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AUGUST 2025



In the Spotlight:

Thor & Gary

One of our West area therapy teams was featured on Fox News 13 in the Tampa Bay area! Handler Gary Jordan and Thor, his St. Bernard with a heart of gold, were featured throughout the morning broadcast on July 21st. They were filmed in three different therapy settings and also shared the children's books Gary wrote about Thor. Thank you to Gary and Thor for representing our GRRMF Hearts of Gold team so well! [Click here](#) to see them in action, touching lives and warming hearts.



Phenomenal Growth

The numbers are in for the first half of 2025 and YOU are making a difference every day in communities across the state! We currently have 140 dog/handler teams and 192 volunteers (handlers and others). We continue to receive new visit requests and fill our quarterly screening sessions in each of our six service areas. Thank you to all of our volunteers who make the magic happen, bringing furry joy and comfort by sharing your pups as GRRMF ambassadors.

VicNet
GRMF Hearts of Gold

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VicNet by volgistics

New System Roll Out

Many thanks to our North Central and East teams for leading the way this summer by implementing our new scheduling system by Volgistics! The system helps us keep our calendar current so handlers can sign up for visits and coordinators can ensure all visits are covered. It's also helped us collect our visit and volunteer statistics. GET READY: all teams will begin using the new system August 1st! If you haven't set up your user account online or through the VicNet app, contact your area coordinator or [Bob Marchand](#) (parkfarmusa@msn.com) right away.

Who Knew?

Do you remember those requests from our admin team and area coordinators asking you for an "Official Vest Photo" of your pup?

Therapy Dog Lexi

Breed Golden Retriever

Birthday May 1, 2016

Favorite Treat Monthly Bark Box with new "babies" ... Toys!

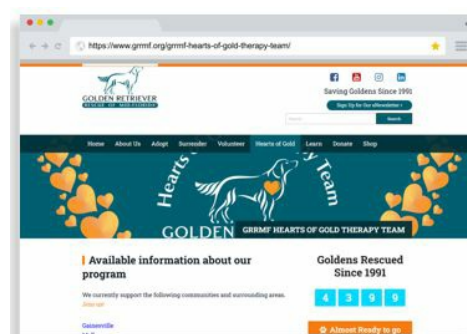
Fun Facts Loves being with her people, walks in the woods and her stuffed toys (babies).






Submitting a great photo of your therapy dog wearing his or her Hearts of Gold vest is the KICK OFF of your handler journey. The vest photo is used to create the certificate that shows you and your dog are certified canine therapy team. We're recognized by the AKC as an approved canine therapy certifying organization, so our certificates are a proud achievement! Additionally, we must provide the certificates with dog photos to the facilities we visit, and as part of our insurance requirement. Some clients may deny our visits if the certificates aren't provided - don't let that happen to you!

How else do we use those "Official Vest Photos"? You'll see them featured on our website and social media, and on our printed media, too. Your personalized therapy dog trading cards and calling cards are a small token you can give to those you visit. We're so proud of you and your pup! Please help us showcase your special pup in a PAW-fect vest photo!

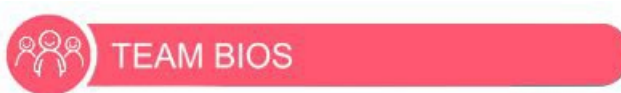


Looking Ahead

A team of volunteers has been working on improvements to our Hearts of Gold pages on our [website](#) over the summer. Keep an eye out as the revisions are uploaded.

Hearts Connected

We'd love your feedback, stories, or ideas! Share your thoughts with your area coordinator or email us at hgadmin@grrmf.org. Also, please let us know if your contact information has changed. Stay connected and keep our mission strong!



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