



TALES OF GOLD

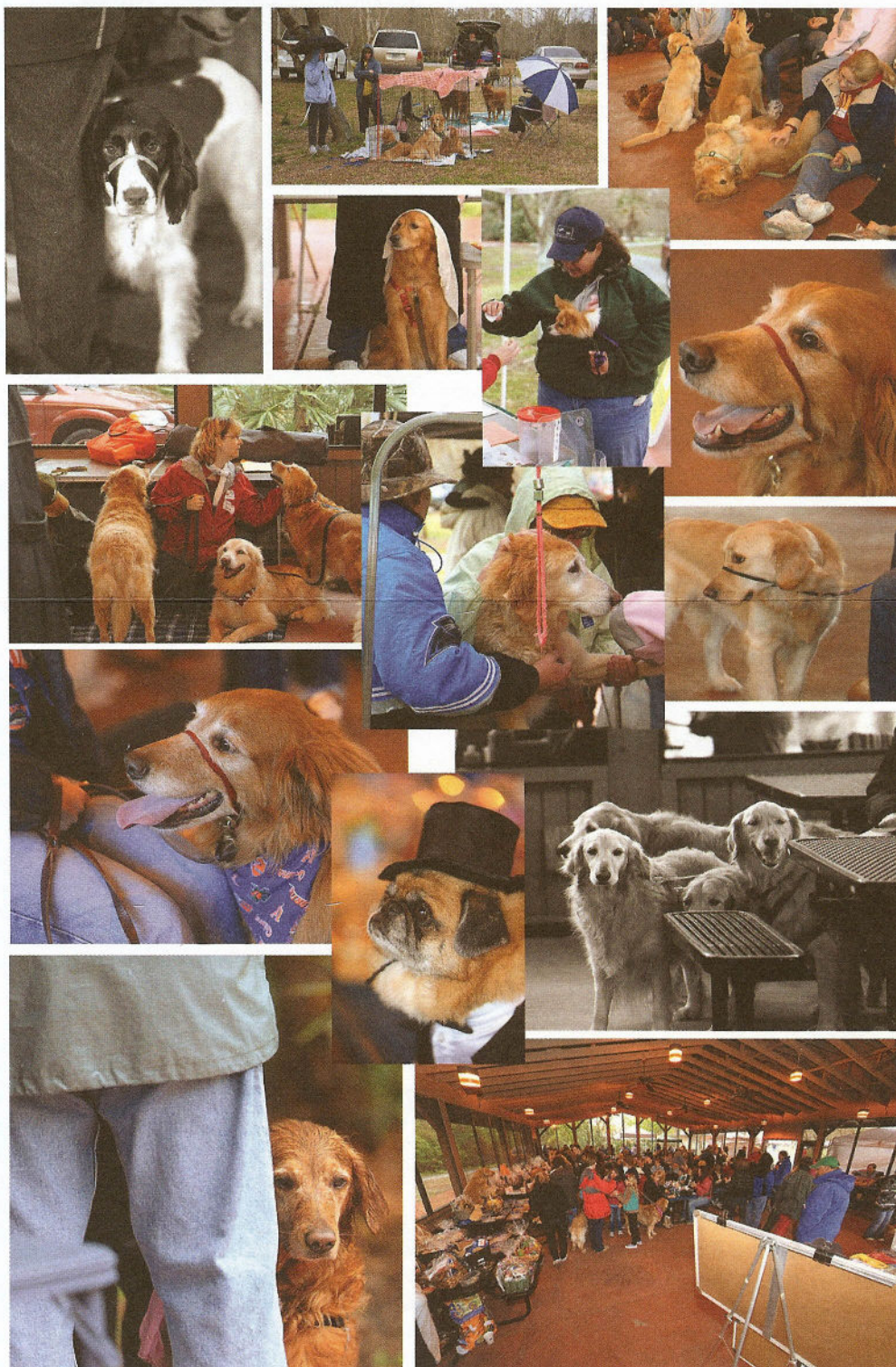
FUN AT OUR ANNUAL RESCUE REUNION 2010

By Barbara Durham – President
Pictures by Keith Hollister

Well, a little rain never bothered a bunch of golden retrievers! Or their humans ...

On February 28th GRRMF held their gosh – can it be – our 19th Annual Rescue Reunion. Our supporters who decided to brave the weather weren't sorry – we had a wonderful time all cozy under the huge enclosed pavilion. Thank goodness for the pavilion! It was a wonderful party. We talked, we laughed, we enjoyed lunch together, and had great fun with a record-setting raffle. Afterwards, we all commented that it may have been our favorite reunion so far!!! Thanks to everyone who so generously donated to what had to be our largest set of raffle items to date – and we couldn't have done it without our wonderful raffle coordinators Linda and Harold Rhea. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped with everything. We owe special thanks to Bill Lawrence who does a huge amount of work to make the reunion a success.

At the reunion we presented our Hearts of Gold Award for Volunteer of the year to Debbie McGhehey. Debbie is one of our hardest working volunteers on the west coast and coordinates our events in that area. We also presented a Special Award for Outstanding Achievement to Marcia McGovern for all her hard work with Foster and Intake coordination during 2009. Our Top Dog Awards were made for our outstanding volunteers in many key areas. Without our volunteers we cannot save a single golden – so thank you VERY much! Mark your calendars for next year's reunion – Saturday February 26th at our same location. Don't miss it.



GOLDEN ADOPTIONS!

December 2009 - January 2010

At ten years old, **Ginger** was being left behind. Her family was moving and not taking her along. No matter - Kathy W. appreciates "old gold" and wanted to adopt another senior after her GRRMF alum had passed. Ginger's future is now brighter than ever.



Charlie is only two years old but was on his way to the pound. A Good Samaritan saved him and gave him to GRRMF for placement. The L. family wanted a young male for their home.

Charlie fits the bill to a "T" and now has loving family, play time at the dog park and obedience classes with mom and dad.



Duchess was being displaced due to a family change. There was no room for her

anymore so she came to us. The T. family saw her and loved her instantly. We recently got a message from them saying that she has been the perfect addition to their household.



Schroeder was found at a local shelter. Heartworm positive, his options were few. GRRMF took him in and gave him the treatment he needed. The C. family fell in love with

him and adopted him once he was ready. The latest picture we saw of Schroeder was one where he was snoozing at home. What a great ending to the story!

Five year old **Rosie** was our last newsletter dog. She was the one who had been bit by the rattlesnake. Mike W. saw her story and just had to have her. She now comes to GRR events and is a shining example of how seeing the glass half full pays off.



Devin(now Trevor), a sweet little boy, was found at a shelter, heartworm positive and oh so thin. But his golden goodness came shining through and

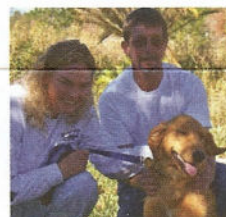
soon after his treatment was over, he was adopted by Pat M. and Deborah W. He is now attending obedience class with the long term goal of becoming a therapy dog. Now named Trevor, his future is bright.

Nicknamed "Heartworm **Harry**", this handsome boy had to first undergo treatment before he could be adopted. It was hard to keep him quiet but once he was ready to go, the T. family saw his picture and knew he was the one for them. And Harry is ready to begin the best part of his life.



Big and blonde, **Cleo** was given up because she was said to have allergies. The only thing she is allergic to is bad food.

Once on a good kibble, Cleo had no more outbreaks and went to live with Kelly P. She is now happy with her new mom and ready for whatever comes.



Young **Hannah** was turned over to us when she proved to be too much for one of her owners who had Alzheimer's disease. Just one

year old and full of fun, Hannah was in need of a new home. We found just the right one—Courtney C. was looking for a new best friend and we thought they'd be a great match. They are; Courtney writes, "She is doing great, thank you guys again for a great girl, she is making herself at home."

When her family moved, they decided to leave 7 year old **Cinnamon** behind. Their loss was Regina F.'s gain. She was looking for a walking buddy and Cinnamon was happy to oblige. The two gals enjoy every minute of their daily walks together.

Lucky for 7 year old **Callie** (now Allie), her family decided not to take her when they had to move. You see, Callie lived outside, even though she was perfectly housebroken. We found Callie to be a perfect houseguest and knew we had the perfect home for her. The L family was looking for a senior gal to add to their family; since Callie's new sister's name was Kallie, they opted to change her name to Allie. She has adjusted well to her new



name and family. We brought **Allei** in to the GRRMF family when her owner's relationship broke up and he felt he couldn't spend enough time

with her. Allei was only a year old and a bit confused about her predicament, but the P family thought she'd be a perfect fit for their home. She now has a 2 year old golden brother named Leo to romp and play with.



Bella was another gal who came to us when her family moved and couldn't take her. She was overweight and had some skin problems, too. She was adopted by Jane K. and has now

dropped 10 lbs. Her skin has cleared and she is enjoying life, going to the park, for walks and picnics. Her new Mom says everyone who meets Bella falls in love with her and that she is a true southern lady!

Miss **Maggie** was eleven years old when her family had to move and contacted us for help. Her foster mom said, "She is the BEST girl. She is so good, and so obedient. I can't find anything wrong with her. She's very healthy too, only needing her thyroid supplements twice a day. She hasn't met anyone she doesn't like. She sounded like just the dog for the W. family who are happy to give this girl the loving home she deserves.



Lyric's owners felt they didn't have time for her puppy antics or to spend training her, so they surrendered her to GRRMF. We quickly found a perfect home for her. The S. family had lots of

love and attention to give her. Now she has two human sisters and two canine sisters - 1 1/2 year old golden retriever and an 8 year old beagle!

Irresistible Fosters!

The following dogs were lovingly cared for by their foster families who could not let them go: Angel (now Sam); Lizzie; Astro; Zeus.

DONATION THANKS!

Thank you to all our generous donors who make our program possible!
Donations received from January through February of 2010. - MAY (APR)

General Donations

Adler, Jeffrey
Aiduck, Heather
Alfson, Lynda
Anderson, Susan
Bachmann, Anna
Balas, Agnes
Bank of America
Bothwell, John and Brooksie
Braun, Melissa
Brubaker, Lynne & Clayton
Carlson, Helen
Cooper, Lori
Cooper, Shelley
Costley, Patty
Coulter, Donna
Dalton, Penny & Don
Davies, Mary Ellen and John
Deckard, Lee
Diederich, Shawn
Doherty, Philip
Duncan, Margaret and Theodore
Durkin, Daniel & Therese
Elliott, Robert
Fields, Diana and John
Fitzpatrick, Ann and John
Fowler, CT
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Friedlander, Leslie
Fritz, Lorraine
Gilbert, Lila & Dan
Golden Retriever Foundation
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Gratz, Michael
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Hollister, Robert
Holzer, Mayra
Jones, Kevin
Juliano, Marcus
Knowles, Melissa
Kotalik, Kim
Ladd, Elizabeth & Dennis
Leggatt, Roger & Christina
Lehnert, Sharon
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Metts, Lori
Mitzel, John
Mollon, Catherine
Moore-King, Amy
Murphy, Roger & Kathleen
Nielsen, Mary and Mark
Nigrelli, Terry
Pagano, Ronald
Pecorelli, Donna
Quercia, Charlette Cerra and John
R.C.D. Corp
Ray, Elizabeth
Redding, Diane
Riggs, Jim
Risley, Gayle

Roemer, Eileen
Santos, Susan
Schumar, Debra Ann
Selby, Glenda
Shevlin, Jill
Slaughter, Marilyn
Smith, Patricia
Stastka, Kathy
Straher, Jody
Strain, William
Sugden, Rebecca & Herbert
Sumner, Sandra
Swisher, Linda
Sykes, Olinda
Thompson, Ilona
Turay, Mary
Turffs, Patricia & Robert
Vorhies, Kerri
Weber, Karen P.
Zasada, Robert

In Honor Of

Brubaker, Lynne & Clayton, for Sam
Deckard, Lee,
for Beau, Katie, Kelly, Lex, Missy
Ersin, Jacqueline,
for Cashew, Tucker, & Jan Jennings
Risley, Gayle, for Maggie
Sabino, Lois, for Lyric
Stager, Elizabeth & Robert,
for Jan Jennings, Tucker and Cashew
Verel, Arlene, for Vickie Krivacs
Wojcieszowski, Lawrence, for George
Wright, Maureen and Harold,
for IHO - Pam Jones

In Memory Of

Professor Fitzgerald's Contracts Class
at Stetson University College of Law, for Hamish
Ellen Podgor, Cheryl Segal, Abraham
and Hans, for Hamish
Bram, Vallie, for Mandy Bram
Feuer, David & Susan, for Henry
Fitzgerald, Susan and Peter,
for Hamish Fitzgerald
Gilbert, Lila & Dan, for Nicholas
Herrington, Pat & Jim, for Chuck
Jennings, Jan, for Tyler Jeremiah
Lake Seminole Animal Hospital, f
or Maggie Audibert
Litt, Peggy & Harrell, Pam,
or Shep and Cody
McClelland, Sylvia and William,
for Benjamin
Morrow, Cynthia, for Martin S. Zucker
Naseem, Firasat, for Princess
Piccard, Ann, for Hamish Fitzgerald
Quercia, Charlette Cerra and John,
for Sydney and Sally
Richter, Judith & Paul, for Jade
Risley, Gayle, for Tucker
Savasito, Sharon & Michael,
for Golden Boy Tucker
Schmitt, Joseph, for Rocky
Strang, Lesley and Alicia,
for Martin S. Zucker
Strauch, Sharon and Frank,
for Martin S. Zucker
Thompson, Ilona, for Shelby
Vanwhy, Joe, for Daisy and Dakota
Watts, Alison & Keith, for Nutmeg and Maple
Yost, Cathy, for Nancy Spears

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE ...

for a few of our many special volunteers!
As each year begins anew, our organization likes to recognized different volunteers for their contributions to our efforts in the past year. As we begin this new year of service to our wonderful Golden organization, we would like to say a special thank you to those who received our organization's 2009 "TOP DOG AWARD" plaques at this year's Rescue Reunion Picnic. Please join us in recognizing and thanking the following volunteers:

Adoptions

Abby Lee
Agnes & David Balas

Education

Pat & Bill Shepard
Becky Stone

Communication & Administration

Judy Ladney
Dan Hardy
Pat Matthews
Deb Wilson

Fundraising

Janet Thompson

Transportation

Marvin Arkovich

Fostering

Kristie & Mark Molina
Cheryl Pacheco
Angie & Larry Weldon
Tara Spake
Darlene & Ron Krause
Janice & Hank Bogle
Cindy & Rick Owens

Youth

Aaron Kennon - for Fundraising
Daniel Kennon - for fundraising

Treasury Administration

Carol Avey

Intake

Gregg Eddie

VERY SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO:

Top New Volunteer

Leslie Godwin

Hearts of Gold: Volunteer of the Year Award

Debbie McGhehey

Special Award: Outstanding Achievement

Marcia McGovern



UPDATE: A SPECIAL NEEDS DOG HELPED THROUGH THE WOODY FUND



Shannon came to GRRMF with major medical needs to repair both of her deformed knees. We were there for her.

Shannon was turned in by a family who got her from a pet shop. Shannon turned out to have deformities in both her knees that kept them bowed out preventing normal running and playing. The pet shop "guaranteed" their puppies and offered to take her back and replace her with another dog. What happens to these dogs when they are returned? The answer is pretty obvious. The family contacted GRRMF knowing that there was no other option for this beautiful, otherwise healthy young female. Shannon had surgery on both knees and although her prognosis was excellent, her recovery time was long. She was expertly and very lovingly cared for by Marcia McGovern. Shannon was one of our charges that had to stay in foster longer than we like. We brought you her continuing story via our website and again a few newsletter issues ago. This is her follow up story provided by her forever loving home. YES – she now has her family and a few siblings to boot!

Sweet Shannon

An update from her parents David and Sandy Gottlieb



Shannon and her new forever family.

As of the end of March, Shannon will have been

with us for five weeks and will be on her fourth training session along with one of our other Golden Retriever rescues, Dawsey. We found our girl Dawsey drinking water from the ditch by the side of the road covered with ticks. She is now Shannon's BFF (Best Friend Forever).

Shannon has been needy and dependent, showing signs of jealousy and the desire to be the center of attention, all signs of immaturity. This is the probable result of two hind leg operations and lengthy recuperation. When she first arrived she skipped when she walked or ran but now skips very infrequently. We have been patient with her as she learns to socialize with our other two dogs and us and learns what expected from her.

Our Corkey is an alpha male golden we have loved for thirteen wonderful years who remains vital and strong. He has been patient and calm with Shannon watching her antics play out with Dawsey. Dawsey and Shannon are about the same age so they romp and play in the house and in the fenced backyard. Lately, they have tug of warred many soft toys to their demise. Often we spot Shannon licking Dawsey or Corkey in the face, just as she does with us. Shannon is very affectionate and loving!



Shannon and her sister Dawsey and brother Corkey.

Shannon loves to sit on David's chest or lay across his stomach as he works on the laptop as lies on the bed. She still jumps and bites at our hands for

attention or out of excitement when she first sees us after a period of separation. At times, she jumps at the doors when we leave or return to the house. She still has some anxiety separation issues that we will work to resolve. She has her own bed but prefers to sleep on the king size bed with us. The other dogs don't mind that she has taken up sleep residency on our bed.

Shannon enjoys her twice-daily walks with Corkey and Dawsey around the neighborhood and if we forget either their second meals or walks, all three gang up to remind us it's time for one or the other.

All in all Shannon is doing very well and learning to socialize with other dogs and people. She is an excellent training pupil and at the head of her class with Dawsey. They are both referred to as the "twins" and look to each other for approval when they do well. We are so proud of both of them and truly love our sweet Shannon. She has made our home "Golden". We would like to thank her foster mom Marcia McGovern, and the many generous "Shannon" supporters. In addition, we appreciate GRRMF choosing our family for Shannon's forever home.

RAINBOW BRIDGE

We extend our hearts and sympathy to all our GRRMF families that have lost a loving companion the past few months. 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.

Peter & Susan Fitzgerald, Hamish Marjorie & Patrick Rafferty, Charlie Pat Harrington, Chuck Sandy Sumner, Miss Scarlet Penny & Don Clark, Sandy Fran Darling, Brinkley Patricia & George Koch, Merlin (Our hearts and prayers go out to Patricia as George also passed away.)

We invite everyone to enter the Rainbow Bridge section on our web site and spend time with each loving companion. See their beautiful picture and read about the life they devoted to their families.

"Not an Angel"

The young pup and the older dog lay on shaded sweet grass watching the reunions. Sometimes a man, sometimes a woman, sometimes a whole family would approach the Rainbow Bridge, be greeted by their loving pets, and cross the bridge together.

The young pup playfully nipped at the older one. "Look! Something wonderful is happening!"

The older dog stood up and barked, "Quickly! Get over to the path."

"But that's not my owner," whined the pup, but he did as he was told.

Thousands of pets surged forward as a figure in white walked on the path toward the bridge. After the glowing figure passed each animal, that animal bowed its head in love and respect. The figure finally approached the bridge, and was met by a menagerie of joyous animals. Together, they all walked over the bridge and disappeared.

The young pup was still in awe. "Was that an angel?" he whispered.

"No, son," the older dog replied. "That was more than an angel. That was a person who worked rescue."

Author unknown

TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT – NOW!

And send it to us for the 2011 GRRMF Calendar!



NOW is the time to send us your calendar pictures!!! We will be starting production in just two months. We need more pictures!!!

Our calendar fundraiser is our biggest of the year so by submitting photos to create a great calendar you will help us raise funds. You can read more about submitting calendar photos on our website. Please submit your pictures or questions to grmfcalendars@gmail.com.

THE STORY OF NICHOLAS

By Janice Bogle

Every so often a situation comes along to emphasize why all the volunteers, members and generous donors do what we do. The story of Nicholas is that kind of situation.

We received a call from our veterinarian asking if we could help a golden whose owners wanted to put him down due to medical costs. We contacted the intake coordinators to inform them of the situation and received the go ahead to get Nicholas into rescue and begin his new life. Our vet told us that Nicholas had a mild case of ear infections. The truth was that Nicholas was diagnosed with major allergies - wheat, corn, dust mites, mold, grass and the list went on, and required allergy injections every few days. He had ear and eye infections along with skin problems. Fungi on his skin and especially his paws required bathing him every few days and wiping his paws after each trip outside.



One of the first things that we noticed about Nicholas was that he has an infectious charm that makes you want to do anything and everything to make sure his life is as good as it can be and that he showed no signs of having any problems. His coat was beautiful and full and he didn't scratch or lick. The other thing we noticed was that the food he was prescribed by

the vet and the food being fed by his former owners had as the first three ingredients, the same allergens that he was allergic to according to his dermatology tests. We immediately switched him to Blue Buffalo which we give to our goldens. It doesn't contain wheat, corn or soy.

Nicholas responded very well to his new home and dietary changes. He enjoyed going outside to play fetch with the tennis balls and giving our Felton and Riggins some competition. Our attitude toward what Nicholas needed to be as healthy and happy as possible was to help him fill his heart and mind with love and joy and hopefully his body would follow.

We continued to wipe his paws after being outside, gave him his allergy injections and found we didn't need to continually bathe him as his skin was good and he wasn't scratching. Nicholas was extremely happy and loved to go outside and play and exercise rather than being inside except for potty breaks, as was his routine in his former home.

A visit to the dermatologist after a week or so of being in foster care was very revealing. After examining Nicholas, it was determined that we should continue to do what we were currently doing. Other than changing his food and wiping his paws, we weren't doing that much. The injections were reduced to once a week with a decreased dosage. The only other change was an additional prescription for his paws due to small amounts of fungus found between the toes of his paws. We followed the instructions to the letter. The result was that Nicholas began to have difficulty walking and didn't want to play. Being a typical golden, he showed no sign of being in any discomfort other than starting to walk very gingerly. We discontinued applying the medicine to his paws and just went back to wiping them with hypo-allergenic baby wipes. After two days, Nicholas was back to playing fetch just as before. Our thinking was, and continues to be, that flushing out all the bad that Nicholas had been ingesting would start at the top of his head and finish at his paws.

At the veterinary exam that is part of the intake procedures, the veterinarian who was seeing Nicholas for the first time suggested that Nicholas might be better off if we could get him in a cooler climate outside of Florida since living here is known to be harder on those with allergies. We conveyed this to Marcia, our foster coordinator. Since GRRMF does have a program with a sister rescue up in Pennsylvania, it was thought that it might be a good idea for Nicholas to go up there as soon as it could be arranged. Until then as hard as it would be to let go of him, he needed to be moved into foster care in the Orlando or Tampa area so he could be seen by another dermatologist. Luckily for Nicholas, a foster home opened up in the Tampa area and he was seen by a holistic dermatologist. He continued to improve in both health and body. His allergy injections were reduced by dosage and frequency but it was again suggested that he would do better out of Florida.

Through the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, Nicholas was transported to DVGRR located in Pennsylvania. Being Nicholas, he thrived up there during his fostering. They posted pictures of the happiest boy you could ever hope to see doing what he was meant to do; play ball, run and just generally be happy.

Just recently, Nicholas was adopted by a lucky family for Christmas. He now has what he should have had all along, his forever home. To meet Nicholas is to fall in love with him and want nothing but the best for him. To know of his story is to know why we do what we do and to never let the indifference of some become the loss of a wonderful golden soul.

Note: It took many volunteers (intake, foster, transport, administrative, and others) across two states as well as assistance from wonderful teams of medical specialists to get Nicholas to his forever home. Nicholas' life and that of his family will forever be improved by what we collectively did, and continue to do. We do not do this for money or fame. We have other professional and family commitments. We do this for the unconditional (four pawed) love we have come to know, cherish and want others to be able to have and enjoy. While we hear of and sometimes witness acts of animal cruelty, I believe there are more of those with kindness and respect than those who would do harm. You are the ones that make a difference saving lives - on day at a time, one golden at a time, displaying and opening 'Hearts of Gold'. Congratulations and thank you to all who came through for Nicholas. Thank you to each and every GRRMF volunteer and family everywhere!

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

ASSISTANT INTAKE COORDINATOR

To help acknowledge Owner Surrender requests, arrange intakes with vets, and transports with our transport coordinator when needed. Please contact Marcia McGovern at grrmfintake@gmail.com for more information.

CALL TEAM VOLUNTEERS

These volunteers make phone calls to screen potential adoptive families in order to determine if they will make good homes for our goldens. If you are interested in volunteer please contact grrmfadoptions@gmail.com.



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

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GRRMF HAS SAVED OVER 2500 GOLDENS SO FAR!

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

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WITH UPDATED ADDRESS, EMAIL AND PHONE INFORMATION.**

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