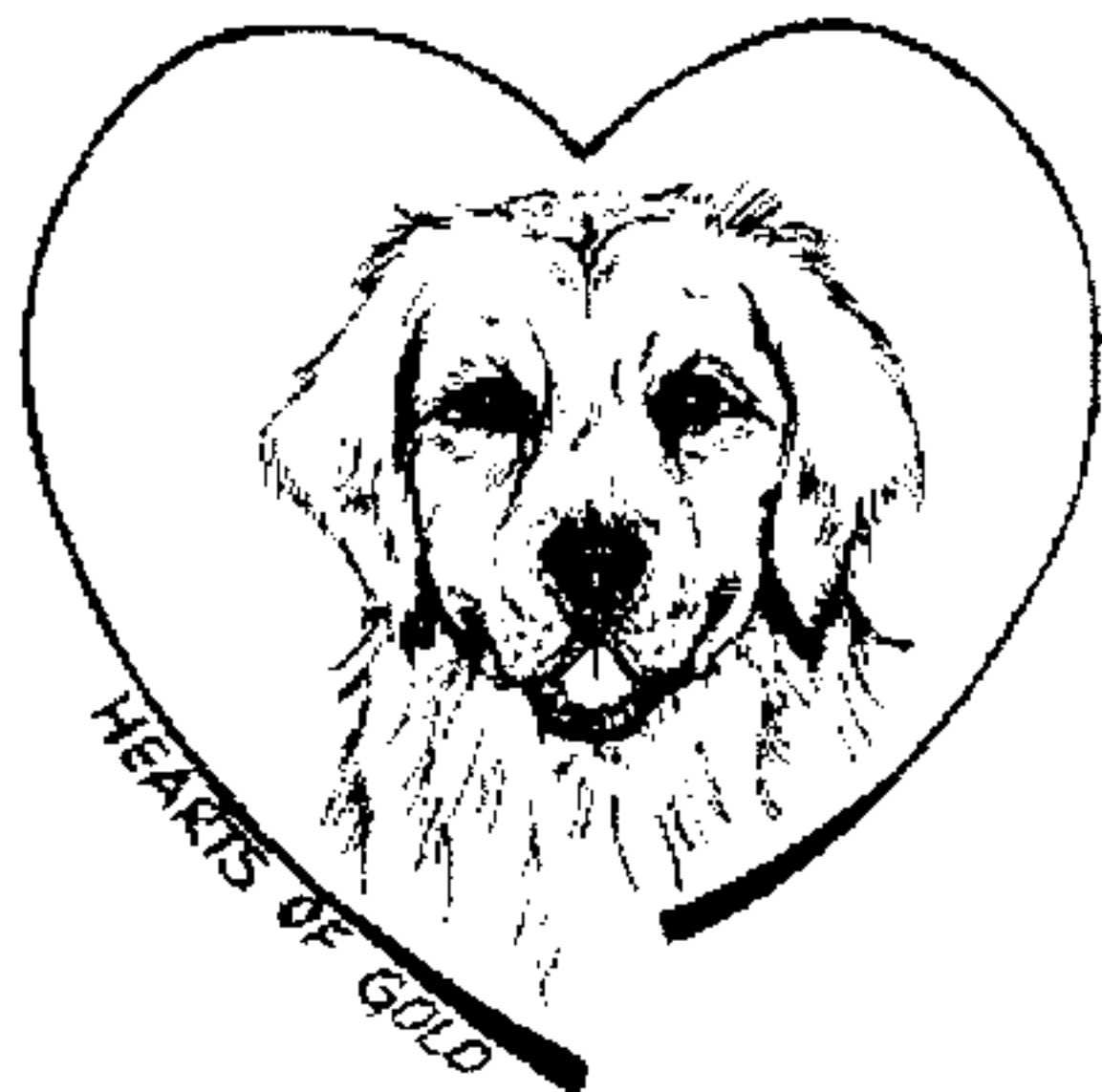


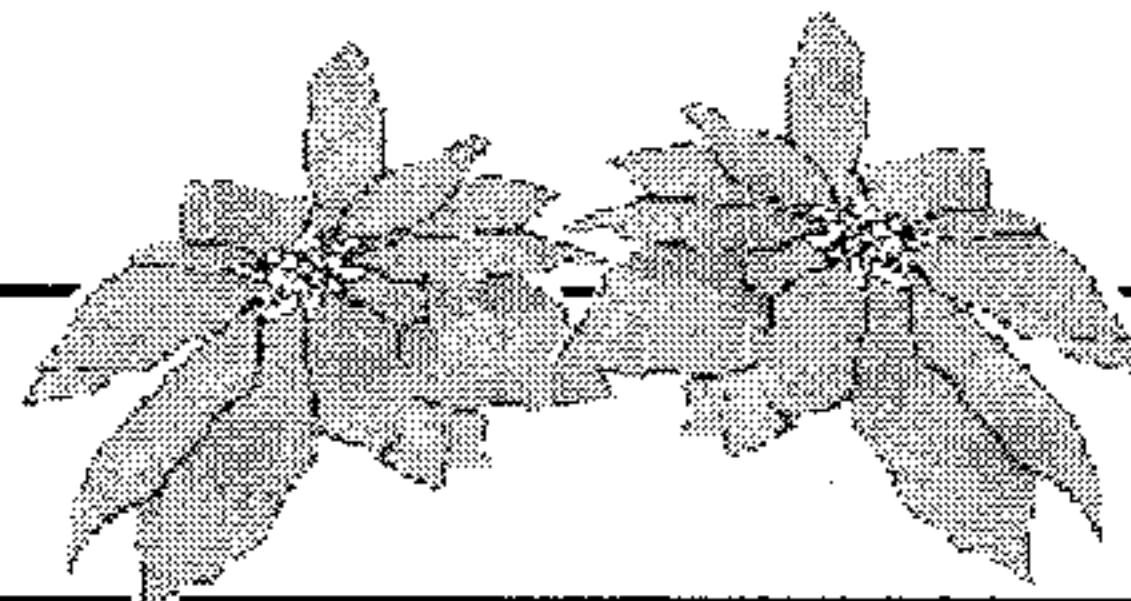


HEARTS OF GOLD

Newsletter of Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc.

Volume 4, Issue 4

Winter 2001



President's Message

by Barbara Durham

Season's Greetings to all our GRRMF family! We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. We would also like to extend our thanks for your support through this year. Your volunteer support and financial generosity have made our organization a success. As we approach nearly 1,000 dogs rescued, it is rewarding to reflect on how many goldens now are happy and loved due to Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida. It's hard to believe our rescue effort has been ongoing for 10 years now!

During this holiday season I have a special wish. I wish that we had a waiting list of people wanting to adopt senior goldens as they come into our program. It would be wonderful if they could quickly find their forever homes. I ask you to consider opening your heart to these precious treasures.

In these troublesome times for our nation, the love of a dog can heal your heart. Senior goldens are all love and no trouble and are the perfect medicine.

May God Bless all of you and your companion animals this holiday season.

— Barbara

Maggie Mae: A Christmas Wish

Dear Friends:

My name is Maggie Mae, and as you can see from my photo, I'm way too old to believe in Santa Claus. But despite all the hardship and sadness I've seen in my years, I can still believe in one thing: there truly are good people in this world.

You see, I led a very lonely life tied to a stake in someone's yard. I never had toys to play with or humans to love me. The only attention I got was from the male dogs they'd let in to mate with me. Over the years, I had litter after litter of puppies, which were quickly taken away so I could have more, until I became too old and sick to breed. My "owner" was going to end my life, but a kindhearted man took me instead and called rescue.

The volunteers who picked me up cried over me. They were afraid they wouldn't be able to save me.

I had a long list of problems from what the doctor called "severe neglect." I was malnourished. I had heartworms. I didn't have much hair, and my skin was black. I itched so bad I couldn't

See Maggie Mae, page 2



Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida
An All-Volunteer, Nonprofit 501(c) 3 Corporation
• Education • Intervention • Spay/Neuter • Adoption

P.O. Box 1449
Goldenrod, FL 32733-1449
For info call: (407) 332-2840
E-mail: info@grrmf.org

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Visit GRRMF on the Web: www.grrmf.org
955 Golden Retrievers Rescued To Date!

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Maggie Mae, from page 1

think of much else except scratching. My ears were dirty and infected, and my teeth were even worse. My hips aren't too good, either.

But Aunt Betty just smiled when she saw me and said she'd get me "all fixed up" in no time.

I love Aunt Betty! She makes sure to give me a big hug every day. I just can't get enough affection and have to keep putting my paw on her lap for more. She makes me smile when she says I'm the sweetest golden girl she's ever known. I don't know about that, but I do try my best to show how much I appreciate everything she's done for me.

Sadly, my friends here at rescue have lots of us to care for. It's distressing to see how many goldens need help. They have to turn goldens away sometimes because there aren't enough foster homes. The worst are the senior ones like me, because we know they'll probably have to go to the Rainbow Bridge if rescue can't take them. People mostly want the young ones, it seems.

If I had only one wish this Christmas, it would be for all my friends here in rescue to find homes. I'd be willing to stay here forever, if it means someone else can get adopted. It doesn't take much to make me smile – I'm content just having a roof over my head, food in my bowl and someone to love me! Don't think for a minute that I don't know how lucky I am. Without rescue, I wouldn't be around today.

So, friends, I wanted to ask you a favor. You obviously love golden retrievers – otherwise, you wouldn't be receiving this newsletter. Aunt Betty and the other nice humans who work with her need help. They need money to buy food and pay vet bills. They need temporary homes that can take someone like me in for a while until a space opens up. And they need help raising enough capital to build a new "shelter," so more goldens – young and old – can be saved.

If you could find it in your hearts to help out, whether it's fostering a dog like me or even just sending a small donation, I would really appreciate it. I'll bet your "best friend" sitting beside you right now would, too. If you put your dog's name or someone else you want to honor or remember on the donation, Aunt Betty says we'll list it in the newsletter next time. Oh, and she says to remind you it's tax-deductible, whatever that means.

Of course, if you'd like to bring me home for the holi-

days, I'd love that, too. Betty says I have to go to someone "really special." Are you that person?

Merry Christmas and 'Golden' Holidays ...



*Maggie Mae
Senior Spokesdog
GRRMF, Inc.*

Yes, I want to help Maggie Mae and her Friends!

Enclosed is my check for:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

In honor/memory (circle one) of: _____

Send check to:

Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc.,
PO Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733.

All donations are tax-deductible and will go directly toward the care of a golden retriever in need.

A Christmas Gift?

GRRMF is looking for a forever home for Maggie Mae. Her family would have to agree to maintain her regimen of diet, supplements and herbal treatments for her skin and coat, as well as thyroid medication and glucosamine for her hips. They'll also have to agree to let her continue to be a "spokesdog" for rescue. We don't know how old Maggie Mae is, but she deserves to spend her remaining days surrounded by comfort and love. Maggie Mae is a true golden gem whose wonderful spirit shines through, despite all her hardships. You should see her smile – she is one very special girl! Please contact Betty Wyatt through our Hotline if you would like to discuss a home for Maggie Mae in further detail: (407) 332-2840, Option 3.

'Fun' Raisers Garner Needed Funds

Volunteers, Goldens are Real Stars

The past few months have been busy ones for GRRMF volunteers, who have coordinated a record number of educational events and fund-raisers for rescue. Here's an overview:

A Sept. 23 fund-raiser at **Sam's Club** raised \$900. Colleen and Rick Sosteri coordinated this event. Many thanks to volunteers Michelle and Christopher Andrews, Suzanne and Tony Rider, Julie and Gary Mink and Jim Bram.

Courteous Canine, Inc., in Lutz, Fla., hosted an **Agility Fun Run** for GRRMF Oct. 6, which raised more than \$820 and



Ho Ho Ho!

Santa Mink with two happy goldens

featured a raffle, agility runs, food and Canine Good Citizen testing. Santa also was in attendance for photo opportunities. Suzanne Rider coordinated the event with the much-appreciated help of many volun-

teers including Tony Rider, Julie and "Santa" (Gary) Mink, Renee Perkie, Susan Andrews, Debbie McGhehey, Andrea Davis, Jan and Kim Casey, Kristin Anderson and Pat Keene, and Matthew and Anne Marie Wise. Special thanks to Courteous Canine for opening its facility, and to My T-Shirt Guy for providing canvas bags for the volunteers.

In October, Pam Harrell, Peggy Litt, and Bill and Celeste Watkins set up a booth at the **Pet Extravaganza** in Ocala. They raised nearly \$100 for rescue and talked to many people about goldens.

The SPCA "**Paws on Parade**" event Oct. 27 in St. Petersburg was a great success, with nearly \$300 raised for rescue. Thanks to Debbie McGhehey for coordinating this fun event, and to volunteers Suzanne & Tony Rider, Julie & "Santa" Mink, John & Gail Pfohler, Sally Anne Rowland,

Barbara Geisinger, Kathy Brisette, Emily & Velma Rowe, Colleen & Rick Sosteri and Cheryl White. Special thanks to Karen Shapiro and her family for transporting supplies to the park, Bob Monstwillio of Bob's Signs & Designs for making GRRMF banners and signs, Eric Tillberg of Balloon SunSations of Fla. for creating our new rescue balloons, Gertrude Behn for the custom-made tablecloth and Brian McQuillan of HiTech Collision for our banner stand.

Volunteers manned a crowded booth all day long at the Nov. 10 "**Great Day in the Country**" in Oviedo. Volunteers talked to the public about responsible pet ownership and our rescue program. Thanks to participants Pam Jones, Sandy Sumner, Sharon O'Keefe, Susan Matlock, Jo Hughes, Cathy Golisch, Cindy Andrews, Carol and Hal Avey, Wendy Jackson, and Barbara Durham.

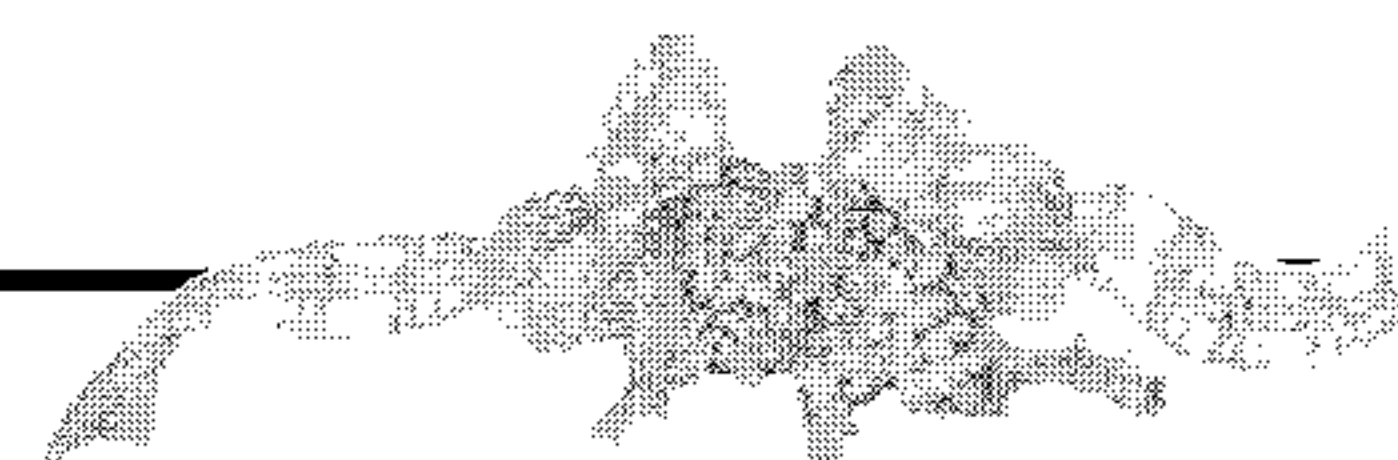
The "West Coast gang" hosted a booth at the "**Christmas Under the Oaks**" craft show on Nov. 10-11. They raised \$617 and educated hundreds of dog lovers. Participants included Debbie McGhehey, Julie & Gary Mink, Suzanne & Tony Rider, John Sons, Jim Brand, Emily Rowe, Cheryl Pacheco, Renee Perkie, Vicki Ryan and Susan Andrews.



Proud Mama: Renee Perkie and Scarlett at 'Christmas Under the Oaks.'

Help Spread the Word!

GRRMF now has locations for education all over the state: Sarasota, Tampa, Ocala, Melbourne and Orlando. We also are looking to expand Orlando locations with the Ocoee and Waterford Lakes PetSmart stores. Anyone who would like to help spread the word about rescue is welcome to participate. Bring your golden and have some fun meeting new friends! Call the Hotline: (407) 332-2840, Option 4, or e-mail us: info@grrmf.org.



Capital Campaign Update

Planning for the Future

Exciting news! The GRRMF board has authorized The Beacon Group, an architectural firm in Safety Harbor, Fla., to draw up plans for our proposed rescue facility.

The Beacon Group draws the majority of its work from the public sector, specifically from municipalities, county governments and school districts. The firm has designed and built many pet-adoption facilities and renovated others including the Humane Society of Treasure Coast in Stuart, Pinellas County Animal Services Shelter and Adoption Center, South Lake Animal Rescue League Shelter and Sarasota County Animal Services Shelter to mention a few.

While our "homelike atmosphere" concept is a little different than these shelters, The Beacon Group is willing to explore new horizons with us. We anticipate having this plan ready before the reunion in March so we can share it with members.

GRRMF hopes to model its facility after the San Francisco SPCA's facility, "Maddie's Adoption Center." A description and photos of the California facility can be found on their Web site: sfspca.org. The facility features "doggie apartments" with real walls, windows, toys and comfortable beds.

MARKETING EXPERIENCE?

WE NEED YOU!

As soon as we have the plan, we'll be developing marketing materials including brochures and a fund-raising video. We can use the talents of anyone with professional experience in these areas.

Celebrity Spokesperson Needed

In the spring, GRRMF will be seeking a celebrity spokesperson for our Capital Campaign. This person can be a politician, entertainer, sports figure, newsperson or other celebrity who is well-known in Florida. The individual must love golden retrievers, be willing to make a few appearances and agree to be quoted in brochures and other materials to help raise funds for the new facility.

Fund-Raising Effort Gets Organized

In light of all the work that must take place on the Capital Campaign, we need dedicated volunteers to help us realize the dream of a new home for goldens while, at the same time, keep up the fund-raising activities that support our operations.

About two months ago, GRRMF President Barbara Durham and Vice President Marcia McGovern developed an organizational chart for fund raising. If are interested in one of the positions on this chart (below), please fill out the volunteer sheet found on our Web site – www.grrmf.org – with your background and forward it to GRRMF, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733. If you need a volunteer form

sent to you, please call the Hotline: (407) 332-2840, Option 4.

Attention Grant Writers!

In a previous newsletter, we asked for volunteers to help write grants to acquire funding for our new facility.

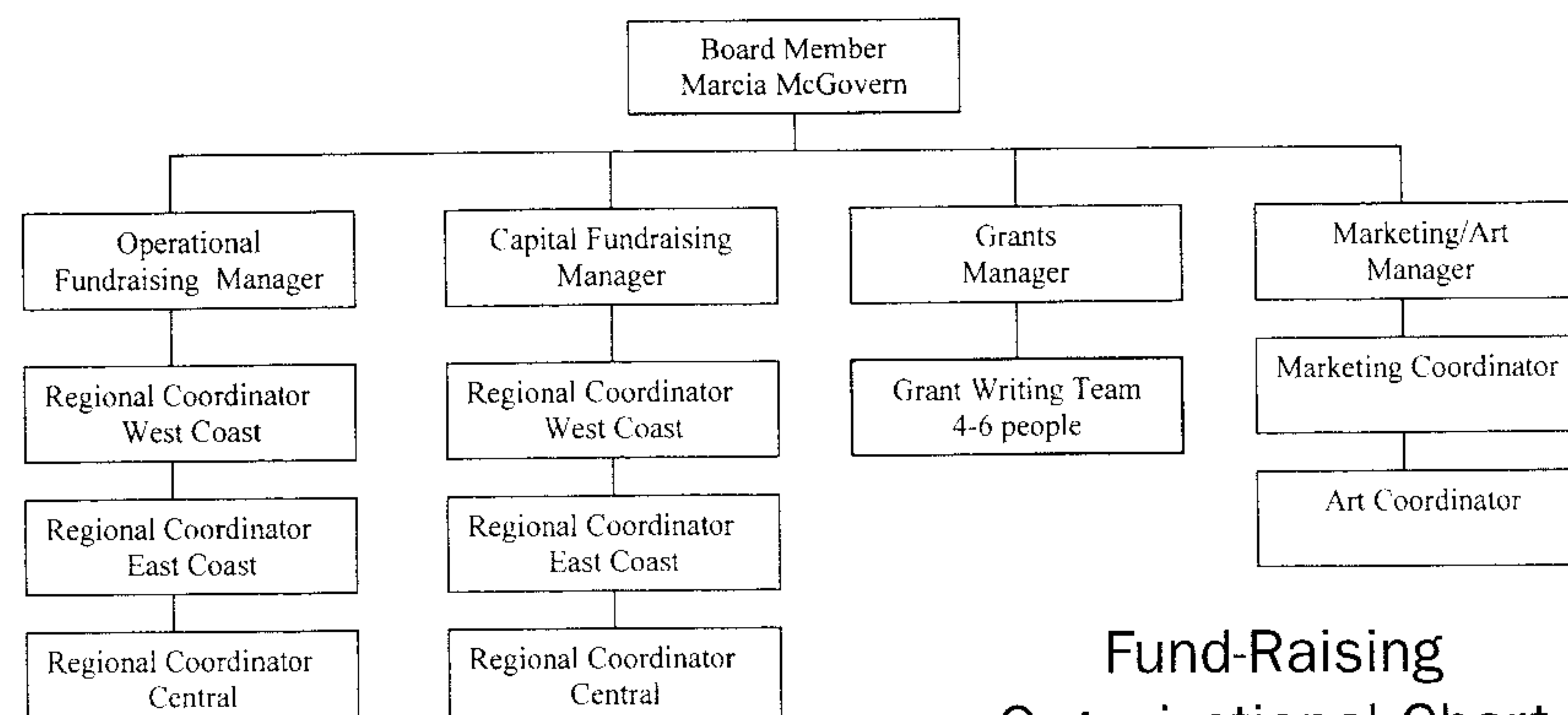
Two months ago, those names were lost in a computer crash. If you are still interested, please let us know!

A meeting will be held soon to discuss available grants and come up with an approach for GRRMF. For those too far away to attend a meeting in the Orlando area, we're looking into dial-in access.

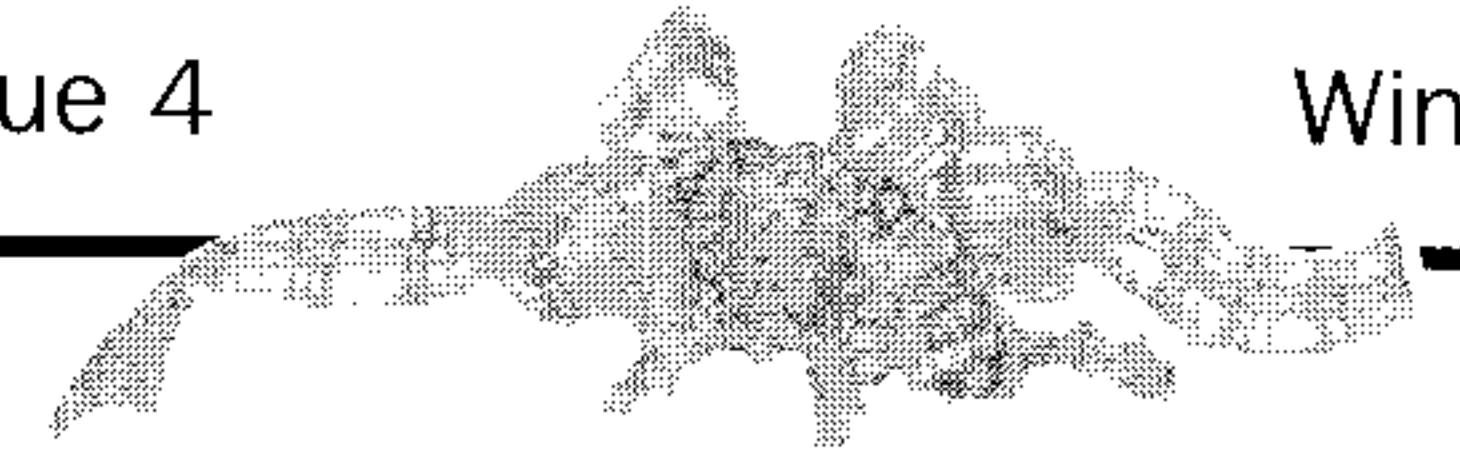
Even if you didn't sign up the first time around but are interested in participating, let us know.

For more information or to volunteer for any of these Capital Campaign initiatives, contact Marcia McGovern: (407) 321-6355, or e-mail: purrbear2@aol.com.

Join in the fun as we move forward with this exciting project!



Fund-Raising
Organizational Chart



Hearts of Gold

by Betty Wyatt, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator

My, how time flies when we love what we're doing! It seems I wrote last year's Christmas letter just a few months ago.

This is the season for us to remember and to be grateful. And we have so much to be grateful for. We have always been a small group of active volunteers and very generous donors, and every year, our group increases. We have had more needy dogs this year, more medically challenged and senior dogs, and more strays, too. How sad that so often their owners don't even look for them in a shelter. However, it gives us great pleasure to bring a needy dog into rescue, heal its body and spirit and watch him march out, tail wagging, with a new, loving owner. It doesn't hurt our feelings one bit that he or she never looks back.

The Christmas season is one of the most dangerous times of the year for pets, and a safety reminder is in order. Do you remember our article about sago palms? In the Fall 2000 issue, we reported that three dogs, one of them a former rescue, had died from ingesting this poisonous plant. In one case, the sago palm had been removed, but its roots were intact. The dog ingested

some of the root and died of liver failure. We recently learned of yet another dog who became very ill after ingesting the plant. PLEASE, if you have one of these plants, make sure it is not in an area where your pet can get to it. Also, warn your neighbors and friends – the damage caused by the plant is irreversible; there is no cure.

Many plants associated with the holidays also are poisonous. Dogs can become very ill or even die from ingesting holly, ivy, mistletoe or poinsettias. Also, beware of plants that have been sprayed with harmful chemicals to make their leaves shiny.

More holiday tips from *Dog World* magazine: Dogs shouldn't eat candy, especially chocolate. Cellophane wrappers and foil can cause big problems if ingested. Also, keep all alcohol out of the dog's reach, and be mindful of where you place candles.

One of the greatest hazards for your dog or cat can be the Christmas tree. Always cover any water in the tree holder. It can become a breeding ground for bacteria, not to mention chemicals you may have added to keep a cut tree "fresh." On the tree, be mindful of decorations. Popcorn strands are very appetizing to a dog. Tinsel, ribbon and even glass orna-

ments can be extremely harmful if ingested.

Keep an eye on your dog during holiday get-togethers. Guests who aren't "pet savvy" can easily allow your dog to escape. Shy or less-social dogs and cats may be happier if safely closed in another room until guests leave.

From the *AKC Gazette*: Beware of the dangers of allowing your dog to ride in your vehicle's front seat if the vehicle is equipped with a front passenger-side air bag. The rule for children is age 12 and under should ride in the back seat. This is true for your dog, too. Even if he is belted in, he won't be protected should the air bag inflate. Just like with kids: "the back is where it's at!"

Speaking for all GRRMF board members, I want to apologize to the people we unintentionally failed to thank in the last newsletter. If we forget you, please let us know so we can make up for it in the next issue.

Also speaking for our board, I want to let you know that our volunteers and supporters are greatly appreciated. Our gratitude comes from the heart, and from us to you, have a happy and safe holiday season!

— Betty

Golden Goods Store: Holiday Gifts Available!

New items available: golden retriever Christmas cards, ornaments – including a beautiful new porcelain golden ornament – and welcome signs, as well as apparel, jewelry, notecards and accessories. All proceeds go to GRRMF. Log onto our Web site – www.grrmf.org – or call the Hotline for a list of items available: (407) 332-2840.



Silent Auction

We are soliciting items for our Silent Auction at the 2002 reunion. Last year, we had everything from golden retriever merchandise to baskets of goodies, framed art and autographed books. If you have something for the auction or raffle, please let us know at info@grrmf.org or call (407) 332-2840, mailbox #4.

recent adoptions

Willie is a good-hearted, high-energy dog who kept his foster mom hopping with his curiosity and antics. He is now king of the house with Al and Becky R. He and the cat are working out their differences, with Willie trying harder than the cat. They have also signed up for obedience classes. Al and Becky's grandchildren love their new friend, too. Sounds like Willie will be the one kept busy from now on!

Houston was rescued from an animal shelter on the West Coast. He was going to be euthanized because he had heartworms. GRRMF was excited to take him in, because Houston has a heart as big as Texas. He was fostered by Suzanne and Tony R. After getting a clean bill of health, he was adopted by John F., who said it was love at first sight. Houston is now called **Monty**.

Found as a stray, **Chevy** had rugged good looks, a great personality and no manners. Thankfully, he was fostered by Matthew, a dog trainer, and Anne Marie W. Thanks to their hard work, Chevy has turned into a model citizen. He was adopted by Keith P. and family, who saw him on our Web site and said "He's the one!" Chevy is now riding a smooth road, spending his days playing with his new human buddies and Sheltie sibling.

Trooper, 1 year old, was a former stray. A kindhearted person rescued him off the street after he was attacked by a dog. He was fostered by Tom Eddie and Gregg Childs, who spent some valuable time teaching him house manners. Trooper now walks well on a leash, sits and lays down on command. Jan and Fred S. drove up from Palm Beach and were so impressed with his good manners, they took him home.



Trooper with Jan and Fred

Miss Julie is a sweet, soft girl who likes to talk while carrying her favorite toy in her mouth. Her family had to give her up due to a serious illness. Ray & Sue A. fell in love with her immediately. But the deciding family member was **Molly**, their first rescue girl. Like the high-class girls they are, Julie and Molly initially were very polite to each other, and soon became inseparable. They play constantly and sleep together.

Darbee, a pretty, petite, dark-gold girl, was left in an overnight drop box at an animal shelter. Darbee was in desperate need of some TLC. She was heartworm positive, underweight, full of fleas and her ears were infected. Along came Ann B., who



Ann and Darbee

offered to foster Darbee through the healing process. Ann lost her rescue boy **Brewster** a few months ago. Ann and Darbee bonded beautifully, and after working Darbee through some separation anxiety, Ann decided to make her a permanent member of her family.

Big and beautiful **Dallas II** was taken in almost eight months ago with some behavior problems that worsened while in rescue.

Without foster

Phil Renee's expertise, Dallas may have been unadoptable. Phil has a background in canine behaviorism. Through training, Phil turned an unhappy, unfocused dog into a happy, obedient and very adoptable golden. Roselie R. heard about Dallas and decided to give him a chance. They are doing great as a team, and Dallas is continuing his training in "graduate school."



Dallas and Roselie

Fortune is one "fortunate" golden. A very nice lady saved this former stray from the jaws of a pit bull that was tied in a neighbor's yard. Fortune had been seen wandering around the neighborhood for a few days, and in a momentary lapse of judgment on his part, he tried to make friends with the pit bull. His rescuer ran to the scene and pulled Fortune to freedom by his back legs. William and Barbara W. provided Fortune with everything his heart could desire – a loving family and a safe, comfortable place he can now call home.

Lacey II was surrendered to GRRMF when her owners decided that they wanted to travel instead of caring for their companion of 8 years. She was fostered by Susan and Randy Andrews and adopted by Charlette. Lacey is now living large with her new canine sister in South Florida.

Denver, now "Dewey," was a beautiful, timid stray found in the Tampa area. While in foster care with Andrea Davis, he came out of his shell and turned into a very loving velcro dog. He was adopted by Ron and Sandy T. and now enjoys playing with his new golden



Denver/Dewey, right, with Sam, Ron and Sandy

Continued next page

Recent Adoptions, continued

brother, Sam. The two of them had no trouble becoming best buddies.

When he was diagnosed with heartworms, **Caleb's** owners dropped him off at an animal shelter. Caleb has two things to be grateful for: his clean bill of health and his foster family who loved him so much they couldn't imagine their life without him. Rick and Cindy O. decided to change his name to **Colt** as they have a family member named Caleb.

Hero was turned in by his owners who decided that they no longer wanted him or his three other canine siblings. He was adopted by an Oakland Raiders fan who has renamed him "**Raider**." Jackie S. took one look at Raider and started to cry, because she knew he was the one for her. Raider's favorite pastime is watching the Oakland Raiders winning during TV football games.



Hero/Raider

Natalie came to us from Tallahassee. She was an older dog with heartworms and myriad other problems. GRRMF and foster volunteer Linda Fike fixed this sweet gal right up, and she was adopted by Barbara and former rescue **Austin**. Natalie is now the reigning queen of all she surveys. Not too bad for an old girl headed for euthanasia!



Bernie

Yes, there is a Santa Claus. **Bernie** finally got his new home, and to make it even sweeter, he got everything on his "wish list!" Caroline, Scott and their daughter, Anna, appreciated Bernie's good looks and goofy sense of humor and took him home. Caroline reported the next day that "Bernie definitely is a keeper." Bernie also has a new canine sister and three cats to keep him company, all of whom

he adores. Bernie got a much-needed helping hand from his fosters, John and Gail Pfohler, who taught him some house manners and made a tremendous difference in Bernie's "adoptability."

Rusty Rae was taken from an animal shelter by a Palm Beach rescue group. He was a 6-month-old puppy at the time with severe hip dysplasia. Diane Makinney sponsored his hip surgery, and he was adopted by Loretta B.

Buster was turned in to rescue because of a divorce. This dear boy was fostered by Bill & Celeste Watkins in Ocala. He was especially loved by their daughter, Ashlee. Buster was

adopted by Katherine & Mark G., who promised Ashlee they'd take care of him forever.

Sandy found herself in a very good situation when she lost her home. She was fostered and adopted by Dr. Christine Sands. Now Sandy Sands can have all the veterinary care she needs... and plenty of TLC, too!

Augie, approximately 8 years old, spent most of his life tied to a tree. He was rescued by a neighbor when his owners moved away. Richard & Nancy Spears transported him and immediately fell in love. It's no wonder: Augie is a charismatic small boy who endears himself to everyone he meets. The Spears decided to adopt Augie, and he now is living like a king – he sleeps in a pile with their other goldens, Chelsea and Glory.

Nash was relinquished to rescue when his owners were flying home from a trip to England. They called ahead to the veterinary hospital where he was being boarded to say they no longer wanted him. This handsome gentleman was adopted by Thomas & Lynn O. He has already completed basic obedience training, and they think he's just wonderful.



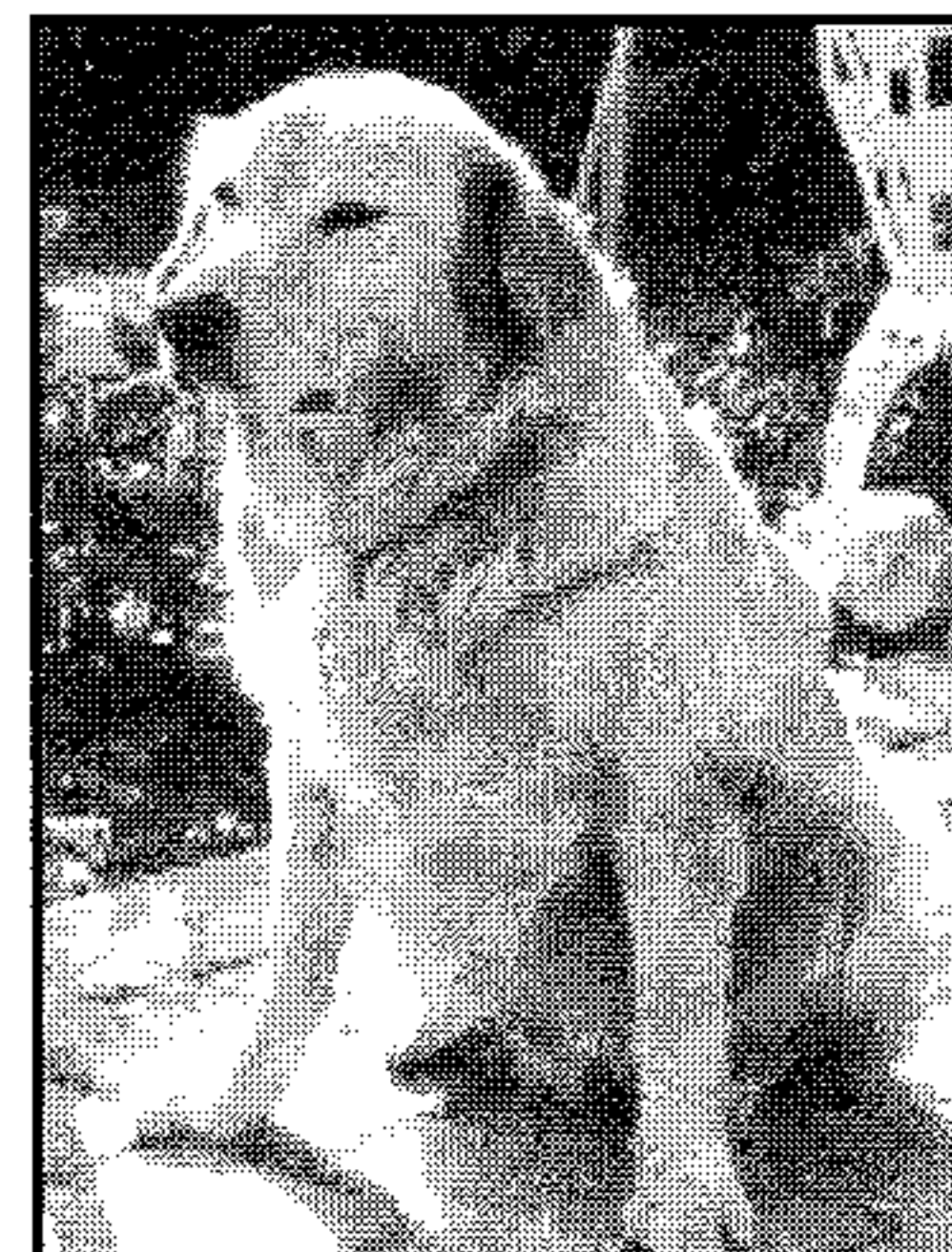
*Nash with
Thomas & Lynn*



*Maui with
Jeffrey & Pamela*

Maui, 11 years old, was given to GRRMF when his owners moved to Arizona. This good-looking and affectionate golden was snapped up by Pamela & Jeffrey G., who tell us they adore him.

Rudy II, 7 years old with perfect manners, was no longer wanted when his family decided they wanted to travel. He was adopted by Sandra C. and her mother. Sandra is very thankful to have found such a nice golden, and contacts us often to say how perfect he is.



Rudy I

McKenzie's owners no longer wanted him. Lucky for McKenzie, as he was brought to GRRMF and adopted by William S. McKenzie has made himself right at home, and his new human says he is great company.

Rudy I, a senior dog, came in to rescue

Continued next page

Recent Adoptions, continued

when his owner moved back in with her mother who lives in a trailer court. There simply wasn't room for Rudy. Adopted by Faith and Stewart W., Rudy gets to travel with them, which suits him just fine.

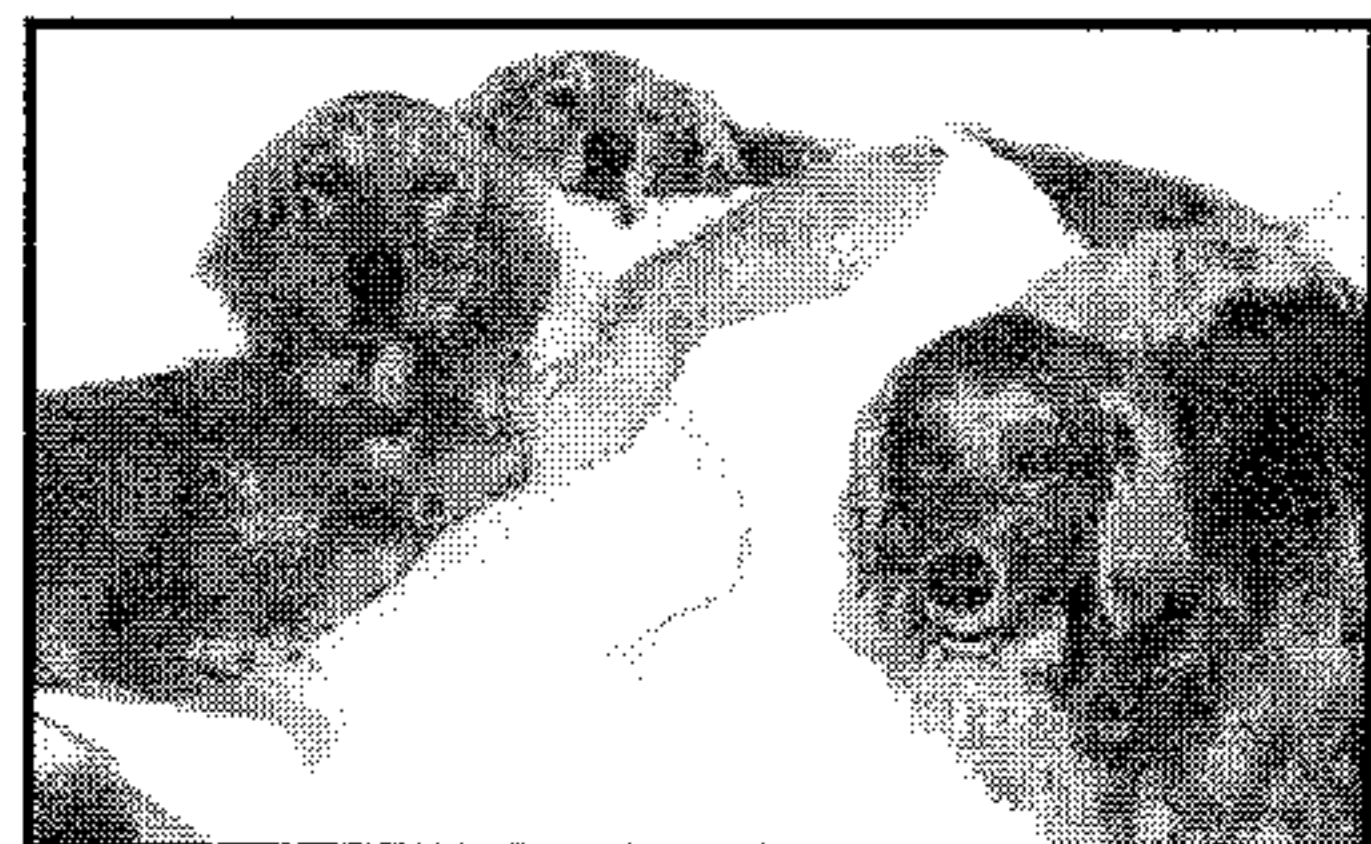


*Taylor/Cooper
and Barbara*

Taylor, 1 year old, was brought to us by a Good Samaritan who intervened when his original owner no longer wanted him. Taylor bears the scars of his former life – at some point, his ankle was broken and never set, causing his leg to be disfigured. His happy-go-lucky attitude and well-mannered behavior won the heart of Barbara K. Now called **Cooper**, he is having a ball playing with his new canine sibling and relishing his new life as an inside dog.

Max, 2 years old, was rescued from animal control by GRRMF volunteer Ellen Pavlik, who sponsored his heartworm treatment and also found him a new home through direct-referral with Nancy & Carl N. Max recently sent a note to all dogs in rescue: "All you golden souls out there, don't ever give up. There will be a home just right for you, too, one day. All your friends who love you will never stop working until you are happy and at peace in your new home. Take it from one who really knows."

GRRMF Ocala-area volunteers Pam Harrell & Peggy Litt got the call about **Alex**. He had been turned in to a shelter, and someone needed to come right away or he was going to be euthanized, even though he was less than a year old. Pam picked up Alex, and he never left. He fit right in with their two golden rescues, **Cody** (Friend) and **Murray** (Mica).



*Alex, left, with new mom
Pam, Murray and Cody*



Toby

Three-year-old **Toby** was turned in to GRRMF when his family lost interest in him and banished him to the backyard. After being treated for heartworms and flea-bite dermatitis, he was adopted by John E., who was so excited when he heard there may be a dog for him he left work early to come meet Toby. John reports that Toby is making himself right at home, just like he's always been there.

The GRRMF Team

In this season of giving thanks, we'd like to introduce our board members and coordinators, all volunteers who work unselfishly, often behind the scenes, to keep our organization operating. They are responsible, in large part, for our successful rescue of nearly 1,000 golden retrievers.

Our president, **Barbara Durham**, teaches at University of Central Florida, but still manages to devote many hours to rescue. Barbara is goal- and process-oriented and keeps GRRMF moving forward. She participates in educational days and home visits.

Marcia McGovern is our vice president and is responsible for leading our Capital Campaign efforts to build a home for goldens. Marcia participates in educational days, has fostered when necessary and basically helps out in any way she can.

As treasurer, there is none better than **Nancy Spears**. She promptly tallies and deposits donations and writes thank you notes – often all in the same day. Nancy also answers GRRMF's e-mail box, conducts home visits and transports dogs.

Sandy Sumner is our secretary and is very active in rescue. She is a great foster mom, taking in dogs who need extra work developing house manners. She also oversees our adoption application process, participates in educational days and helps on our Web site.

Pam Jones is our merchant, responsible for our Golden Goods store. She inventories, orders and sets up at functions, providing a valuable stream of income for our operations.

Sharon O'Keefe is in charge of coordinating educational days. She also does home visits, transports dogs and, last but not least, she is our artist, responsible for designing the GRRMF logo, among other things.

Betty Wyatt is our adoption coordinator. She works with regional coordinators in assessing and adopting out dogs, and also fosters and transports many of our dogs. She has been instrumental in GRRMF from its inception and can always be relied on for support and guidance.

Our **regional coordinators** also are an integral part of the adoption process. They are a highly motivated, hard-working group who spend an enormous amount of time on the telephone, educating prospective adopters and placing dogs. They work with and recruit fosters. They also set up for educational days and conduct home visits. They include:

Kathy Spilker	East Coast – Central
Diane Makinney	East Coast – South/Palm Beach
Joe & Shelley Antonucci	East Coast – North/Jacksonville
John & Gail Pfohler	Sarasota/Sun Coast Area
Suzanne Rider	Tampa/Clearwater
Pam Harrell & Peggy Litt	Ocala/Lake County



wags and brags

(a l u m n i n e w s)



The Happy Grad: Pretty Casey recently completed basic obedience training. Her proud humans, Christopher and Michelle Andrews, tell us she was the "star of the class." No surprise there, as Casey is loved by all who meet her.

*Happy Grad Casey
with Christopher & Michelle*

Oh no! Not the "Grim Retriever!" Greg Spilker and former rescue **Cosmos** were the hit of a local Halloween party. The "Grim Reaper" and his "Grim Retriever" tried to look scary as they made their rounds, but most folks were laughing too hard to be afraid.



*"Grim Retriever" Cosmos &
"Grim Reaper" Greg*

Rusty (formerly **Stewey**) and his new humans, Tom & Kathy Calhoun, just graduated from basic obedience classes. They report Rusty is doing well with basic commands, even the long sit-stay combination. Their near-term goal is to enroll in advanced obedience, and long-term to certify him as a pet therapy dog. We're sure Rusty will do well in whatever he focuses his attention on – his new humans will see to that!

Honey, formerly **Elizabeth**, just completed advanced obedience training and also passed her Canine Good Citizen test. Good girl! An area trainer saw her and asked her humans if they'd like to join a "Better and Better" class – it's by invitation only. "Honey is just sweeping people away with her gentle, kind and sweet ways. She is so smart, and we love her to pieces!" write her humans, Kathy & Mike Staskas.

Kathy Maltby writes that **Ben**, (formerly **Jack Arnold**) has settled right in with his new family. She recently had some family in town, and her grandson cried more at having to leave Ben than Grandma! "Ben was in hog heaven. His philosophy in life seems to be that no hand should ever be idle if his ears are near," she writes.

Oliver's proud mom, Kathy Brissette, sent his graduation certificate from basic obedience class. Oliver was one of **Sammi's** puppies and was fostered by Sally Anne Rowland.

A Very Special Christmas Gift

by Jan Jennings

Last year, I put up a Christmas tree for the first time in several years. The gifts that accumulated under the tree heightened the anticipation of the holidays, and my two beautiful goldens seemed to share in that excitement.

Every day I told Casey and Elsa how much longer it would be until they could open their presents. Some people think I give them too much credit, but I'd like those doubters to explain what I found under the tree when I returned home from work one evening.

There, carefully placed on top of a package, were two used bones, their favorite chew toys. It couldn't have been coincidence! Need further proof? My birthday is a week after Christmas, so there were a few gifts left under the tree. The night before my birthday, another bone appeared under the tree. A gift for Mommy?

Need more proof? Each of them got stockings from their grandparents filled with treats. I took the treats out, but I left the stockings under the tree. One morning after Christmas, Casey "summoned" me to the tree. When he wants my attention, he clears his throat, waits for me to make eye contact, then walks away, occasionally turning around to be sure I'm following. He stood by the tree as if he wanted a treat from his stocking. I told him he could have one later.

He picked up the stocking in his mouth and carried it onto his sofa as if to tell me, "Well, it's mine!"

What I'd like to know is, how did he know which one had his name on it?

P. S. I let them keep the bones, as they've already given me the greatest gift possible – the opportunity to share their lives.



*Left to right:
Casey, Jan and Elsa*



Golden Friends . . .

Donations ...

Ron & Anna Bailey; Cyndy Coulombe; Brian & Sarah Davis; Nancy & A. E. Day; Jean Dunn; Sharon Fahmy; Vicki Ferros; Sharon Hatcher; Paul & Kim Herren; Edie Hoover; Jane Kirby; Laurie Krosney; Albert & Regina Leibowitz; Stuart & Grace Longworth; David Lowerhouse; Nancy Lowerhouse; Jeff & Maryanne Ludy; Patricia Matthews; Thomas McClain; Jeri Newhouse; Glenn & Barbara Paul; Roslyn Ross; Sam's Club Foundation; Kathleen Sanborn; Jim Shafer; Robert & Grace Shappell; Ray & Linda Sharp; Rick & Colleen Sosteri; Stephan & Nancy Vorhis; Barbara Walsh; Deborah Wilson; Richard & Virginia Withington; Faith Worby; Wallace & Alice Worman.

In Memory Of ...

- Bodine – Kate Briggmann
- Bodine – Thomas Briggmann
- Pups – Richard & Laura Cooper
- Muffin, Prince, Ginger & Annie – Michael & Marilyn Couden
- Roxi's Dusty – Debbie McGhehey
- Marley – Beth McNulty
- All dogs who've gone to Rainbow Bridge – Gail Trezza

In Honor Of ...

- Alice & John Lenart for 50th Anniversary – Mary Brussell
- Beau & Reno – Theresa Dolle
- Samson – Vanessa Echols
- Casey – Jan Jennings
- Amberwood's Taitinger Brut "Toby" – Marylee Lyons
- All dogs injured at the World Trade Center – Francis & Linda Sujansky

Boarding Fund ...

- Jeane Knowles
- Diane Makinney
- Roslyn Ross
- Nancy Spears – in honor of Betty

- Wyatt & in memory of Magnum
- Jan & Fred Stolting

Woody's Fund ...

Mark Balester; Cyril & Jo Ann Bennett; James Brand; Gregory Fragoza; Lou & Carol Glaros; Gary & Mayra Holzer; Julie Mink; Anna Prosser; Diane Simpkinson; Rick & Colleen Sosteri; Becky Stake; Paul Tondera; Mary Ann & Paul Tradelius; Ada & Joseph Valentine; Linda Vance; Richard & Virginia Withington.

Capital Campaign ...

Gift brick in memory of Dusty Spears – Barbara Durham, Pam Jones, Marcia McGovern, Julie Mink, John & Gail Pfohler, Suzanne Rider, Randi Shoemaker & Sandy Sumner.

Sponsorships ...

- Judy Harrison
- Jeane Knowles
- Kirk & Michelle Martin
- Anna Prosser
- Debra Sossaman Smith
- Steven & Arlene Vickers – Ivanhoe

Thanks!

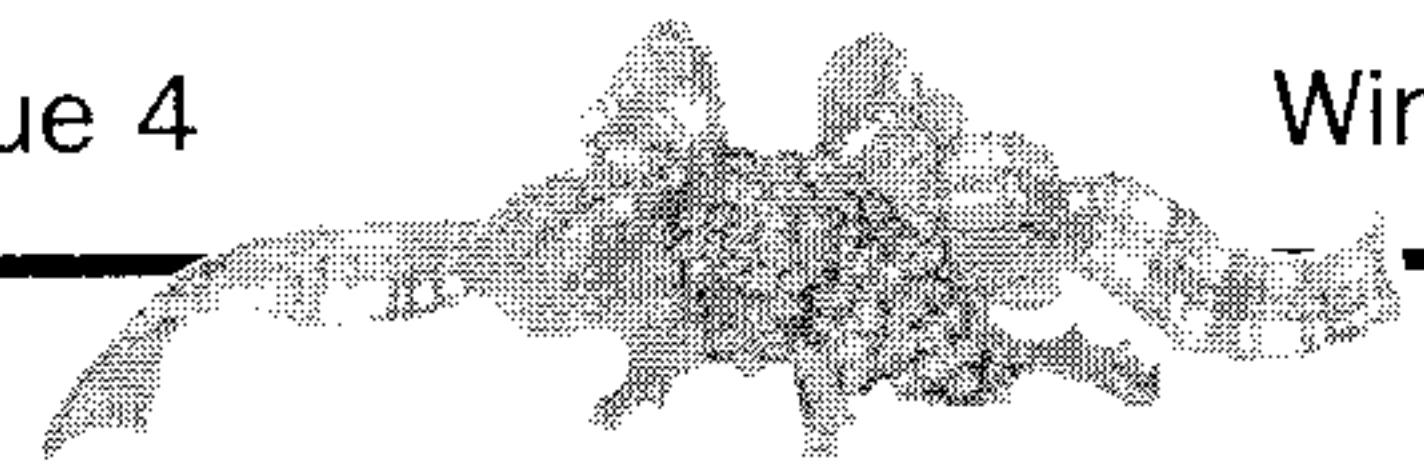
- **Call Team:** Nancy Abbott, Kathy Hendrickson, Melissa Knowles, Carol McKee, Colleen Sosteri, Kerri Vorhies.
- **Home visits:** Cindy Andrews, Shelley & Joe Antonucci, Ellen Bartkus, Pat Chesley, Gregg Childs & Tom Eddie, Linda Cohen, Chris Daher, Penny & Don Dalton, Nicole Dietrich, Jean Dixon, John and Ann Fitzpatrick, Barbara Gurlick, Pam Harrell & Peggy Litt, Ellen Lindenfeld, Diane Makinney, Gail Merce, Julie and Gary Mink, Laurel O'Connors, Renee Perkie, John & Gail Pfohler, Suzanne Rider, Sally Ann Rowland, Randi Shoemaker, Nancy Spears, Kathy Spilker, Michelle Veres.
- **Educational days:** Michelle & Chris

Andrews, Anna & Ron Bailey, Jim Brand, Ed Burger, Andrea Davis, Barbara Durham, Linda Fike, Barbara Geisnger, Pam Harrell & Peggy Litt, Pam Jones, George Kalbfleish, Jennifer Longman, Deb McGhehey, Marcia McGovern, Gary & Julie Mink, Renee Perkie, John & Gail Pfohler, Suzanne & Tony Rider, Emily & Velma Rowe, Sally Anne Rowland, Colleen & Rick Sosteri, Sandy Sumner, Bill & Celeste Watkins, Anne Marie Wise.

- **Fosters:** Robert & Kay Ahern, Susan & Randy Andrews, Charlotte Bauer, Dr. Rachel Beckett, Rick Bennett, Ann Bernick, Jerry & Barbara Burko, Marcia Caldwell, Gregg Childs & Tom Eddie, Mary Cooper, Andrea Davis, Kent Denslow, Barbara Durham & Keith Hollister, Linda Fike, John Foss, Sally & Vann Frazier, Al and Betty Halpern, Pam Harrell & Peggy Litt, Pam Johnson, Bonnie Keller, Ron & Darlene Krause, Ellen Lindenfeld, Bob & Ann Maufroy, Marilyn Metcalfe, Gary & Julie Mink, Mary Nelman, Cindy & Rick Owens, Cheryl Pacheco, John & Gail Pfohler, Gary & Amy Reinhardt, Sandy Reynolds, Suzanne and Tony Rider, Marlene Rogers, Dave & Sally Anne Rowland, Anitra Ruth, Dr. Christine Sands, Wayne & Randi Shoemaker, Colleen and Rick Sosteri, Greg & Kathy Spilker, Sandy Sumner, Bernice Thompson, Michelle Veres, Cathie Vied, Melanie Wagner, Bill & Celeste Watkins, Anne Marie & Matthew Wise, Leah Wright, Betty Wyatt.

- **Veterinarians** who helped by donating or discounting goods and services:
 - All Creatures Animal Hospital, Lutz
 - Animal Hospital of Treasure Island, Treasure Island
 - Animal Medical Clinic, Spring Hill

Continued next page



- Dr. Rachael Beckett, Jackson Veterinary Practice, St. Augustine
- Dr. Michael Berkenblit, Village Animal Clinic, North Palm Beach
- Bright Cross Animal Clinic, Venice
- Dr. Constance DiNatale, Veterinary Acupuncture, Winter Park
- Orange City Animal Clinic, Orange City
- Palmer Ranch Animal Clinic, Sarasota
- Drs. Rick Rubinstein & William Ehlers, Tusawilla Oaks Animal Hospital, Oviedo
- Safari Animal Clinic, Temple Terrace
- Dr. Charles Steiner, Wickham Road Animal Hospital, Melbourne
- Southwest Ocala Veterinary Hospital
- Noah's Ark Animal Hospital, Valrico
- Courteous Canine, Top Dog Training, 3J Dog Training, Oviedo Dog Club Training and Best Paw Forward, for their assistance in training rescue dogs.
- **GRRMF Fun Run:** Kristin Anderson, Susan Andrews, Andrea Davis, Debbie McGhehey, Julie and Gary Mink, Renee Perkie, Suzanne and Tony Rider, Anne Marie and Matthew Wise. Special thanks to Courteous Canine for hosting the event, and to The T-Shirt Guy for providing canvas bags for volunteers.
- **Independent Specialty dog show:** Barbara Durham, Jodie Faist, Kathy Hendrickson, Pam Jones, Debbie McGhehey, Marcia McGovern, Bonnie Keller and Marlene Rogers.
- Randi Shoemaker for answering Hotline calls about dogs needing to come into rescue and other issues.
- Kathy Hendrickson for help with legal review of documents.
- Kristina Latimer of Hip Dog Hydrotherapy for providing hydro exercises for our rescues with hip and back problems.
- Susan Matlock, for agreeing to become our volunteer chairperson, coordinating many activities and opportunities for our growing network of "GRRMF Elves."
- For transporting dogs: Sandy Sumner, Randi Shoemaker, Marlene Rogers, Jennifer Longman, Marcia McGovern, Marcie & Jim Gallagher, Pet Chesley.
- Pookie's Bow Wow Bakery, for discounted bandanas.
- Tim Guy, our webmaster, for keeping our Web site fresh and appealing.
- The newsletter team, Carol Glaros, design and layout, and Carol McKee, editor. Thanks to the two Carols, we receive many kudos for our professional newsletter.
- Deb Wilson, Pat Mathews & Freeman, for their surprise visit during our educational session at Borders Bookstore in Oviedo, and for their generous donation of toys and money. Our hearts receive a spiritual donation when we see a dog like Freeman flourish in his new home!
- Krista Roman of Merial and Nicole Prosser of Novartis for donation of medical supplies such as FrontLine, Advantage, heartworm preventive and heartworm treatment drugs. Also to Ellen Pavlik for coordinating these donations. Considering the average monthly cost for heartworm and flea preventives is \$15-\$20 per dog, these donations make a tremendous difference in the cost of operations for a small rescue group like GRRMF. And that's not even factoring in the cost of treating a dog for heartworms. **We really appreciate all your help!**
- Kerrie Tatarka for donating a laptop for volunteers to use in giving educational presentations.
- Bonnnie Keller, Barbara Dishozy and

Leanne Rubin for donating PetSmart gift cards.

- Nugget, Freeman, Sandy Sumner and Betty Wyatt, for donating Nylabones and toys. Also, to Nugget for donating postage stamps.
- Kerri Vorhies for answering the puppy packet hotline.
- Bill Lawrence for donating the entry fee for the Winter Park Christmas Parade.

Note: The GRRMF Board sends very special thanks to all volunteers and supporters – including those we may have inadvertently left off this list. Although we try to list everyone, our organization is growing, and we sometimes miss a name or two. If we failed to mention you, please let us know – (407) 332-2840 or e-mail our newsletter editor at 2boatrats@home.com – and we'll try our best to list it next time.

Wish List

We need PetsMart Gift Cards to buy food, collars and supplies. They can be purchased in any denomination and sent to: GRRMF, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733.

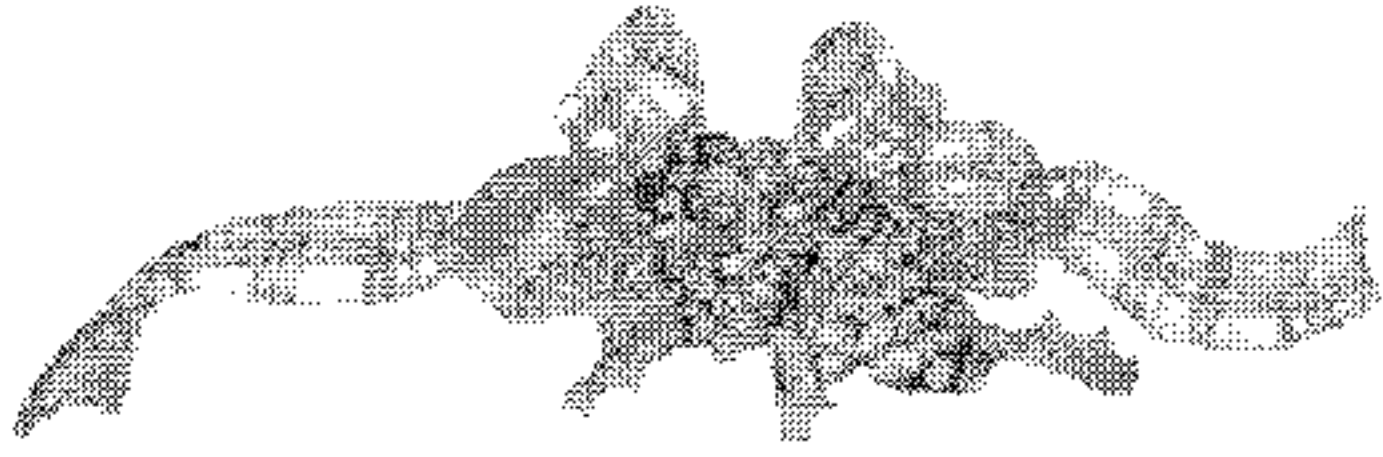
Holiday Gift Idea

Tired of getting gifts from family and friends that you end up stashing in a closet or giving to charity? Why not ask them to give you a gift with "golden" returns: a donation to GRRMF in your name!

Remember to tell them that all donations are tax-deductible, and they'll get their names listed in our newsletter. Send donations to: GRRMF, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733.



Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc.
P.O. Box 1449
Goldenrod, FL 32733



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 310
GOLDENROD, FL 32733

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida Membership Application

ALL memberships/donations are tax-deductible.

Name: _____ Address: _____
City/State/Zip _____ Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Membership

All levels of membership include a subscription to the "Hearts of Gold" newsletter.

Please check one:

- ☐ General Membership \$25 ☐ Voting Membership \$25 (must volunteer minimum of 20 hours/year to GRRMF)
☐ Sponsorship \$100 (for helping a dog in need – you receive recognition in the newsletter.)
☐ Gift Membership \$25 for: Name _____ Address _____

Donation

- ☐ \$ _____ to be used for general veterinary care for rescue dogs.
☐ \$ _____ to the Woody Fund for care of goldens with difficult medical problems.
☐ \$ _____ to the Capital Campaign for a home for Goldens. (\$100 donation will purchase an inscribed brick to be placed at the new shelter.
To order an inscribed brick, return this form with your \$100 donation or call the GRRMF Hotline: 407-332-2840, Mailbox 4.)
☐ \$ _____ to the Boarding Fund to help house goldens on a temporary basis until a foster home can be located.
☐ \$ _____ for this purpose: _____
☐ \$ _____ in memory of _____. Send acknowledgment to: _____
☐ \$ _____ in honor of _____

Mail form to: GRRMF, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free 1-800-435-7352 within the state.

Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.