Wiltshire.

The £5,000 raised has paid for guide dog Gloria, named in memory of Julian's mother, who was registered blind and died last year. During her life she had been a great supporter of Guide Dogs and Julian wanted her memory to live on.

Gloria will stay with a puppy-walker for the first year before returning to Guide Dogs for further training. Once ready, she will be the "eyes" of her owner for around seven years.

"A guide dog can give a blind person independence and a new sense of freedom," said Julian. "I'm so grateful to all those who supported us because Gloria really will change someone's life."

Julian is now considering wing-walking for his next fund-raising venture.

Anyone wishing to contribute to Guide Dogs should visit their website at www.guidedogs.org.uk for details of the various ways this can be done.

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