DECEMBER 2015

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE OF MID-FLORIDA™

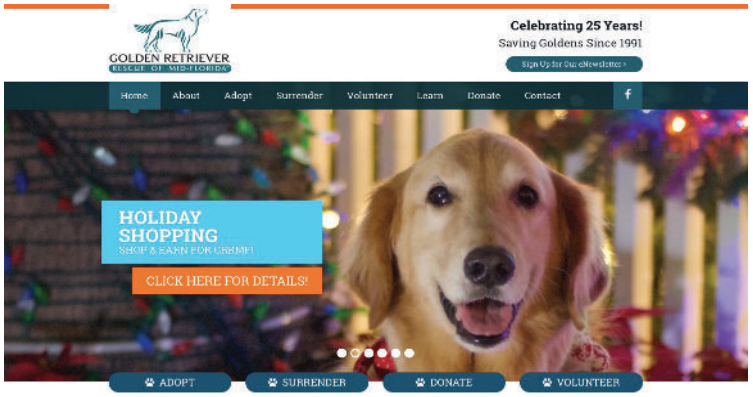
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!
SERVING GOLDENS SINCE 1991

TALES OF GOLD

HARK ALL GOLDEN ANGELS!

Each year our goldens in foster care make out their Christmas lists…food, biscuits, tennis balls, stuffed toys, medical care, heartworm preventive, leashes, collars, supplements, medicines.....oh and more biscuits and toys!!

Our Golden Angel Campaign brings much needed gifts to our treasury to help fund care for our sweet foster dogs. This time of year we always look up at the stars and hope Santa will be good to us...because we depend on your Golden Angel Donation to fund a large portion of our rescue effort. We sure hope Santa is generous, as we can't help many dogs with a stocking full of coal! Our dogs are blessed because so many of you are generous and care deeply about their needs. Our Golden Angel donors truly have a heart of gold. ***Will you help us make a golden retriever's holiday dreams come true, giving a sorely needed gift today?***



A NEW LOOK FOR GRRMF!

Maybe you've noticed that things look a little different at GRRMF lately. To celebrate our 25th year, we have a fresh new look! Our website has been totally redesigned to give our visitors an improved experience. Our site is easy to navigate and fits your screen no matter what your device. But the best part is all the beautiful dog pictures and stories. The countless dog photos you see are all GRRMF rescue dogs. Amazing! You'll be able to keep up with all our dogs:

- Dogs up for adoption (Available goldens)
- Healing Hearts • Sanctuary Residents
- Adopted dogs • Success Stories
- Special Features and Latest News

The top of the website has a slideshow with featured stories that will change constantly; so check back often.

To match our website our newsletter has a new look too. Our new logo represents the hope we give our golden retrievers and golden blends—the hope of a new life of love and happiness. We thank everyone who has supported us for the past 25 years and hope we will continue this journey together into the future.

THE GIFT OF TIME – PRICELESS!

By Barbara Durham, President

What is the "recipe" for running a rescue like GRRMF, especially for 25 years? Why are we still going strong? There are four essential ingredients for running a rescue group. First of all, we need dogs to save, and that ingredient is always in abundant supply. Second, we need adopters who will take these dogs into their homes and love them. The third ingredient is donations – absolutely critical to fund our care costs so we can help the dogs.

But the ingredient that binds everything together is time – the personal sacrifice of a volunteer. A volunteer who takes time away from their own life in order to invest it in the happiness and well being of a golden retriever. Why do they do it? I'm pretty sure if you asked our volunteers most of them would say that the emotional rewards that are returned to them are many times greater than any sacrifices they make. The gift of time makes an enormous difference in both people's and animal's lives. Are you looking for something to give your life meaning? Volunteering may be just the thing for you. Often people think the only kind of donation we need is monetary and that's not true. Will you considering donating your time on behalf of GRRMF?

We are dedicating 2016 as "The Year of the Volunteer". It is our desire to grow our already large volunteer base to fill many critical areas. We have a strong team but we want it to be even stronger! We've already begun our tribute with an article on our Transport volunteers. We will continue this in the coming year as we highlight our volunteers and the things they are doing to make a difference. If you are interested in helping, we'd love for you to fill out a volunteer application on our website. If you already volunteer, and have something you want to say about the rewards of your experience, let us know by emailing info@grrmf.org.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks are due to many individuals for helping with the launch of our new website:

CAROL FORSBERG & JUDY SHEEHAN
writing & loading new content, testing & production certification

DEBORAH WILSON
planning website requirements, writing & logo development

GRRMF GOLDEN MEDIA TEAM & LESLIE GODWIN
Testing

CHRISTINA KINCAID & THE TEAM AT SPROUT MEDIA LAB
project management & website development

RAINBOW BRIDGE

- Suzanne Bailey - Teddy
- Russell & Paula Smith - Abby
- Tracy & David Norman - Andy
- GRRMF Family - Axel
- Greg & Sarina Hankins - Bailey
- Cheryl Buchanan - Baxter
- Ed & Pat Silva - Brandi
- Donna Gates - Charlie
- Mark & Robin Lapham - Chevy
- Gregg Eddie - Cheyenne
- Denise Wilson - Dakota
- John Lynn - Einstein
- Paul & Christine Weegar – Elle
- Lori Anderson - Ginger
- Char Bauer - Goldie
- Kathy Nagel - Haley
- Jill Horner & Steve Johnson – Hunter
- Kathy & Phil Nolen – Lilly
- Michael & Susan Tucker - Lilly
- Rebecca Elias - Lucy
- Lysee & Mark Kierstein - Luke
- Arlene Pflaumer - Maddie
- Bert & Nancy Francis – Maggie
- Renee & Don Sutton - Mickey
- Sue Angle - Molly
- Gilbert Peterson - Molly
- Linda & Jim Zullo - Peanut
- Brett & Aldonta Cummings - Queenie
- Clyde & Rebecca Redmond - Sam
- Barbara & Kevin Massey - Slugger
- Michelle Bertolini & Lynn Jordan - Sweet Pea
- Rod Jones & Wesley Ann Hunt – Trooper

HELP A 2016 GOLDEN IN NEED - HOW FILLING OUR STOCKING WILL SAVE OUR GOLDENS!

People often ask about what makes up the largest costs in GRRMF's budget; here is a breakdown of where your contributions go:

Standard Vet Care & Heartworm Treatment: **$100,431***
Specialist Vet Care (surgical, various specialists): **$13,801**
Boarding (Y/Y expenses decreasing 30% due to increased foster home availability): **$3,757**
Emergency Vet Care: **$3,045**
Supplements, medications, microchips, misc. supplies: **$16,182**
Year to date total: **$137,216**
Forecast end of year: **$173,325**

**Heartworm treatment is approximately $2,000 per dog and requires a minimum of 4 months in GRRMF foster care to complete protocol treatment and final testing.*

TRANSPORTING – THE GRRMF GATEWAY FOR OUR GOLDENS!

By Sue Angle

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

GRRMF transport volunteers know the feeling of love that emanates from every golden we pick up. What we do saves the life of a precious golden and enriches the life of the person fortunate enough to accept that golden into their life. Transport volunteers give up whatever they might be doing to say, *"Yes, I can help that Golden Retriever on its way to the life it deserves."* Transporters are willing to drop what they are doing and drive two to three hours (or more) to help a golden. Sometimes these willing helpers get an emergency call that we need a driver immediately, other times we're able to give them a couple days warning, especially if we have to put together a relay to transport a dog over a longer distance. With each call for help, the transport volunteer on the other end of the line is immediately ready to make the trip to ensure another golden is safe and on their way "home". We even have a transporter who uses his private airplane to transport goldens for us.

These volunteers give not only their time, but when gasoline prices were high, they absorbed the increased prices to save goldens from being euthanized at overcrowded shelters; drove the surrendered goldens to our veterinarian for the care or surgery they desperately needed; and chauffeured them to loving foster homes on their way to being adopted.

Typically, our volunteers pick up goldens from an owner surrendering them; transport them to the veterinarian to be checked; and then drive them from the veterinarian to a foster home. Often it means picking up a surrendered golden whose family has been forced to give up their home; or one whose owner has died or gone into nursing care. Often, tears are shed and thankfully we can be there to assist with the help of GRRMF Volunteers!

It takes many helping hands and loving hearts to carry on this important part of rescuing our beloved golden retrievers. Hopefully the look in the golden's eye, the wag of its tail and maybe the wet nose kiss it plants on their cheek will let volunteers know that at that moment they are the most important person in that golden's life. By getting our goldens from one place to the next, our transport volunteers are making a difference that will last a lifetime.

Sue's personal thank you to her awesome team:
"I am so proud to be a volunteer in an organization as great as GRRMF, working with such wonderful people who volunteer their time to do whatever is needed for our goldens. My job as Transport Coordinator is made easy, because of the amazing and dedicated transport volunteers who seem to be waiting for my phone call asking them to drive a golden. Thank you all so much for the jobs you do, and for the dedication you show toward the goldens we are responsible for. I can't think of a more rewarding experience than preparing these special dogs for a loving forever home; without each of you, it would not be possible. Thank you!"

This fall, over a period of 45 days 62 volunteers transported 42 goldens plus a special transport of a black lab mom and 9 newborn pups pulled from a kill shelter with moments to spare. Our volunteers are very busy and need help. Please let us know if you are able to assist at: *info@grrmf.org*. We have a particular need in the Tampa/St. Pete area, along the I-4 corridor to Orlando, and along the east coast.

FIVE STAR FOSTERS

by Renee Ferguson
& Barbara Burgner

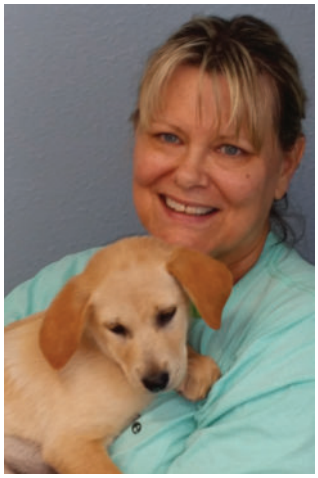
TEAM KNOPKA

Cynthia has been with GRRMF rescue for many years and has been our "go to" girl for some of our more challenging rescues. And challenging they have been. Many of you may remember Mr. Howell, our sweet goofy boy that came to GRRMF as a stray. Cynthia was one of Mr. Howell's amazing fosters. And there was Suzy, a shy stray lacking confidence in how to be dog. Others like Cooper and Hazel, who required amputations, learned how to be carefree and empowered tri-paws thriving under her attention and rehabilitation care. Cooper never left her, but Hazel, Suzy, and many others nurtured by Cynthia found wonderful forever homes—all because of a devoted foster mom.

Fostering is very rewarding; it isn't always easy and it certainly isn't for those who aren't dedicated. It takes a special person to open their home and their heart to an unknown dog with special care needs. We are so grateful to Cynthia, and all of our foster families, who save a life one dog at a time. Cynthia's pups would agree—she is definitely one of our five star fosters!

TEAM ANDERSON-IVERS

It wasn't long after Bambi started volunteering that we knew we had found someone special to work in the area of training and behavioral support for our dogs with special needs. Her positive spirit and gentle nurturing manner were skills we needed in rescue to help with the development of our foster care dogs. We quickly found her some challenging charges—dogs that had no social skills; dogs who were confused or fearful and puppies who needed a solid foundation in developing good behaviors.



Bambi started working with our dogs by visiting them in foster care and spending hours with them to develop a connection. She would then transport them to our trainer and worked with them in a structured training session. And we saw the dogs blossom under her care. We began to see confidence where there was fear and trust where there was anxiety. With Bambi's help, our dogs were given the tools they needed; they were reinforced in their foster homes, and they were then ready to move forward to their forever families who embraced them. Because of Bambi, we have many success stories and dogs who are now happy in mind and body and thriving.

We can't thank Bambi enough for all the time and love she continues to give these special GRRMF rescues. So for all the pups that can't thank her personally for their new life we will. Thank you Bambi!

2016 GRRMF REUNION

If you ordered a 2016 GRRMF calendar…Hooray for you! Now turn to February and you will see that Saturday, February 20, 2016 marks our 24th annual GRRMF Reunion Picnic!

If you don't have your 2016 calendar yet, remember to save the date (and order your calendar)!

Get ready for a wonderful day of fun and festivities for you, your dogs and our GRRMF Volunteers! More information will be coming in the new year to share the schedule of the exciting events! Watch our web page and Facebook for a sneak peek!

ORDER YOUR 2016 GRRMF CALENDAR

Don't miss out on our WONDERFUL calendar. Order one today! Our annual GRRMF calendar is very special as every dog featured was rescued through our program. While you enjoy 12 months of our golden retriever photos, you are also helping goldens in our program receive much needed veterinary care.

Calendars start at $12 each plus shipping. The more you order the lower the price. Order ten and pay only $10 each with free shipping!

Visit our website at: *www.grrmf.org/grrmf-calendar/* (or look for our calendar link from under "DONATE" on the main menu) to place an order online or download an order form to mail in with your check. Or, send a check to GRRMF, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733 and just let us know how many you'd like:

1 calendar $14.25 2 calendars $27.30
3 calendars $39.45 5 calendars $61.00
10 calendars $100.00
10 or more – just $10 each

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

GOLDEN ADOPTIONS GOLDEN ADOPTIONS

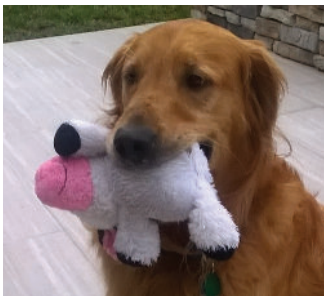
Savannah Fallon #3235

Savannah was surrendered when there was a divorce in the family and she was left behind. Forever Mom Patty saw Savannah online and knew that she needed someone to rebuild her trust and confidence in humans. She quickly bonded with brother Mozart and is now happily racing around the house with a smile on her once sad face. "She taught me to believe that frogs CAN become princesses! If you truly believe, dogs can become princesses, or anything you can imagine them becoming, you just need to have patience and listen!"

Sheeba Annie #3178 (now Shanti)

Surrendered when her owner faced medical issues, Shanti is living up to her new name which means peace in Hindu. She is now enjoying life and building her social skills with gentle guidance from her forever family, Dudley and Janet. "She loves our early morning walks and has mastered the loose lead", reports dad, and Shanti has gone with mom to Yappy Hour, a doggie birthday party and fundraiser, where she wore a party hat and ate yummy treats. "Shanti makes us laugh when she comes running into the kitchen anytime she hears the knife chopping on the cutting board, always hopeful something will fall. We wouldn't trade her for another dog and are happy to give her a good life!"

Finley Jess #3165

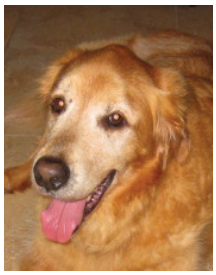


"We both work from home so when Finley wants to go out into the yard, he will make the rounds between our two offices, prancing back and forth in front of our desks with his stuffed Cow Baby in his mouth", report Debby and Greg. "He looks like a drum major, tossing his head up and down, looking at us out of the corner of his eye with an expression that says, 'Are you seeing this? Can you tell how cute I am?' Finley encourages us to get up, stretch, and go walking which will undoubtedly add years to our lives! We're thankful for the love and care GRRMF provided to our sweet baby".

Ainsley Shae #3183 (now Rosie)

Rosie came to GRRMF after she was abandoned at a shelter. The worst was behind her when she was adopted by a loving couple, Alice and George. As mom says, "I never expected to fall for another dog so soon after losing ours, but those big beautiful brown eyes called out to us". Rosie shares her time between mom and dad and loves being an only child. This means that Rosie gets the front seat of the golf cart and can talk to folks as they pass by!

Banjo Oscar #3208 (now Bo)

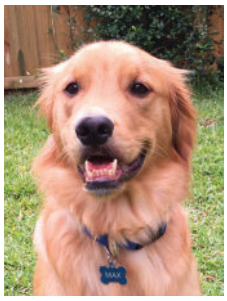


Financial issues brought Bo to GRRMF. When Ken and Susan met Bo they were impressed with his friendliness and laid back demeanor. "He came over to greet us and we simply fell in love with him. All he wanted was to be patted". Bo is a loving dog and loves to greet company and lie within reach for their attention. Ken and Bo have a routine every day of playing fetch and taking wonderful walks on lizard patrol. "He still hasn't figured out that they are much faster than he is! We are so blessed to have been chosen as Bo's parents."

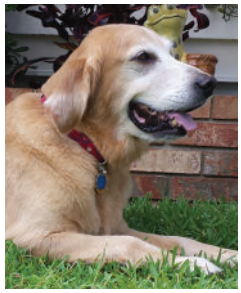
Bailey Jed #3230 (now Winston)

Surrendered due to his owner's health issues, Winston arrived in rescue and was diagnosed with a heart murmur. "When we saw that Winston had the exact same heart condition that our other golden retriever had, we knew it was meant to be," say Taylor and Katelyn. "After meeting him, and seeing his sweet demeanor and goofy personality, he completely won us over. Winston also keeps our other 7 year old golden, Callie, youthful by tempting her with games of tug of war. Working with a puppy has taught us the great virtue of patience and it's so rewarding to watch him grow."

Max Farley #3233



"We fell in love with him right away," report Andrea and Carl. Max arrived in GRRMF from a family who wanted the best for him. "He loves to grab my fuzzy slippers and I was able to find a stuffed toy that resembles them. His new "flea toy" is his favorite. Max loves our large family gatherings with children, dogs, and our Amazon parrot Sammie. We're empty nesters and Max fills our lives with love, joy, and his excitement for adventure each day."



Gus Nico #3217

"We knew we wanted to adopt him and were elated to learn he was ours to keep," report Charlotte and John. "He has earned the nickname 'Gussie' because he loves greeting people and leaning into them for pats, playing paw/hand with our granddaughter, and snuggling with us on our three-person swing. Gus loves going for walks and playing at dog parks. He is family and his needs are as important to us as if he were our child!"

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO DOGS WITH ALLERGIES, PART 3

By Janet Sturman and Dr. Greg Todd DVM, CVA

If your dog has been itchy and scratching for more than one season (a year or less), it's a good idea to schedule an appointment with your vet as soon as possible to find out if there's an allergy problem and how to best address it. The longer allergies continue, the harder it is on your dog. Constant biting and scratching can cause infections and once the skin degrades, the condition can worsen and result in bacterial and yeast infections. Left untreated, staph infections can also develop. A dog's skin can absorb inhalants, grasses, and nearly everything in the environment and you will need to take steps as soon as possible to address this problem.

Several of the steps you can take include: washing your dog weekly with a vet recommended shampoo; wiping your dog's feet off with a damp cloth after she goes outside; eliminating sources of contamination like smoke, dust mites, and other issues by vacuuming at least weekly; changing your home air filters regularly; covering dog beds with an anti-allergy cover after washing and making sure the covers are washed in hot water once a week. Although it is impossible to eliminate all sources of pathogens, your efforts can help reduce them and your holistic vet will help you make a checklist to follow.

Although only 10% of all dog allergies are diet related, if your dog is showing signs of possible allergies, try a cooling diet of turkey, fish, and special animal protein dog food. Cool foods balance the central nervous system and calm them. Feed gluten free. While the most common food allergies are to chicken, beef, pork, wheat, and corn, your holistic vet will work with you on the best diet for your dog's situation.

In the case of a food or an environmental allergy, your vet will be able to recommend a vet who specializes in dermatology. "If it is a food allergy, we look for the root cause by taking your dog through an elimination diet. We take a thorough history, so we understand what foods need to be eliminated. While food allergies are forever; environmental allergies are often seasonal. With environmental allergies, which usually affect the skin, we do a skin prick test or ELISA (blood test) to determine what tree, dust mite, molds, etc. your dog is allergic to", says Dr. Suzanne Cayatte DMV, Diplomate of ACVD, a partner specialist with GRRMF.

Your holistic vet will work closely with the dermatologist and your conventional vet to assure your dog is getting the best overall care. Of course, when it comes to diet, you must be very compliant and feed your dog only the allowed foods! To find an ACVD certified dermatologist, go to: *www. acvd.org*

Thank you to:
Dr. Suzanne M. Cayatte, DVM, DACVD partner vet and specialist in dermatology at Tampa Bay Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Care Center (TBVS) in Largo, FL.

Dr. Greg Todd DVM, CVA partner vet and holistic veterinary expert from Animal Hospital of Dunedin, FL

Dr. Constance DiNatale, DVM, holistic partner vet from Veterinary Acupuncture & Complementary Therapy Clinic, in Winter Park, FL

12 Golden Days of Christmas

Sue Schneck

On the twelfth day of Christmas
my Golden gave to me:
Twelve more months of love
Eleven happy tail wags
Ten window nose prints
Nine joyful greetings
Eight retrieved balls
Seven fur tumbleweeds
Six missing socks
Five warmed up beds
Four sandy paws
Three lint rollers
Two chewed up presents
and a lizard from the live oak tree

AN ALLERGY DOG FINDS RELIEF THROUGH HOLISTIC MEDICINE

by Janet Sturman

Bo Mason was surrendered because his owner's daughter moved in and they did not want her dog and Bo fighting. They also could not give him the time necessary for a special dog that had major allergy issues, nor could they afford the allergy medications he required. Bo Mason wore a cone of shame (Elizabethan Collar) for most of his life, until he was rescued by GRRMF.

Dr. Bill Ehlers, a partner vet of GRRMF, considered various treatments for Bo's allergies, but despite his attempts none were effective. Bo had deep inflammation that required wearing the cone of shame because he would chew his skin until he had no hair on his back, which then resulted in a host of other issues.

But without a clear diagnosis, GRRMF decided to try Suzanne M. Cayatte, DVM, DACVD, a dermatologist specialist at Tampa Bay Veterinary Services, who performed a skin prick test to see exactly what Bo was allergic too. The results—things like cats, wool, fleas and several other Florida-friendly allergens. Bo began receiving a serum injection every 3 weeks that is manufactured based on his test results; it changes how his body responds and while most of the causes cannot be totally eliminated with the serum, it desensitizes Bo and supports his system and results in increased comfort. So progress was being made.

One of the cutest boys in the world, Bo Mason entered the foster system to stay with Kirsten and Russell and did Bo hit the jackpot with them! When Dr. Ehlers released Bo into their care, he suggested that holistic veterinary medicine might be of help. So Bo began visiting GRRMF partner, Dr. Constance DiNatalie, whom he now sees regularly for chiropractic care and acupuncture.

He receives chiropractic care and acupuncture, since he appears to have issues related to his spine in addition to his allergies. He also takes many supplements as well as Chinese Pills. All medications and treatments are adjusted as his symptoms change. He eats grain free, but also cool foods (fish/rabbit). Cool foods balance his central nervous system and also help to calm his mind. "We found that his mind races from his many allergies. Holistic medicine works on the whole dog and he doesn't focus so much on itching, biting and pain. He has had allergies for his whole life, but now they affect him much less", says Kirsten.

Since Bo Mason has lived his whole life wearing a cone, he has become a master at breaking himself out of every style! He would chew and scratch until he was bleeding, so he needed something to protect him. GRRMF's medical director is constantly researching new solutions to medical problems and doesn't hesitate to try them if they will help our dogs. It wasn't long before Bo Mason was gifted with a blue suit that covered his entire body, much like a wet suit. Hopefully, this would get him out of the cone of shame and prevent him from actually chewing through his own skin. Kirsten said, "It really helped. We could leave the house without fearing we would return to ripped out stitches or bald bloody spots. I'm sure his skin still itched, but it comforts like a thunder shirt, so I think he itched a little less and stopped before he was bloody. It is a spandex suit from neck to 'ankles' and is a true lifesaver".

After three months, Bo had become part of Kirsten and Russell's family. He chose them. He looks adoringly at both with his beautiful baby browns—how could they say no? And who else would do all of these things for him? GRRMF gave its blessing to this very special union knowing Bo would receive exceptional love and care.

For Kirsten, their relationship with Bo is about deserving a second chance in life despite numerous hard starts. "Patience is an essential quality for sure. It's important to always pay attention to what works and stop fighting what doesn't."

For Russell, the relationship has been about "giving extra special attention to those who need it, without question! I now try to anticipate his needs (as well as others') more than before. Watching Bo evolve into the dog we knew he could be has become one of the most rewarding things that I have ever done."

GRRMF thanks Kirsten and Russell for their work with our rescue and for taking care of many of our dogs that now live in forever homes. "Bo was the ONE, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to help him thrive in his life!"

UNSUNG HEROES OF THE SANCTUARY PROGRAM – OUR CAREGIVERS by Ginger Vincent

We are very proud of our village of sanctuary caregivers. They provide exceptional care to our rescues surrounding them with love as cherished members of their families and giving them a safe place of comfort in their final golden years. Many of these special needs rescues come to us when their owners can no longer afford their medical costs, or when they become a burden because their mobility declines and their senses dim. GRRMF places these sweethearts in our Sanctuary Program which focuses on the wellness of the dog. Our caregivers make each day count for these dogs by spending it doing the things they love, spoiling them and providing the necessary medical treatment they require.

The past few months have been very difficult for GRRMF as we lost five of our sanctuary goldens – Belle Mattie, Courtney (Cissy) Sophie, Dean Jason, Goldie Mason and Heidi Jolie. Each one touched our hearts in their own endearing way and left us with so many memories.

Our deepest gratitude is extended to the Vallin, Bertrand, McClellan, Bauer and Murphy families for their extraordinary courage and strength as a sanctuary caregiver for those who recently crossed the Rainbow Bridge. It can be emotionally bruising to open your heart and home to one of our sanctuary dogs only to part with them weeks, months or years later. We truly appreciate you, the unsung heroes of our Sanctuary Program.

Being a sanctuary caregiver is challenging on many levels, but "When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure." GRRMF wants our readers to hear about our Golden Treasures and why our caregivers feel so strongly about the Sanctuary Program. Here are two of their stories.

Dean Jason – Arrived June 2012

"Being a sanctuary caregiver is definitely tough knowing your time with the dog is limited. But knowing that you were able to make that time happy and loving makes it worth it. I am incredibly grateful that I got to spoil Dean the last couple months he was with me. Shortly before Dean passed I came across a quote and it so perfectly describes how I felt: 'How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.' I think that expresses exactly why taking in a sanctuary dog is worth it.

"Dean was a quiet, reserved boy and a great cuddly buddy! The best part of my day was coming home from work and Dean would be at the window waiting and bark like crazy while I got the mail. When he saw me getting close to the door he would run around and be there when I walked in to do his happy dance and rub up against my legs like a cat. When he was feeling well, his favorite times were breakfast and dinner. While I ate, he would stand in front of me and drool until I finished and let him lick the crumbs.

"Dean had tumors on his spleen and stomach, but the biggest issue was his mobility due to bad hips and arthritis. When the meds no longer eased his pain, we started acupuncture. But there came a point where I knew it wasn't going to get any better. I spent many, many nights losing sleep worrying about him. There were definitely times when it was extremely difficult, but caring for Dean was worth it and I would absolutely do it again.

"Everyone involved with GRRMF, volunteers and medical staff, are so wonderful! Anyone considering being a caregiver in the Sanctuary Program should know that they won't be going through any issues alone—there is a great support team with you all the way." McClellan family

Heidi Jolie – Arrived December 2013

"Giving a loving home to a golden who has been surrendered in their final years is so very rewarding. I will never understand how anyone can just give up a dog when they clearly don't have much time left. Being a caregiver is not always easy because with age come health problems. Heidi had severe arthritis that got progressively worse. She was on so many different meds that we needed two pill organizers to keep them all straight. Heidi was also deaf, so she didn't come when we called her. Despite all her 'defects' she was still a very special girl and I really miss her!

"Heidi enjoyed her slow walk first thing in the morning—even though she had sore joints she looked forward to our daily stroll. We would rest for about 30 minutes then have breakfast. After that, she would sleep most of the day away. She had a very unique 'quirk' of sucking her thumb when she was falling asleep. Her favorite time of day was meal time and she actually had a spring in her step when dinner time rolled around!

"The highs of being Heidi's caregiver were the times when she felt comfortable, happy, and safe. I can honestly say that for the last year and a half of her life, she was that. Hands down the lowest point was when we knew it was her time to cross the Rainbow Bridge. I take great comfort in knowing she is pain free and that she had the best life I could give her for as long as she was with us. Everyone at GRRMF was always very supportive and understanding." Murphy Family

Thanks to all our donors for supporting our sanctuary goldens on their journey with us, by giving so generously. Currently, we have seven sanctuary sweethearts enjoying life in loving sanctuary caregivers' homes – Butterscotch Jess with the McKee family, Cookie Mindy with the Hardy family, Heather Samantha with the Bertrand family, Jacob Don with the Krause family, Rusty Abe with the Molina family and Zoe Janelle with the McGovern family. Your continued financial support of the Sanctuary Program makes it possible for us to ensure that each is given the love, care, and second chance they deserve. They are the innocent ones who find themselves with us through no fault of their own—but they are the ones who always give us unconditional love!

Interested in opening your home and heart to one of our Sanctuary Goldens? Contact us at info@grrmf.org for more information and learn how your life could be forever touched in a "golden" way!

THANK YOU! DONATIONS JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2015

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Ade, Marilynn
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IN HONOR OF

DeRusso, Koren, for 21 new dogs
Fritz, Lorraine, for 21 new dogs
Gardner, Jill, for Jan Jennings
Gonzalez, Carmen, for Sandy & Ruby
Slattery, Mary Beth, for Mozart
Thomas, Michael, for Maverick
Truhan, Tatyana, for Cooper
Waldschmidt, Elizabeth & Dave, for Helga Durow
Walsh, Barbara & William, for 21 new dogs

IN MEMORY OF

Anderson, Barbara & Robert, for Chloe
Berke, Jill & Hugh, for Kayce
Bertolini, Michelle, for Sweet Pea
Bruce, Kimberly & Sandra Dettman, for Anthony Kendrick
Buchanan, Cheryl, for Baxter
Byrne, Bill & Kathy, Cheyenne
Davis, Mary, for Trooper
Deckard, Lee, for Beau, Katie, Kelly Petey, Lex, Missy, Brody, Jessie, Tanker
Eddie, Gregg, for Kiki
Elgerd, Elisabeth, for Anthony Kendrick
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Holecek, John, for Dakota
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Thomas, Tracy, for Aspen
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Thompson, Janet, Cheyenne
Waldschmidt, Elizabeth & Dave, for Neca
Watts, Alison & Keith, for "Fisher" Doucette
Ziegler, Lori, for Max

IN MEMORY OF RAY ANGLE

A devoted friend of GRRMF
Buck, Hettie
Carver, Patricia
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Hallsten & Hitzeman families
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Labbe, Alexandra, for Goldie
McFadden, Jim, in honor of Dr. Michael Smith
Pucci, Robert, for Shelby
Sublet, Bob & Ginny
Thompson, Paula, for Roxi's Cousins in memory of Sadie

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Bowers, Wendy
Cauthen, Charlie & Jane
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Pucci, Robert
Waggoner, Patricia
Wielgus, Elizabeth

GIFTS IN KIND

(much needed and appreciated)
Andy and Lois Boyle
Marianne Tago

Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida
Post Office Box 1449
Goldenrod, Florida 32733

Return Service Requested

Don't forget to take pictures to submit to our 2016 Calendar Contest! We love Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and other holiday themed shots of your GRRMF family member! Send them to: *grrmfcalendar@gmail.com*. Even if your pictures aren't selected for the calendar, we often use them in our newsletter and on the website during the year.

GRRMF CONTACT INFORMATION
Website: www.grrmf.org Hotline: 407.332.2840 Fax: 888.408.5520
Email: info@grrmf.org Visit us on Facebook!

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Mail form and check to: GRRMF, PO Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733 or donate via credit card at *www.grrmf.org*.

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A FLORIDA-BASED NONPROFIT CORPORATION (REGISTRATION NO. CH11185), MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES
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