TALES OF GOLD

Sweet Mr. Bosley – All I Want for Christmas

All I want for Christmas
are my two front teeth,
my two front teeth,
my two front teeth!

Gee, if I could only
have my two front teeth,
then I could wish you
"Merry Christmas."

Meet our newest addition to rescue - Mr. Bosley! Bosley is quite the ladies man as he makes all our lady volunteers swoon they love him so much. He practically has a fan club all his own! Bosley's story starts with him wandering a neighborhood in Winter Garden. Toothless, 39 pounds, and a straggly coat, this senior was found all alone wondering the streets. Along came a good Samaritan who picked him up. Much as she would have liked to keep him she already had a houseful. She took him to Orange County Animal Control and alerted her friends in the rescue community. Our own Pam Strickland who monitors the shelter for GRRMF called our intake coordinator as soon as she laid eyes on Bosley. She was totally smitten. TOTALLY! His big golden smile is dazzling and his tail never stops wagging. Initially estimated to be 13 by the shelter, Bosley was in a precarious position. Shelters are overloaded and the reality is they don't get many takers for old goldens, especially when they are heart worm positive to boot.

At GRRMF we have a special mission to save senior goldens and we have great success adopting them. Rescue is not just saving young healthy dogs that are quick to adopt. A true rescue helps all ages and conditions. Many of you reading this newsletter have experienced the total bliss of having a sweet senior golden. We happen to believe they should not have to die in a cold shelter when so much life can be left to live.

Our intake coordinator said those famous words: ***TAKE HIM!*** The rest is history. He is now in one of our best foster homes and has been to the vet who believes he may be closer to ten years old. His heart worms are treatable. His every need is being attended to and he is living a pampered life that we believe he so richly deserves.

2010 Golden Angel Campaign

We are here because we believe every dog should have a forever comfortable, protected place to sleep all year round. We thank all of you for your generosity of heart and home that you have extended to all our "angels" .....

Duncan thanks you for your generosity and love!

Each year during the holiday season we hold our Golden Angel Campaign to raise much needed funds for our program. Without your support during the holiday season we could not pay for veterinary and other expenses for our goldens.

The Golden Angel Campaign and our calendar fundraiser are our biggest fundraisers of the year.

Will you considering helping us today? Our golden retrievers wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and happy New Year.

Happy Holidays!

Golden Adoptions!

Thank you to all our wonderful adoption families who opened their hearts and homes to each of these wonderful goldens! Adoptions for September through October, 2010.

Abbey was surrendered at five years old when her family was hit hard by the economic downturn. Heidi and Rick F. stepped in to adopt her. Abbey is living the life of a princess. Heidi and Abbey plan to become a therapy dog team.

Bo is a two year old boy who was rescued by GRRMF from a shelter. Bo's foster mom Kristie K. just found Bo "so darn cute" she adopted him!

Chloe was five years old when her family wanted to start a daycare business in their home and decided to turn her over to rescue. Nancy and Walter R. had room in their hearts and their home for this special girl. Chloe now has her very own loving family and it came with a new golden sister! Chloe and Maggie (Nancy and Walter's golden girl) became instant best buddies and we know they will have a wonderful life together.

Cody is a beautiful seven year old who was adopted by Gary and Nancy B. Cody is enjoying a loving family, plenty of walks and even trips to the beach.

Ferdie (now Fergie) came to us at seven years old as her owner felt she need a calmer environment. She had some skin issues and ear infections which we got under control, and we set out to find a home in which she would thrive. The M family was looking for a golden gal to add to their home and Ferdie seemed like a great match. Now called Fergie, she is enjoying all the attention and love that comes her way.

Jake and Maggie - Well we often say "Goldens are like potato chips - you can't have just one". Teresa and Mike C. were empty-nesters who adopted six year old Jake and Maggie who were surrendered by their owners due to financial distress. Thanks to Teresa and Mike, these beautiful siblings who have been together since birth will be able to remain together and enjoy the love that will be showered on them by their new forever family.

Jack was four years old when his family contacted us because they could no longer afford to care for him. Sharon S fostered him and found him to be a wonderful, happy boy. He was adopted by Danielle S who thought his handsome red boy was the perfect fit for her active lifestyle.

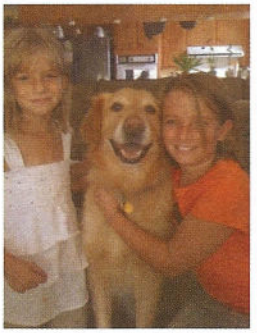
Kona was surrendered at one year old because they were not up to the challenge of training and spending time with a puppy. Marsha & Andy L. adopted this active, bundle of energy and are enjoying many spirited antics and puppy kisses.

Neal was only one year old when he found himself dropped off at the shelter by his owner. GRRMF stepped in and he was whisked off to Kas S. to be fostered. Well, Neal was a hit and unpacked his luggage and threw away his suitcase because his foster mom adopted him! Neal is in his forever home and will never want for love or companionship again.

Oakley was relinquished by his owners due to time and money issues. Crystal S. adopted Oakley and he immediately took up residence in her home and her heart.

Oscar came from the shelter and was fostered by Michelle J. Their bond was too good to break so Oscar was adopted! Oscar enjoys romps in the yard, daily dips in the pool and playing with his toys. Oscar and Michelle are best buds!

Rusty was not able to go with his family when they moved to an apartment. Pat W. was looking for a mature, well behaved fur buddy. It is a match made in heaven – and Pat's granddaughters and Rusty agree!



Sandy (aka Collie-girl) was surrendered when her owner (who found her as a stray) could no longer afford to care for her. Luckily for Sandy she was surrendered to rescue instead of just dumped on the street. In swooped Dianne H. to the rescue and adopted big girl Sandy. Sandy now is living the life of a queen!

RAINBOW BRIDGE

We extend our hearts and sympathy to all our GRRMF families that have lost a loving companion this past year. We thank you for opening your hearts and doors, giving a second chance to those who needed you to come into their lives just when you did.

Dick Spears, Sophie
Marilyn Slaughter, Shaun

AWAY IN A MANGER

In Sana Catarina, Brazil, a Christmas Nativity Scene was erected in a local church yard. During the night, an abandoned dog looking for a comfortable, protected place to sleep found a manger. No one had the heart to send him away. There he stayed, warm and protected all night long.

GRRMF NEEDS FOSTER HOMES

please email *fostering@grrmf.org* for more information.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT OUR RESCUE REUNION?

Email *events@grrmf.org*.

GRACIE: THE DOG WITH AN INCREDIBLY LARGE HEART

By Sandy Sumner – Adoption Coordinator

She is like sunshine on a cloudy day. She is a warm breeze on a chilly afternoon. Her face is what you want to see when you come home after a hard day at work. She is Grace.

Grace catapulted into my life over 9 years ago at the tender age of 2. Marcia M. was responsible for her coming to me as a foster. Grace was the product of a divorce. Her family was splitting up and she was not part of the move. She had spent most of her life in the back yard so she was used to pools and deck furniture. She was loving and sweet and a bit of a wild thing. But I figured that she would find her home quickly and I would get my next foster. Grace had other ideas.

While she could make me smile and was so sweet to the other dogs, she could be a terror when she thought she was getting slighted. If I had to take another dog to the vet's office and she was not invited, Grace would find a way to make me pay. One time she got a box of spaghetti out of the kitchen cabinet and took it into the living room and licked it all over the carpet. I got home and had spaghetti stuck to everything on the floor. The starch had dried and it took weeks to get strands of spaghetti out of the carpet. Baby locks promptly went on the cabinets. So she moved on to the pantry. One day when I was not there she took the dog biscuit mix out of the pantry and smeared it all over the rug. Again, I had dried "stuff" all over my carpet. (Suffice it to say that in my new home, we have 99% tile!). So I locked her out of the kitchen by putting up a baby gate. The following time she put her paws on the top of the baby gate and proceeded to chew the wires to my phone. No, she did not hurt herself but she chewed electrical cord, telephone wire and headset cord. I finally got the message and started to crate her. She did not seem to mind. And I knew that there was a good chance that Grace would boomerang back if her new family was not ready for her antics. I cut to the chase and adopted Miss Grace.

Over the years she has been my "test" dog. If a dog has been tagged as possibly having dog aggression issues, I test them out with Grace. She loves everyone so if you can't get along with her, you can't get along with any dog. If a dog tries to mount her, she just casually flips her hips to one side as if to say "I'm flattered, but no thanks". She never loses her cool and she seems to have a perpetual smile on her face. She loves to cuddle on the couch and will utter a small contented groan as she falls asleep.

Some days she is Princess Grace and other days she can be Crazy Gracie. She can get a wild hair and race around the yard begging the other dogs to chase her. She can babysit any little ones that come in and she is exceptionally gentle with them. She can play as tough as the rest of the dogs and loves to swim. She is called Air Grace at the pool for her acrobatic jumps into the water. She just seemed to be the energizer bunny. In January she turned 11 but you would never know it. So when she was diagnosed with an enlarged heart in March, it caught me off-guard. She is on medication now and she does not swim as long any more. She will stop after a while and just lounge on the deck. But she still does her jumps and still tries to get the dogs to chase her. It hasn't slowed her down much.

How long will I have Grace? I really don't know. But it is fitting that what may take her someday is a heart that is just too large.

LITTLE MISS GATOR – HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Gator, a five month old golden girl, was turned into GRRMF with a terrible leg fracture. Gator was in an accident and her family was financially unable to give her the surgery she needed. Luckily the staff at her family's veterinary office contacted GRRMF.

Gator had a compound fracture of the upper leg with the bone protruding. Our volunteers jumped into action and quickly transported Gator from Ocala to Tampa Bay Veterinary Specialists. Since Gator had an open fracture, the doctor was very concerned about the risk of infection, but felt with surgery, Gator had an excellent prognosis.

Gator was placed in a foster home experienced in dogs needing post surgical care. Their challenge was to keep Gator on limited activity for two months. This was not an easy task for a baby golden girl ready to experience life!

Gator's surgery was a success but she has had to deal with fighting an infection. Lucky for her, she has a wonderful foster who spotted this complication immediately and she received new antibiotics which are effectively battling the infection. Gator is on the mend and most likely WILL be home for the holidays!

A TRIBUTE TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS:

Looking Back, Looking Forward

By Barbara Durham – GRRMF President

As we get ready to close out 2010 and leap into a new year - our 20th year - it's important for us to pause and thank all of our many dedicated volunteers that work so tirelessly on behalf of our golden retrievers. It takes an army to do what we do and each and every volunteer is so important. I always feel like we are inadequate in our ability to truly let our volunteers know what they mean to us. We are all so busy that often it's a quick thanks and not much more. It is usually the goldens that do most of the thanking! In my dream world each and every one of you would receive a parade and be showered with stars and magic dust for all the things you do.

Our volunteers sacrifice their own time and resources to work for GRRMF. We have lots of volunteers that do unglamorous jobs with little visibility but they are critical to keeping GRRMF going. We have volunteers who handle the time consuming logistics of getting dogs into our program, to the vet, to fosters, and into adoptive homes. We thank all of you for your dedication and willingness to invest your lives in GRRMF. You have our deepest gratitude.

Looking forward, next year will be our 20th year of rescuing precious goldens. Stay tuned for special recognition of this milestone during 2011!

If you have questions about volunteering for GRRMF please email us at *volunteers@grrmf.org*.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR!

2011 Annual Rescue Reunion
Golden Retriever Rescue
of Mid-Florida
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

Saturday,
February 26th, 2011
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Lake Parker Park
Lakeland, Florida

2011 will mark 20 years assisting displaced golden retrievers throughout central Florida. What better way to begin our 20th anniversary than with our annual picnic!

Please mark your (GRRMF) calendar and plan to attend. We look forward to seeing all our golden families – goldens included! Please just be sure your companion is friendly and well-behaved in a crowd of people and goldens as far as the eye can see!

We have lots of fun activities planned including some new things.
Please stay tuned to our website, www.grrmf.org, for more information.

We are seeking great raffle prizes for our reunion. Do you have something you would Ike to donate? If so please email us at *events@grrmf.org*.

2011 CALENDARS ON SALE NOW!

This professionally produced, full color calendar features GRRMF adoptive dogs that have found loving homes..... It's time to place your calendar order now – we offer terrific discounts for quantity purchases. And FREE Shipping for 10 calendars and up!

Check the option below you want to order: Enter total price $_____

_____1 calendar @ $12 each plus $2.25 shipping = $14.25 total
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More than 10 Calendars - $10 each plus free shipping

All proceeds benefit GRRMF.
Make checks payable to GRRMF and send to GRRMF,
P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733.
To pay by credit card, go to *www.grrmf.org*
and order via PAYPAL.

Name _____

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DONATION THANKS!

Thank you to all our generous donors who make our program possible! Donations received from September through October, 2010. If you have questions about making a donation, please email us at *accounting@grrmf.org*.

GENERAL DONATIONS

Michael Adams
Faith Alford
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Barbara Blanchard
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Tim Collins
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Leah Walker
Janice Whitmire

FOR CINDY

Helen DeWitt

IN HONOR OF

Douglas and Susan Aziz, for Tony Baugh and the European Team
Peter and Susan Fitzgerald, for Duncan
Doug and Marjorie Sarmiento, for Buddy Jones
The Technology Training Team and Friends, for Toby, beloved golden of John Ellison
Mary Thomas, for Keylooe Hill
Jane Veschio, for Jenny

IN MEMORY OF

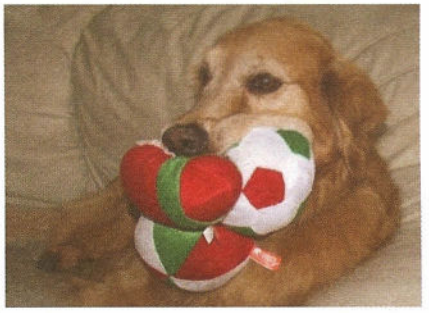
Lee Deckard, for Beau, Katie, Kelly, Lex, and Missy
Peter and Susan Fitzgerald, for Ceilidh, Hammish, & Paddles
Sharon Gogerty, for Leia
Jason Greenman, for Odin
David Hammar, for Rose and Bob
Mark and Mary Nielsen, for Michael Gillard
Judith Richter, for Jade

TRANSPORTING OUR GOLDENS TO THEIR FOREVER HOMES

By Sue Angle – Transport Coordinator, Sarasota

If you have never transported a rescued golden, you have no idea what a rewarding experience that can be, and how loved you are by that furry friend beside you!

GRRMF Transport Volunteers know the breathtaking feeling and can tell you that the love and devotion that emanates from every golden we pick up becomes a magical moment that lives on in our memory. These moments reminds us that what we are doing saves the life of a precious golden and enriches the life of the human being who is fortunate enough to accept that golden treasure.



As Transport Coordinator (now for 10+ years) I am most thankful for the wonderful volunteers who give up whatever they might be doing to say, "Yes, I can help that golden retriever on to the life it deserves." Many times it means picking up a surrendered golden whose family is forced to give up their home, or move out of state, or any number of circumstances that cause them to have to release their beloved family pet to this unknown individual. We often cry with that person, knowing that what they are doing is probably one of the most difficult things they will ever do. But they have to! And thank goodness we can be there for them – with the help of GRRMF Volunteers! If you would like to join our transport team please email us at transports@grrmf.org.

HELP US FIND FOREVER HOMES FOR ALL OUR GOLDENS!

GRRMF Membership/Donation Form

All memberships and donations are tax-deductible.

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone (s) _____

E-mail _____

Check one: ❑ General Membership $25 ❑ Golden Friend $50 ❑ Sponsorship to help special-needs golden $100

❑ General Donation $ _____ ❑ Woody's Fund $ _____

❑ In Memory Of: _____ $ _____

❑ In Honor Of: _____ $ _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____

Mail form and check to: GRRMF, PO Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733

GRRMF Inc. is a 501(c) 3 Charitable Organization. Donations are Tax-Deductible. Official registration and financial information can be obtained from Division of Consumer Services: 800.435.7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

GRRMF HAS SAVED OVER 2500 GOLDENS SO FAR!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
YOU MAKE OUR PROGRAM POSSIBLE!**

**HAVE YOU MOVED? PLEASE EMAIL US AT *INFO@GRRMF.ORG*
WITH UPDATED ADDRESS, EMAIL AND PHONE INFORMATION.**

Return Service Requested

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