



TALES OF GOLD

KEEPING THE SPOTLIGHT ON Special recognition to some very special volunteers!

By Barbara Durham, President

Debbie McGhehey: Volunteer of the Year



Each year at our annual rescue reunion GRRMF presents our Hearts of Gold Award for outstanding achievement. This year we were pleased to give the 2009 award to longtime

GRRMF volunteer Debbie McGhehey.

Debbie is known by many within GRRMF as our West Coast Event Coordinator. She coordinates a huge number of events for us and is instrumental in organizing volunteers to staff each event. These events are critical in spreading the word about GRRMF and responsible pet ownership in our community. At many of the events we sell golden related merchandise and our west coast volunteers raised around \$4,000 last year which went towards funding veterinary care for our golden retrievers.

Debbie first started volunteering about ten years ago after adopting her golden Roxi. Roxi, known as "FoxiRoxi", is now going strong at 14 years of age. Debbie says that adopting Roxi was so rewarding that she wanted to give back in some way. And the rest, as they say, is history!

We thank Debbie for all her hard word on GRRMF's behalf.

Marcia McGovern: Special Award For Outstanding Contribution to GRRMF

At our Annual Rescue Reunion in February, we presented a special award for outstanding contribution to GRRMF to Marcia McGovern, who has gone above and beyond during 2009 to help GRRMF fulfill our mission. During that time she has managed

both the Intake and Fostering areas which are two of the most dynamic areas of rescue work. We are so appreciative of Marcia's efforts on our behalf. We asked her to put pen to paper and tell us her "rescue story" – how she got involved and all the areas she has contributed to over the years. Thank you Marcia for sharing it with us!

My Rescue Story: Marcia McGovern, Intake and Foster Coordinator

I was one of those kids whose mom didn't like dogs so I never had one growing up. I had cats and still love cats, but when my kids were growing up we had several dogs over the years. One of my neighbors in Denver had a Golden Retriever which was my first exposure to the breed. He was a wonderful dog and I always remembered that. When I moved to Orlando, I decided it was time to get a new friend to walk with me and share my life.

I joined Golden Retriever Rescue in the fall of 1998. Rascal was my first adopted golden and I adopted him at age 4 months in October 1998. He quickly became my best friend and he walked with me every morning and evening. We played ball at lunch time and he accompanied me to every GRRMF function. We loved the Sanford Dog Park on Saturday or Sunday mornings.

The first year, I helped with Golden Goods at events and worked education days in various PetSmart stores. Later I coordinate PetSmart education days. At the 1999 reunion, I organized the Silent Auction for the first time and for many years after that. I also worked on other fundraising events for the next 6 years such as raffles, yard sales, etc. and also began doing home visits. 1999 was also the year I became a board member.

My fellow board members encouraged me to foster so Bud and I began by fostering Clover. That is when we found out that golden retrievers are like potato chips, you can't have just one. We did not return Clover, thus we became failed fosters. The next dog we fostered was Tanner. He was 4 years old when we got him. A quieter, sweeter dog could never be found, so we kept him too. Rascal loved his new buddies. After that, we were able to let them go to new homes. Three big dogs are all we can handle and still foster another dog. We are still fostering and it's one of the most rewarding jobs in rescue. Some are very easy, others require a lot of patience while they learn to trust you and let you help them become better doggie citizens.

In 2007, I became Foster Coordinator and continue to this day. In August of 2009, I began coordinating intake of dogs as well as interfacing with all our foster families and vets on medical care for dogs. I also work with veterinary specialists discussing and approving orthopedic care, eye care, and any other special care a dog may need.

Other jobs I've done on a regular basis are transport, home visits, education days, coordinating events and being a part of the Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue transports when we have too many dogs and they end up with fewer dogs than families on their waiting list. That exchange has allowed us to save the lives of an additional 30-50 dogs each year. Now that I'm semi-retired, I'm able to put more time into rescue and I enjoy every minute of it.



GOLDEN ADOPTIONS!

Thank you to all our wonderful adoption families who opened their hearts and homes to each of these wonderful goldens! Adoptions for July - August 2010.

Cookie

Sweet Cookie's home life crumbled when her owners had financial issues and then divorced. But the bad news soon turned to good when Lori A. agreed to foster her and then decided she couldn't part with her! Great news for Cookie she now has one sugar-coated life.



Corey

Tiny man Corey was at the animal shelter with little hope. Luckily GRRMF jumped in and got him the surgery needed to correct a deformed front leg. He has found his forever home with volunteer Marcia M. and her other goldens.

Parker

He was just 8 months old when his owner gave him up, saying he was "too much." Goldens are large, high energy dogs and Parker was no exception. Luckily the N. family wanted a young dog for their active household. Parker more than fit that bill.

Teton

This little peanut was left at the vet's office. He was a stray although we can never figure how someone would abandon this boy. A favorite with the vet staff and his foster mom, 16 month old Teton was also a hit with Jeff and Angela. No more worries about where he will lay his sweet head.



Juliet

Two year old Juliet was a stray who had collapsed from dehydration when she was found. Debbie D nurtured her back to health and the B family adopted her. They recently wrote to us, "Thank you for your help in connecting us with Juliet. She is dear sweet girl and we love her." Now Juliet has the loving home she deserves.

Henry (formerly Yukon)

This stray from the animal shelter was heartworm positive, but his gentle demeanor and handsome good looks meant it was given that he would be given the help he needed to get better.

After undergoing HW treatment, he was adopted by Jeff and Julie S. who adore him who have renamed him Henry.

Duke

This escape artist was turned in by his owners who said that he would find ways to leave the yard when left outside alone for the whole day. Animal control was not happy with them so they turned him in to us. This was Duke's first day of the rest of his life. Steven and Colette have adopted him and will make sure that his days are full of fun and love with the family.

Bristol

Young Bristol was only a year and a half when he was sent packing along with his brother Bailey. His owner's landlord requested that the owner give them up or move. Bristol was just the dog the B family had been waiting for. He joined their home and now has a canine sister as well as 3 human siblings! He's now enjoying his busy new life.



Bentley

Four year old Bentley came to GRRMF when his family rescued him and then found themselves with too many pets to care for. Bentley was heartworm positive, so Hank and Janice B fostered him for several weeks before he was ready to be adopted. Nathan and Katie H came to meet him during that time and waited patiently for him to recover. They report he's "doing great and being spoiled rotten!"

Gracie

Foster mom Maryann C. loves her Gracie and decided that she did not want to be without her. Gracie had come from a home with another dog but discovered that all she really needed was her mom.

Spencer

Two year old Spence is a tall red boy who gets along with anybody. He came from a home with Gracie where they no longer had a fenced yard for him to romp in and had no time for him either. He found his forever home with mom Kathy R. and his days are filled with romping around the back yard retrieving balls and toys.

Shelby

Shelby's story was showcased on our website. She had her front leg amputated due to a cancerous tumor. She was fostered by Pam S. who felt that Shelby

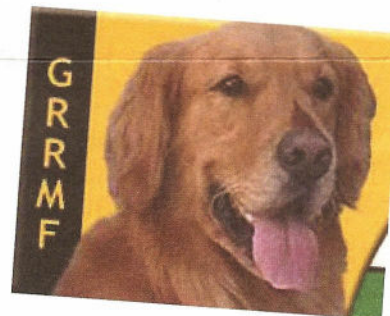
was a perfect forever fit in her household. Shelby thinks so too!



Reily

Reily came to GRRMF because his owner had financial difficulties and had to move out of state. At four years old, poor Reily had a severe case of hip dysplasia, but that didn't dissuade the B family from adopting him. They saw his beautiful brown eyes and sweet disposition knew he was the dog for them. Now Reily has an Aunt who is a veterinarian to help him have a pain free life, as well as a golden sister to play with.

**GRRMF ON FACEBOOK:
Thank you, Dan Hardy!**



GRRMF now has an official Facebook page! We are located at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Golden-Retriever-Rescue-of-Mid-Florida/148940208460224?ref=ts>.

Our Facebook page will help us bring additional exposure to our organization and its great cause. We hope by increasing our community awareness it will also bring us additional visitors to the events we attend, volunteers, fosters, donations and most of all, great and loving adoption families.

If you are a Facebook member, once you are on our page, click the "Like" button at the top of the Facebook page and help us get the word out on behalf of our wonderful goldens.

ALUMNI UPDATE: ANOTHER CANINE GOOD CITIZEN

By Deborah Wilson – Newsletter Editor



From homeless waif to doggie gentleman extraordinaire we present Trevor, CGC. He now joins the ranks of many GRRMF alumni who have gone from homeless to doggie extraordinaire by working toward and passing a test to obtaining a Canine Good Citizen designation.

Trevor didn't stop there either. He is currently working on his therapy designation. He passed his therapy obedience test and is proving that he can properly deport himself on therapy visits. He will be evaluated on three occasions as he continues his visitation sessions and then will be invited to join the ranks of fully designated official therapy dog. He is companion to the newsletter editor who is a former veteran so it feels good to be able to say Trevor is doing his therapy visitation at the local VA Hospital under the wonderful watchful eye of Ms. Debra Wood of the Orlando Dog Training Club. We thank her for generously sharing her time, knowledge, patience and wonderful attitude in helping us and so many others achieve an extra special bond with our four legged companions.

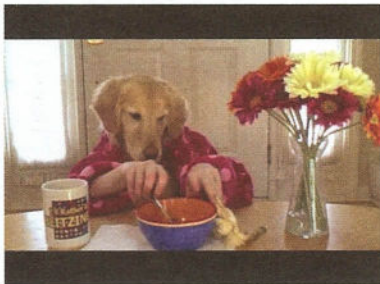


This is not the end of the story. Since Trevor's gentle nature has proven to be irresistibly approachable by children, he is reading up on how to become a Reading Paws Partner. He would like to help his young admirers with their education by having them read books to him. That will be a "story" for another time!

Trevor working his magic while visiting his Grandmother at the Villages.

GOLDEN VIDEO FUN

We all like to have fun with our goldens and with the use of social networking, there is shared fun for all to enjoy. If you find yourself with time on your hands and want to see some interesting golden activities, hop on over to **youtube.com** and in the search bar enter the following:



"Salsa Golden" – to find video selections of a gentleman dancing with his golden

"Ginger Dog" – to find video selections of Ginger eating with her "hands"

Or just simply type in "Golden Retriever" and you'll even find "Pets Teach Science: 16 golden retrievers explain atoms" <http://www.southerngoldenretriever.com/Display%20Team.html>



Hey, we at GRRMF could do that too! Any takers? Enjoy!

PRODUCTS OUR MEMBERS RECOMMEND



Slow Your Dog's Eating Habit

Ripley's mom reported that he was prone to burping after dinner because he eats so fast. Not normally a problem but a little embarrassing when company is over!

Wanting to slow him down to reduce the amount of air gulped during eating (and hopefully reduce the risk of bloat as well) she purchased a Skid Stop Slow Feed bowl from **www.kvvvet.com**.

The bowl has obstructions in the bottom that slow down Ripley's eating pace. Some of our members put a tennis ball in the bowl before adding the food to slow the pace of eating. There are other brands of bowls as well such as the Brake-Fast Dog Food Bowl that result in slower eating.

Assistance Lifting Your Dog

Pam, foster and adoptive mom for many special needs dogs, has had great luck with something called a WebMaster Harness. It's a great aid for dogs that need help getting up. The harness has a handle on the back that allows the dog's human to lift them up. The harness allows better distribution of pulling force. Originally designed for search-and-rescue organizations, the WebMaster lets you assist your dog up and down in a variety of situations and can also be used during rehabilitation. <http://www.ruffwear.com/Web-Master-Harness>

USPS ANIMAL RESCUE STAMPS

As our end of year holiday season arrives, mail correspondences will be on the rise. Show your holiday spirit and love by supporting animal rescue with each card and letter you send to family and friends. Purchase this year's new USPS "Animal Rescue: Adopt a Shelter Pet" special stamps. With these 10 stamp designs, the U.S. Postal Service hopes to raise awareness of the need to adopt pets. The pets depicted on the stamps were all homeless and have since been adopted!



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.

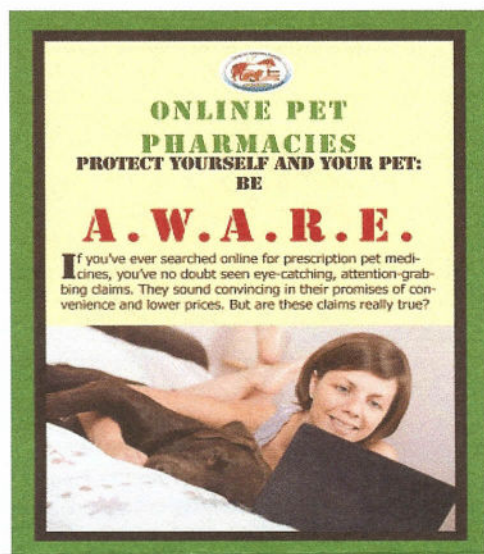


David D., Austin
The Longman Family, Midas
Sandy Sumner, Cameron
The Madigan Family, Coco
Karen Ray, Savannah
Catherin H. & Paul W., Cyanne
Harry Hogeland, Amber
Kathy Forde, Marley (formerly Selma)

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

ONLINE PET PHARMACIES

As we look for ways to cut our costs in today's market, one of the growing trends is to purchase low cost pharmaceuticals for our pets online. The FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine has an excellent site and an area just for information regarding online pharmacies. While there are many reputable pharmacies online, some are less than honest and if you're not careful, their use can result in trauma or death for your beloved pet. Please visit their site for free informative, and up to date, information. www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/default.htm



Below is a very short synopsis of their **A.W.A.R.E.** campaign:

A— Ask Your Veterinarian

W— Watch for Red Flags

- Site does not require veterinary prescriptions for prescription drug orders.
- Site has no licensed pharmacist available to answer questions.
- Site does not list physical business address, phone number, or other contact information.
- Site is not based in the US.
- Site is not licensed by the State Board of Pharmacy where the business is based.
- Site does not protect your personal information.
- Site's prices are dramatically lower than your veterinarian's or other website's prices.
- Site ships you medicine that you didn't order or that looks very different from what your pet normally takes.

A— Always Check for Site Accreditation

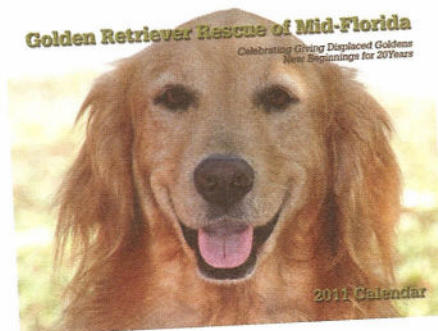
Vet-VIPPS accredited pharmacies must meet strict criteria.

R— Report Problems and Suspicious Online Pharmacies

E— Educate Yourself about Online Pharmacies

Do your homework and be online pharmacy A.W.A.R.E. before you purchase.

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. Each calendar is \$12.00 each but as you buy more the cost goes down. Each calendar is **GUARANTEED** to put a smile on your face. Who couldn't use a little happiness right now?

Need holiday gifts for your friends, family, coworkers or clients? How about GRRMF Calendars? We can ship you a box of 5,10,or 20 and you'll get the quantity price **and** save on shipping! We can even send them individually to your friends if you give us the information. You will get the quantity purchase price for each plus pay only \$2.25 per calendar shipped. Please email us at grrmfcalendar@gmail.com for more information.

Please send me _____ calendars.

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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| ☐ 3 calendars | @ \$11.50 each plus \$4.90 shipping | = \$39.40 total |
| ☐ 5 calendars | @ \$11 each plus \$6.00 shipping | = \$61.00 total |
| ☐ 10 calendars | @ \$10 each plus FREE shipping | = \$100.00 total |
| ☐ 15 calendars | @ \$10 each plus FREE shipping | = \$150.00 total |
| ☐ 20 calendars | @ \$10 each plus FREE shipping | = \$200.00 total |
| ☐ More than 20 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.**

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Thank you to all our donors who make our program possible! Donations received May - August 2010.

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of Dr Tammy Barron
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Katie, Kelly, Lex, and Missy
Thomas and Dawn Diflumeri-
Kelly, for Newport Leary
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Kelly, for Wiley Diflumeri
Barbara Dishozy,
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and Ceilidh Fitzgerald
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Ellen Podgor,
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for Fophie Davis

HELP US FIND FOREVER HOMES FOR ALL OUR GOLDENS!

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

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☐ In Memory Of: _____ \$ _____

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Send acknowledgment to: _____

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

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