



IT'S REUNION TIME!

FEBRUARY 2010

TALES OF GOLD

ROSIE: THE STORY OF THE DOG WHO CHOOSES TO SEE THE CUP HALF FULL!

By Sandy Sumner – GRRMF Adoption Coordinator

According to Rosie, it is all how you see the world. You can see it as dull; with your cup half empty or see it as bright, with your cup half full. Rosie chooses the latter. She has had a rough start but had both a mom who tried to care for her and a rescue to pick her up when her mom could not do it anymore. What more could you ask for?

Over a year ago, when she was only 3 years old, Rosie was bit by a rattlesnake. The vet never gave her any anti-venom so she had to suffer it out with no medication. The result is some changes to Rosie's body but no change to her sunny disposition. Her head swelled and the skin literally split from the pressure. So she sports a scar down the front of her face. Those of us who know her think that it looks like a Christmas tree. Her fur is laced with white now but she chooses to think of it as permanent highlights. The venom went through her body and rested in her back feet. The tingling had caused her to lick her feet and try to stop the feeling. One foot is completely healed and the other is just about there. It probably would be completely healed but her foster brother Scooby, aka Nurse Nelly, likes to clean it every day. Her tiny foster sister aptly named Little Sister likes to clean her face. So Rosie has no shortage of canine siblings looking out for her.



Rosie is just about the sunniest dog that I have ever met. Nothing gets her down. She will cuddle on the couch for a while; watch the cats for hours to see if they move; and then race around the back yard with her siblings chasing tennis balls, lizards or anything that moves. Dinner requires a dance every day and if you call her, she comes running with the enthusiasm of a puppy. She will dunk herself in the water bucket as best she can with a big smile on her face. She will fall asleep on a dog bed with the look of pure contentment. Dog walks are meant for exploring. This really surprised me because one of her former explorations led to her being bit. She could have been gun-shy about walks, but she chooses not to see it that way.

Rosie is the dog that you want when the chips are down. We all have lousy days, sometimes lousy months or years but when I look at her, I know that I can get through anything. If she can endure what she went through and still come out sunny, why can't I? If you want a dog that reminds you every day of the power of positive thinking, then Rosie is your girl. She does not see herself as special needs but just special. It's that cup half full thing – going full throttle.

ANNUAL RESCUE REUNION 2010

Don't forget - mark your calendars for our 2010 Rescue Reunion that will be held Saturday February 27th, 2010 at Lake Parker Park in Lakeland, Florida. A sea of golden retrievers is quite a sight to behold!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT!

Please email info@grrmf.org if you are willing to help us staff this event.

WE NEED RAFFLE ITEMS FOR OUR PICNIC!

Linda Rhea will be coordinating the effort to get business donations. Please email us at info@grrmf.org if you have any raffle items and we will forward the information to her!

WE NEED COINS FOR THE ANNUAL COLLECTION!

Once again we will be collecting loose coins at the picnic. Save a small portion of your loose change and bring it with you!

GOLDEN ADOPTIONS!



When **Amber's** owners had to move to an assisted living facility, Amber's fate was in question. There

isn't much demand for a 9 year old Golden girl who is blind and diabetic, and we had a little difficulty finding a foster for her. One of our dedicated foster families reached out and took her in and soon realized that Amber was one special gal and felt that she was doing THEM a favor. Months passed and we wondered if Amber would ever have a true forever home. Michele C and family assured us she could stay as long as needed. But then a miracle happened in the way of the W family. They were thrilled to take Amber into their home and give her all the love and care she needs. We're sure they consider themselves lucky to love this special Golden.



Tall and handsome **Andre** was a year and a half old when his human sister shown signs of being allergic to

him. His family was heartbroken to give up Andre, but we promised them we'd find the most deserving home for him. Andre also needed firm guidance, training and a plan to channel all that puppy energy he had. The P family was looking for a young boy to add to their pack of GRRMF alumni. Andre fit right in and is enjoying his new life.



Sweet **Ashley** was living her life outside tied to a tree. She was unsprayed and the thought of her having unwanted puppies sprang us into immediate action. Kathy N. saw her story and wanted to adopt her. Now Ashley lives in a home with her mom and "grandpa" who shower her with love. Kathy is also

a volunteer for us so we get to see Ashley at GRR events.



Buster and Maddie are two year old kids fostered by Sandy S. and went to a home where they could be together. Buster was an

owner turn-in who could no longer care for him due to her own medical issues. Maddie was a "Golden wannabe" stray who was just too cute to

pass up. The W. family wanted two together and it was a match made in heaven for all.



Casey was just 9 months old when he was turned over to us by a woman who rescued him from a shelter without consulting her husband. Casey

was a little more than they were prepared to handle. After spending the required two weeks in foster care, we quickly found him a home that was up for the challenge. Thomas and Heather W assured us they'd train this spunky boy to be a good canine citizen. They're sure their 2 1/2 year old lab will help and also be a great play buddy. Sounds like a great match to us!



Chance (now Duncan)

was a special boy when we saw his shelter picture - woeful eyes, and paw reaching toward the camera. That

sealed his fate. Instead of being euthanized, we took him in. That picture had one of our foster family driving two hours to pick him up. When that picture showed up on his web page, another volunteer spotted it and couldn't get him out of her mind. Before she knew it, she and her husband were driving 4 hours to meet Chance and take him home. Now named Duncan, he has a wonderful new life—he goes to work almost every day with his new dad and enjoys the company of GRRMF alum siblings, Ceilidh and Hamish. His new mom writes, "Would you please send our fervent thanks along to the volunteer who spotted his picture and sprang him from the shelter? That this sweetheart was close to his last day just makes me ache ... and makes us doubly glad that you guys do what you do! Thanks to you all!"



Two year old **Chase (now Chance)** was sprung from a shelter by one of our volunteers. After being

neutered and having an ear infection cleared up, he was on his way to his new home with Edna C. Edna had recently going through the huge loss of her GRRMF Golden, Parker. We offered her Chase and she quickly adopted him. His name is now Chance, because he's got a second chance at love - and so does Edna.

Miss **Daisy** came to us with sister, Peaches when their family had to move. That turned out to be a lucky day for Daisy because at her health check up, we found that she was



heartworm positive. She made it through treatments with flying colors thanks to her foster mom, Abby L. Lucia and

Angelo E. were looking for just the right gal pal for their GRRMF Alum, Carson and now Daisy and Carson enjoy their daily walks and life together.

A wonderful little girl, **Della**, came in with Reese. Both were shelter dogs and both were heartworm positive. She sailed through her treatment and was soon adopted by mom Susan V. They now come to events and show that rescue dogs are truly diamonds in the rough.

At only four years old, **Dixie** was the one to go when the alpha Basset in the home did not get along with her. Fostered by Ray and Sue A. and their Golden clan, Dixie made herself indispensable in the house. So they decided to make her a permanent member of their family. Smart move, Dixie!

Big boy **Drew** is just that, a big bundle of love. His owners turned him in because they feared he had storm issues. But as is the case with rescue, we can find the right home for every dog. Mrs. C wanted a dog that she could walk. She was retired and is home just about all day. We "test drove" Drew to see if this big fellow would be too much on a leash. He turned out to be just the opposite. He would constantly look back as if to say "You are still there, right?" He has found his perfect home!

Sixteen month old **Gidget** came to us when her owner felt she couldn't provide the exercise and attention a young dog needs. Gidget was a gift from her sons, but that gift soon turned into a burden. We stepped in and the M family fostered her. They thought she was a delight and so did the F family who wanted a new friend for their dog and a companion for their daughters, Ashley and Avery. They were so excited they jumped in the car and drove 2 hours the same day they heard Gidget was available! We're sure Gidget will get all the exercise, attention, and love she needs now.

At 12 years old, **Hope's** family was leaving the country and not taking her. At first, she was aloof and quiet. But over time in her foster home, she learned that people can be nice to you and that love is what you can expect. Her story caught the eye of Donna T. and Jim L. who adopted senior Golden from us in the past. Hope is now happy with her new family and (sort of) happy with her new canine brother.



Jake came from another family losing their home. He had not been given the medical attention he needed so at only 2 years old, he contracted heartworm disease.

He was fostered through his treatment by Chris and Tommy M. and adopted by the G. family. As you can see by the picture, he is one happy boy!

Given up by his family who could not afford his medical bills, **Jax** was thought to possibly have cataracts. No problem for the L. family who had previously adopted a blind Golden from us. He is now one happy guy with his new family.

What a handsome boy **Marley** is! His story is just sad. He was a stray found at a gas station. But popular Marley quickly found a home with the T. family who had adopted from us before and wanted to add a young boy to the household. He is truly loved and will have no more days wandering the streets.

Before **Matty** came to GRRMF, he had a rough time. He was running the streets at 11 years old, with no soft place to lay his senior bones and he had a laundry list of health problems. Matty had hookworms, whip worms, ear infections, fatty tumors, seizures and was very thin. We're not sure how much longer he would have been able to fend for himself, but he doesn't have to worry about that ever again. Char B. fostered him through his medical care. Then the K family heard about him and decided they'd open their hearts and home to this wonderful boy. Matty is one lucky dog!



At 14 years old, **Molly** was turned in by her owners who admitted that they did not want to care for her anymore. It was shocking to us that someone could willingly part with a family member after 14 years. Luckily, her foster mom Kathy R. wanted to adopt her the minute she saw her. There is nothing like Old Gold to melt your heart at the end of a long day.



Four year old **Peaches** came to GRRMF with her sister, Daisy when their family had to move out of state. Peaches has such a sunny personality that Wendy and Jason B. knew she would be best

pals with their Golden gal, Bailey. Sure enough, the two are best friends and can be often found cuddled up together fast asleep.

A sweet boy, **Reef**, was given up by his owners who were losing their home. It is a



when the right dog is calling you!

This loving dog, **Reese (now Ripley)**, was a heartworm positive stray that was picked up by animal control. This petite boy craves attention and now has it – he was adopted by one of our longtime volunteers – and now enjoys a loving home with his Golden brother Poobah. They enjoy sleeping together in a big Golden heap and sharing all their moments together.



Taylor was one of the many heartworm positive dogs we've helped this year. He was a stray who was turned in to a shelter, and then turned over to us. Taylor is 4 or 5 years old and a skinny, but very sweet boy. The D family

fostered him through his heartworm treatment while Eudeen and Clarence M waited patiently to adopt a buddy for their dog, Winston. When Taylor was ready, we asked them if they'd be interested in this pretty boy. They jumped at the chance to take Taylor home. Shortly after adoption day, Eudeen wrote, "He's a jewel. He and Winston are becoming bosom buddies. Thanks so much for a wonderful addition to our family."

A sweet boy, **Timmy**, came to us a few years ago with a tumor in his mouth that was threatening to take over his throat. We wanted to give him whatever time he had. Chris and Tommy M. fostered him with the idea that his time might be short. Timmy had other ideas. Over time, the tumor went away and now he is a permanent member of their family.



Vance was only one year old when his owners had to move and couldn't take him. We took this happy boy full of fun and energy, taught him a few manners and

searched for his forever home. Denise H. thought she'd like to add a female Golden to her pack, but fate changed all that. She saw Vance's web page and knew he might be a great buddy for her male Golden. The boys love to play and race around the yard. Another happy ending!

A ROUND OF "APPLAWS": TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

By Deborah Wilson, GRRMF Newsletter Editor

GRRMF is a volunteer organization and, if not for all the wonderful volunteers, we could not exist. All contributions of time and talent are valuable and make a difference in the lives of the families we help, both surrendering and adopting, and to the Golden Retriever who's lives are saved.



As we begin another year of service to our wonderful Golden Retriever and our communities, know that each and every one of you are "Golden gems" to our organization. Words alone cannot express how meaningful your efforts have been and continue to be. The best way to see what you have all collectively accomplished is at our annual picnic. There you will be met by a sea of Golden fur, wagging tails, and more smiling humans in one place than you could ever imagine. It is there you will witness the care and love that comes from each Golden rescued and family served, making our world a better place.

Due to the size of combining all our volunteer lists and our space constraints, we cannot honor all of you by name in this one newsletter. We will instead, attempt to highlight individual volunteer teams in print throughout the coming year. For now please accept a very warm and heart-felt thank you to all our team leaders and volunteers involved in but not limited to:

- Adoption Intake ■ Applications
- Home Visits ■ Call Team ■ Transport
- Foster Homes ■ Public Events ■ Web Site
- Postal Mail ■ E-mail Monitoring
- Eblast Updates ■ Newsletter ■ Fundraising
- Records Keeper ■ Financials ■ Donations
- Calendar Packers ■ Golden Goods
- Board Member ■ Adoption Placement

Thank you to all our Veterinarians and businesses in many locations throughout central Florida that support us and our cause throughout the year. Your support helps increase our success.

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT INTAKE COORDINATOR
Owner Surrender team assistant
Please contact Marcia McGovern at mmcgovern1@cfl.rr.com for detailed information.

GRRMF CORRESPONDENCE
SECRETARY: Assist with writing thank you letters to our donors.

Please contact Barbara Durham at info@grrmf.org for detailed information.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

Thank you to all our generous donors who make our program possible!!
Donations received from 10/1/09 - 12/31/09. - FEB

GENERAL AND HOLIDAY ANGEL CAMPAIGN DONATIONS

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Natalia Anderson
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HEARTWORM DOGS

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David Bergner
Barbara Blanchard
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Victoria Clark
Bradley Condiff
Diane Cowper
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Leslie Friedlander
Melissa George
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Nancy & George Greenwood
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Valerie & Blake Guiles
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Mark Holmes
Matt Hornick
Ingrid Jacobus
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Diane Kingman
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Henry & Pat Mayer
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Janet Narveaz
Paula Nemethy
Marlene & Paul Nesbitt
Joanne Nixon
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Sally Ogg
Cindy Owens
Candi Pearce
William Phillips
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Ellen Prekop
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Kathryn Roberts
Deborah Ryan
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Beth Scott
Sell, Inc.
Teena Shaw
Brenda & Thomas Sheehy

Patricia Sherman
Cheryl Storey
Rebecca & Herbert Sugden
Macy Swift
Judith Syfrett
Donna Taylor
Neal Taylor
Amy Tight
Robert Walters
Philip Wilk
Cathy Yost

IN HONOR OF

Laurel O'Connors,
in honor of all Golden
Mark Alfson,
for John & Lynda Alfson

Ray & Sue Angle (GRRMF Transport Coordinators),
in honor of ALL the GRRMF Transporters of our wonderful Golden who give their love and affection,
their patience and strength.
Who lovingly donate their time and resources - at the drop of a hat! - to make sure that our precious Golden cargo gets to their appointed destination safely and with loving care.

Bless ALL of You !!!

Patricia & Craig Bair,
for Jan Jennings
Beverly & Donald Butz,
for Brandy
Mary Chaundy,
for Wyatt and Jewel
Christopher & Laurie
Chiambalero, for Martin Zucker
Deborah Drapo,
for Char Bauer
Lloyd & Holly Fisk,
for Cooper
Susan & Peter Fitzgerald,
for Hamish
Kathryn & Robert Gillette,
for Chance Gillette
Monica Haerter,
for Jan Jennings
Robin Hemphill, for Cleo
Wesley Ann Hunt, for the
Rheas for fostering Trooper
Kathleen Johnson,
for Austin Florendo
Colleen Karasevic,
for Pat Mathews
Corrine Lemus, for Cooper
Christine MacPhail,
for Jan Jennings
Ridgely Ochs,
for Van & Silvia Ochs
Robert & Margaret Preston,
for Belle
Roxanna Rathgeber,
for Cashew, Tucker
& Jan Jennings
Cathy Schultz, for Zoie,
Marty, & Corey
Wylie Sifford, for Max
Debra & Perry Smith,
for Scout
Arlene & John Verel,
for Vickie Kravacs
Todd & Kelly Watson,
for Kurt & Dee Krueger

IN MEMORY OF

Alachua Dog Training
Association, for Frank
Wendelburg
Carol Bowes, for Jubal III
Beverly & Donald Butz,
for Amber, Morgan,
Buffy, Buddy & Cody

Mary Chaundy, for Shane
Carol Cerney & Bill
Mahoney, for Chico Haker
John Curry, for Carver,
Tessie, Mulligan & Josie Grey
Lee Deckard, for Beau, Katie,
Kelly, Lex, & Missy

Barbara Dishozy,
for Libby Dishozy
Deborah Drapo, for Autumn
Stacy & Michael Dunn,
for Morgan
Robert & Nancy Easterday,
for Connor
John & Nancy Evenden,
for Hannah
Lloyd & Holly Fisk,
for Emily and Emerson
Susan & Peter Fitzgerald,
for Paddles
Melissa George, for Toby
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for George J. Gogarty
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Jan Jennings,
for Tyler Jeremiah
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for Heidi
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for Casey (Tex)
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for Cody Manley
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for Charlie & Peaches
Colleen & Rick Sosteri,
for Shooz
Karen & Todd Stirtzinger,
for Spruce
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for Cody Anderson
Brenda Young, for her
mother Nancy Spears

WOODY FUND

Ralph & Joyce Bogle,
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CANINE CHRISTMAS IN BRADENTON

By Charles and Barbara White

A special note of thanks to all who came out in support of our Canine Christmas event in Bradenton this past year!

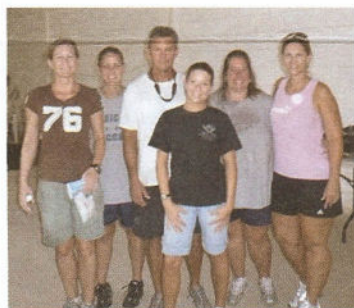
Every year the Animal Network sponsors the Canine Christmas event to raise awareness and money to help animal shelters and rescues in our area. We all had a great time and extend our thanks and appreciation to Animal Network and Bishop Animal Sanctuary for putting on this event.

We had a fantastic turn out and raised money for GRRMF and some potential adoptees as well. Thank you to Bill and Pat Shepherd, Donna and Chuck Graves, Donna Johnson, Emily Rowe, Sue Anderson, Kelly and her mom, Shannon, Amy and Maggie Mae, and everyone else who came out to support us. Congratulations go out to Donna and Zachary and Sue and Saxon for winning first and second places in the costume contest for the Golden's!

GOING THE DISTANCE

By Bert Haker

Information assistance provided by Donna Hollingsworth; Pictures provided by Donna Hollingsworth, Dr. White and Michelle Delaney



Going the distance for those in need – Dr. Barnett and staff in Belize from left to right: Erin Harvey CVT, Michelle Delaney CVT, Dr. Cliff Barnett, Kim Rice CVT, Dr. Julie White and Donna Hollingsworth.

We at GRRMF have always known the veterinarians that provide care to our rescued Golden's are special. They, and their staffs, provide compassionate and professional care to our dogs, many of which have come to us from less than desirable circumstances. Their dedication to animal welfare is unparalleled. But little did even we know just how far one of our vets was willing to go to help animals in need.

Dr. Cliff Barnett graduated in 1985 with a degree in veterinary medicine from Auburn University. In 1990, after working at an animal clinic in St. Petersburg, he purchased Animal Hospital of Seminole and has served animals in Pinellas County since. As a child Dr. Barnett would travel with his family to Belize in Central America for their annual vacation. Belize attracts approximately 850,000 tourists annually who explore

Mayan ruins and the beauty of the Caribbean Sea. Over 40 percent of the country's area is protected in some way within marine preserves, wildlife sanctuaries and national parks. This creates a refuge of sorts for many of the country's creatures. It was on a trip to visit his mother in the village of Placencia in 2005 that Dr. Barnett noticed this was not the case for the dogs of Seine Bight, a village five miles north of Placencia.



Although considered pets, these dogs live a much different life than our pets.

Most of the dogs Dr. Barnett saw were not feral. They were "pets" of the local villagers. What we consider to be basic pet care in the U.S. was simply not customary in Seine Bight or Placencia. Animals had no shelter, ate scraps and were flea and tick infested. Neither spay/neuter or medical services were available for the animals in the village. Dr. Barnett encountered Marcia Fox and Pamela Keck, of the Placencia Humane Society and learned they were working with a group of volunteers to provide medical care to the animals. He decided to help and put his expertise to work. After several days of providing care under very primitive conditions, he asked what they thought they would need in equipment and supplies to achieve their goal. They first targeted spay/neuter services and the development of educational programs to teach the villagers about proper nutrition and tick control.

Upon returning home that year, Dr. Barnett immediately began plans to help the Placencia Humane Society the following year. They were able to purchase medication through one of the Belizean veterinarians who came to Placencia once a month and three of Dr. Barnett's staff members agreed to join him. His return was well publicized and the villagers responded in numbers. Although a "success" in many ways, the two day clinic was still faced with less than sanitary conditions for the animals coming out of surgery and a continued need to educate their owners. But the group was undeterred. Plans were made for the next year.



Upon hearing of the clinic, villagers lined up to receive much needed medical care for their pets.

A yearly pattern had begun. This time Dr. Barnett enlisted the help of his practice's drug representatives who responded with donations of medication for the now annual Belize clinics. Dr. Barnett learned to work customs and DEA regulations to avoid costly time delays while traveling with medical supplies. He brought more of his staff every year and recruited the assistance of fellow stateside veterinarians to assist at the clinics. They still face educational issues related to spay/neuter and locations to perform services (places have included churches and a condemned community center). Dr. Barnett estimates it costs him approximately \$5000 annually for the trips and the current state of the economy looks to make that figure increase. Still he remains undeterred.

Thanks to Dr. Barnett's efforts Seine Bight has seen a decrease in the number of emaciated and sick dogs. The villagers are learning that if their dog becomes ill they can seek treatment. And with over 100 animals treated in 2008 and 2009 during the clinics, the Placencia Humane Society continues to work toward their goal of improved animal welfare. Dr. Barnett and his staff will tell you that the personal reward they feel from making these trips is great. The trips allow them to expand their passion and care for animal beyond borders.

These trips are a reminder for us not to take the basic care so readily available for our animals for granted. They encourage us in our continued care and rescue efforts at GRRMF, reaching out to as many Golden's in need as we can and providing education on proper pet care to all current and future pet owners we encounter. To Dr. Barnett we say thank you for being one of those individuals truly willing to go the distance for the animals you vowed to help.



Without an established animal facility, this church served as the veterinary hospital.



Doing their best with what they have are Dr. Barnett at the first table, Dr. Bennett from Belize City at the second, and Donna Hollingsworth at the third.

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.

RAINBOW BRIDGE

We extend our hearts and sympathy to:

The Finn family – Lexi	The Sarubbi family – Rocky	The Melone family – Gracie
The White family – Sam	Bill & Sylvia – Benjamin	The Melzard family – Merry
The Lust family – Dana	The Taylor family – Tigger	D Wilson; P Matthews – Nora
Juli Kielts – Prancer	Kristen Anderson – Cody	Ilona Thompson – Shelby

We thank all these families for giving a second chance to those who needed you to come into their lives just when you did. We invite everyone to enter the Rainbow Bridge section on our website to read tributes of GRRMF dogs at the rainbow bridge.

Return Service Requested

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