

Tales of Gold

Life Saving Partners by Janet Sturman

Bert Haker has been a GRRMF volunteer for 12 years. Currently, she is GRRMF's Director of Intake and handles both the medical and behavioral issues of our dogs. Bert has a lifelong interest in both human and veterinary healthcare and recently went on a journey with our partner Loving Friends Transport to rescue dogs from high kill shelters and rescue groups in Louisiana. This experience gave Bert one more opportunity to continue learning about how to better help our GRRMF dogs.

The whirlwind trip to Louisiana started at 6:45 a.m. on a Monday morning in August when Bert joined Jim and Laura Fletcher-Taylor for a rescue mission to St. Martin Parish, LA. Bert came prepared according to Laura's instructions—enough food and snacks to last 48 hours and six changes of clothes to prevent cross contamination of dogs in case of parvo virus, kennel cough and other possible diseases as they worked closely with the dogs while being transported.

Laura and JT had prepared the 70 foot rig, with an RV upfront, the night before their journey began. Along the way with JT driving, Laura reviewed the list of the dogs that would be waiting at the shelter. She organized them by age, health status, and other factors because different Florida rescues only take dogs with certain health conditions. She also prepared a packet of information for each kennel and dog. Dogs that had no name were named.

When the three arrived at the St. Martin Parish Animal Shelter later that day, they met with Michelle Brignac, shelter director and animal control officer, and Jamie Clark from Lafayette Animal Aid. Michelle and Jamie were in the process of selecting which dogs and puppies would be loaded into the rig for departure the following afternoon. Together, they work as a team to coordinate all of the area

rescue groups and shelter dogs so they meet at the rig at the same time for loading.



Timing is key in this transport process. The dogs must be loaded into the rig by a certain time or the rig can't make the return trip in time to deliver their cargo. At one point there were only three spaces left for eleven dogs and they had to choose. Bert says, "I've been doing intake for a long time and while I certainly understand having to make choices, having to choose between dogs is stressful and can really wear you down".

Leaving Louisiana on Tuesday afternoon—barely 18 hours after they arrived—the team drove almost non-stop back to Tampa only stopping to feed a pregnant mom and some puppies, hand out biscuits to the remaining 80 dogs, change out wet kennel pads and walk some of the larger dogs. "It's an interesting set up", Bert explains, "the dogs rest in the back with the lights off and there are cameras so you can keep an eye on them. JT drives while Laura takes care of logistics like traffic, weather, construction issues and accidents enabling them to make it back on time. I definitely saw an awful lot of highway!"



Luke was delivered to GRRMF in October by LFT

They arrived on time at 9:30 Wednesday morning in Tampa and the unloading began. The mature dogs walked on leash, while the puppies were carried out. They each went to their new kennels, tired from the ride, and slept most of the day. Once every dog is accounted for by number, description and packet, the rig is checked to be sure no dog is left behind. This exercise in unloading was repeated once more in Sarasota. "By Wednesday night I was stinky, smelly and finally, I was tired. But I would do this again any day", Bert says. Thursday, there is a thorough cleanup and Laura and JT go again in two weeks.

continued on page 2

Reflecting on the experience, Bert says, "This experience made me feel proud about what GRRMF provides. I've had some people ask me why we take dogs from out-of-state when there so many dogs to be rescued here in Florida. We've never denied a Florida intake in favor of one from Louisiana, but no dog deserves to die. A majority of the dogs that we have gotten from LFT are heart-worm positive and that's a certain death sentence in Louisiana; they don't have the resources to cure them. I'm pleased that we can provide an option for these dogs. More importantly, we take dogs that other rescues can't afford to help. I'm also proud of the strong dedicated volunteers we have in place and for the stewardship we have from GRRMF President Barbara Durham. This relationship with Loving Friends Transport is a partnership that is clearly all about the dogs".

Dogs from Loving Friends Transport— where are they now?

Over the past year, GRRMF has received 19 dogs, including 8 puppies, through our partnership with Loving Friends Transport (LFT). All of these dogs were pulled from kill shelters with no hope for life. While these pups began life in less than ideal circumstances, things really turned around once they were rescued and placed in their forever homes where they were cared for and spoiled and where they will be loved forever. Here's an update on a few of these success stories.



Cameron Fergie #3111 (now Dixie)

With love and patience from her dad John, Dixie has overcome many of her anxieties from those dark days of her past when LFT and GRRMF found her and rescued this sweet girl from a kill shelter. She is definitely a "sassy southern" gal who loves being the focal point of a camera and an occasional Starbucks Puppuccino. Dixie also likes being

pampered with a relaxing belly rub and if you stop too soon, she will kick her legs like she's doing a bicycle exercise until you start rubbing her belly again. GRRMF did a wonderful job matching these two – they both adore each other and have way too much fun in the process. "Dixie is healthy, happy and a great example of why people should adopt over other options", states John.

JT #3163 (now Wyatt)

JT took a journey with LFT and transformed from a homeless, medical anomaly to a treasured loving companion. David and Laurie felt humbled to meet Wyatt and take him home. "Everyone that he meets just loves him. He has such a gentle demeanor and personality. He has been through so much and we are blessed to have him as part of our family." Wyatt's favorite spot is the family couch, which he often shares with his sister Calamity. "He is happy go lucky and despite his past, he loves to wake us up in the morning at first daylight!" Wyatt loves running free at the dog park, socializing, and encourages his family to walk more. "Wyatt is the best thing that happened to us! He is a bright light in our life. He is the perfect dog."



Rose Afton #3049

"Rose is a true success story and a testament to the wonderful people of LFT", responded Rose's mom Nicole when we asked how Rose was doing. "We brought our sweet Rose home on our second wedding anniversary and she has been such a special gift. She was shy at first, but so happy! It has been a real joy to watch her turn into a playful, confident girl. Rose loves to play outside and spends the majority of her time outside hunting lizards! She also enjoys playing with her "cousins," Delaney the basset hound and Nina the boxer. She has a gorgeous red coat and a very fluffy tail that she often waves high into the air. She's a snuggler thru and thru and well behaved with a classic calm and sweet golden disposition. She hasn't met a human that she didn't like—she brings so much joy to our lives and we are grateful every day to GRRMF and the transport company that saved her life and brought her to us. She has been the perfect addition to our family and we look forward to loving her more every day."



Lucy Shae #3187 (now Rouxbe)

Rouxbe—recently featured on GRRMF's Facebook page – was one of the puppies who arrived via LFT in September. It wasn't long until she landed in a wonderful home with best golden pal Rex, a black kitty named Pepper and Mom and Dad, Glenda and Russ. "We knew this little girl was smart, well, she is...and then some", said Glenda. "She doesn't miss a thing and decorating for Christmas this year was a perfect example of this. Once we had everything in place I noticed that she left everything alone—except for the cat's stockings! There were 3 of them secured on a wide ribbon hanging by the tree (right next to the dogs' stockings, I might add). Well, I found the ribbon removed from its hanging position on more than one occasion. Once I found it in the dog toy basket; another time it was sticking out from underneath Rex's bed and then ... it was on the back porch. All I can say is that the FCSI (Feline Crime Scene Investigators) is still analyzing the evidence; the case is still open and charges are pending."



THANK YOU! DONATIONS NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2014

GENERAL DONATIONS

Adcock, Lois
Ade, Marilyn
Adler, Jeffrey
Aid, James
Aleksen, Patricia & Mike
Alford, Timothy
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Anderson, Natalia & Kevin
Atwell, Caprice
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Barnett, Carol
Beach, Dan
Beacon, Robert
Berke, Jill & Hugh
Blackwell, Thomas
Bland, Mary
Bogle, Ralph
Bowes, Carol
Bradford, Nancy
Brink, Patricia
Brown, Kirsten
Butler, Debra
Bynum, Michael
Capodice, Margaret
Clark, Penny
Clark, Victoria
Clifford, Irene
Collins, Tim
Comas, Marie
Convery, Mary Ellen
Cousins, Lois
Cramer, Kristen
Crown Automotive Employees
Cuff, Robert & Toni
Curry, John
Danko, Emily
Davies, John
Davis, Rick & Robbi
Day, Carol
Delapa, Janette & Frank
Delker, Ellen
Demumbrum, Jack
Dethier, Susan
Dezik, Karen & Michael
Doherty, Phil
Dolan, James & Priscilla
Drapo, Deborah
DuBois, Karen
Dulaney, Joan
Duncan, Maggie & Ted
Eades, Becky
Elliott, Robert
Ellis, Becky & Gypsy
Evans, Mary
Exberger, Sherri
Farrow, Kelly
Feros, Vicki
Fever, Dr. & Mrs.
Finch, Debra
Fisette, Wayne
Frierson, Beth
Gailey, Philip

Geisinger, Barbara
Gibson, Rachel
Gogarty, Shirley
Graves, Betsy
Gregory, Douglas
Haker, Bert & Charlie
Hamilton, Elizabeth
Harwell, Mark & Chris
Hatcher, Katie & Nathan
Haynie, Linda
Holcomb, Lois
Homman, Linda
Hoover, Mary
Huffman, Mona
Izzo, Debra
Jaffee, Shirley
Jago, Kim
Jennings, Jan
Johnson, Frederick
Jones, Rod
Kard, Carole
Keil, Barbara
Kitzes, David
Klein, Barbara
Koons, Kevin
Kwasiborski, Jeffery
Lake, Kendall
Lansberry, Catherine
Lawhon, Melissa
Lehner, Barbara & Ken
Lehnert, Sharon & Wayne
Lemus, Corrine
Leon, Coralee & Michael
Philpot
Leporte, Sandra
Libbe, Michael
Lieble, Elizabeth
Likon, Susan & Dick
Long, Michael
Lullman, Linda
Luteyn, Ronald & Carol
Lynn, John
MacKenzie, J. Gregory
Manley, Chris & Tommy
Mason, Christina
McAnally, Michael
McClelland, Sylvia & William
McKellar, Karen
McLaughlin, Beverly
McLean, Dianne
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McNulty, Beth
Mendoza, Pamela Lane
Mitchell, Robert
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Murphy, Roger & Kathy
Murphy, Susan
Nagel, Kathleen
Nancy Rigling Fund
Neal, Stephanie
Nielsen, Mark & Mary
Odom, Susan & Larry
Odom, Vicki
Owens, Cindy
Pagano, Ronald

Pam Shaia & Stan Pengelly,
From Olives & Grapes,
Cocoa Village, FL
Patton, Dale
Pflaumer, Arlene
Pinnow, Martha
Pridgeon, John
Prost, Lynn
Pulford, Tammy
Quercia, Charlette Cerra
Rarick, Susan
Reid, Deby
Reid, Leanne
Rhinehart, David
Robbins, Jackie
Roberts, John
Robertson, Heather
Rock, Betty
Rupp, Patricia
Russakov, Tania
Russell, Caroline
Ryan, Ellen
Sanczyk, Edna
Savasito, Sharon & Michael
Schultz, Cathy
Servais, Susan
Sharpe, Lynn, Zoey & Lucy
Shealy, Jeff
Shepard, Connie
Slattery, Mary Beth
Smith, Dr. & Mrs. Robert
Smith, Michael & Janice
Sprague, Robert
Stastka, Kathy
Steinard, Linda
Sterling, Diana
Stillings, Gary
Straher, Jody
Stringer, Mary
Sublet, Jennifer
Tallman, Valerie
Thomas, April
Thomas, Michael
Tight, Amy
Tobar, Pauline
Torres, Teresa
Treber, Leslie
Trout, James
Turay, Mary
Turley, Brian
Vergenz, Steve
Veschio, Jane
Waggoner, Pat
Walsh, Barbara & William
Williams, Nadine
Winter, Grace
Wood, Nancy
Woodford, Joseph
Youngblood, Janis
Yung, Monwei
Zasada, Robert
Zullo, Linda & James

GIVING TUESDAY

Ayres, Edward

Aziz, Douglas
Becker, Mark
Clark, Carol
Cooper, Lori
Elias, Rebecca
Forsberg, Carol
Heil, Otto
Hensel, Nancy
Kuschmeider, Mike
Nesbitt, Paul
Pittle, Eileen
Sadzinski, Karen
Sheehan, Judy
Sherman, Patricia
Taylor, Donna
Turley, Brian

GOLDEN ANGEL

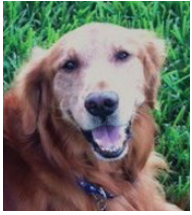
Burke, Bruce
DeVoe, Jody
Dillman, Dave
Dishozy, Barbara
Dovel, Ashton
Jones, Marella
Joselyn, Katherine
Kingman, Diane
Leggatt, Roger & Christina
Miller, Larry
Philpot, Michael & Coralee
Leon
Reynolds, Casey, Jim & Karen
Saulo, Marcia
Serterides, George
Sheehy, Brenda & Thomas
Sterling, Diana
Tradelius, Mary Ann & Paul
Uhlin, Wayne

IN MEMORY OF

Bennett, Cynthia, for Harrison
Butz, Beverly & Donald,
for Dakota
Cash, Cary & Deb, for Josey
Chaundy, Mary, for Amanda,
Shane, Jewel, Wyatt
Curry, John, for Carver, Tessie,
Mulligan, Josie, Grey
Cveticanin, Maggie,
for Vince Mazzara
Deckard, Lee, for Beau, Katie,
Kelly, Lex, Missy, Petey, Jessie,
Tanker
DeRusso, Koren, for her sister
Beth
Fellowes, Jill,
for Charles H. Fellowes
Forsberg, Carol,
for Jilly & Casey Kwapien
Forsberg, Carol,
for Rosie Onyx 3197
Goines, Johann,
for Grace Kelly
Goodfriend, Mary,
for Jack Eddy Miller

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Golden Adoptions Golden Adoptions Golden

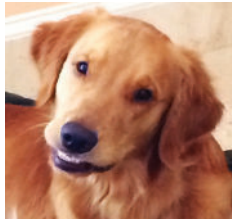


Buddy Justin # 3151

Buddy Justin arrived in GRRMF when his owner could no longer take care of his allergies. Agnes and David met Buddy and his foster sister, Babe Dona (now Daisy) and found the two hard to resist! "Daisy, who was featured in the August newsletter, loves to go out one door and in the other, but never the same way twice!" David adds that Buddy is a lap dog and relishes sleeping there. "He is a true comedian and always makes sure everyone is having a great time!" He enjoys his playtime and endlessly practices ball retrieval as Daisy cheers him on. The dogs have taught David and Agnes to relax, hope, dream, and enjoy life more than ever.

Jerry Ace (now Scout) #3128

Scout was surrendered because he was considered aggressive. Not to be deterred, his parents Downs and Elizabeth, along with Ann Waterbury and New Dawn Animal Behavior Center, made it their mission to help him. "Scout is so easy to love," share his parents. Their favorite trick is when he takes Downs' socks to him as he prepares for bike rides. "He has taught us to take deep breaths and recognize his intuition. We are so grateful he is ours!"



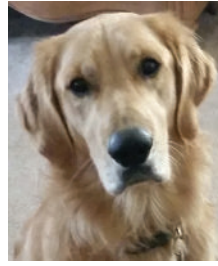
Pucchi Mickey #2166 (now Rusty Tucker)

Pucchi Mickey, now Rusty Tucker, was adopted in 2008 and returned in 2014 when his owner found him to be aggressive. However, Edward and Sherry knew that Rusty was the perfect dog for them. "His spirit is uplifting and he can work a crowd like a seasoned politician! He is gentle, laid back, and just a joy!" They love it when he brings Edward his robe off of the bed in the mornings. Rusty has taught them to be more caring and empathetic, "We are blessed to provide him his forever home."



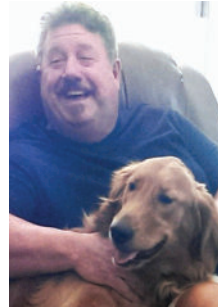
Sienna Meg #3132 and Buddy Mason #3141

Sienna Meg was a puppy mill dog and Buddy Mason's family surrendered him because they didn't have time or the finances to care for him. Todd and Jasmine believe they lucked out! They share that Sienna is a drop-dead beauty that believes boundaries are for others, while Buddy is a real Norman Rockwell dog. He goes with the flow even though Sienna eggs him on and, they say, "It's a lot of fun to watch!" Todd and Jasmine have learned many lessons from the pair. Buddy's mantra is, "if you can sleep, you ought too," while Sienna taught them that, "love should be unconditional."



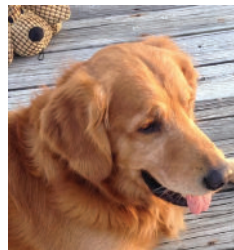
Remington Jess (Newman) #3168

Remington Jess, now Newman, came to GRRMF when his owner could not provide the guidance a pup requires. "The first night he slept on the end of our bed like we'd had him a long time," report Ann and Jeff. He was nervous at first, but, "is a real part of the family now," enjoying TV time on the couch, chasing balls and mentoring his younger sibling Cosmo. "Newman is attending training classes and the neighbors have noticed what a gem we have."



Callie Mattie #3123

David says that since she's become a family member, "Cali is doing great!" She was lovingly surrendered when her family found her 2-year old energy too much to handle. Cali loves to go for long walks and she and David log three miles every morning. This active girl finds no toy too boring to pass up. She loves playing tug of war with 'Tuggy', and fetching sticks and squeaky balls. "She's the queen of the house and she knows it!"



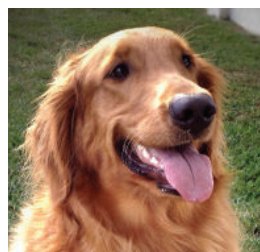
Rio Mike #3120

Rio was lovingly surrendered when his family was not able to give him the attention and exercise he deserved. It took a while, but John and Shelly knew this match was meant to be as soon as they saw his picture. "He's a big goof with a great personality," they say. Morning wake up calls start with him whacking his tail on the bedframe, and continue with him nudging John and Shelly with his nose. Shelly continues, "He was definitely worth the wait."



Mona Nova #2120

Mona Nova, was originally adopted in 2007, but was lovingly surrendered when her owner was injured in a car accident and became unable to care for her. She was originally Kaelie, and her new parents Barbara and John decided she does look like a Kaelie. The first time they called her by that name "she came all smiles". Her super laid-back personality has translated to special skills in the pool. While her playmate splashes around, Barbara says, "Our Kaelie looks more like a very graceful Esther Williams!"



Sam Ace #3129

Sam Ace was surrendered when his owners relocated for work and were concerned they couldn't give him the attention he deserved. Even with busy lives, Scott and Susan and their children, knew they had time for

another golden, so Sam joined the family and his fur-brother JJ. "He couldn't be better with the kids," says Scott. "Sam is best-friends with my son Andrew." Scott adds, "We couldn't be happier. We have a dog that loves us as much as we love him."



Brandy Julip #3028 and Princess Aries #3130

Brandy Julip and Princess Aries were

surrendered for the same reason; their owners moved and were not able to take them. Carol and Lou adopted Brandy and then wanted a pal for her and GRRMF matched them with Princess several months later. Brandy is a mellow, professional couch potato and Princess is a lively, high-energy mature girl who is happy to do anything at any time. Their two kitty siblings love them and one of them—Dixie—is always instigating a chase with Princess, who happily reciprocates! Walks are with the "tortoise and the hare," says Carol, "with Princess saying go, go, go and Brandy leisurely stopping and sniffing every few feet". The girls enjoyed a fall vacation on Sanibel Island with mom and dad and know they have indeed found the perfect forever home!

Caleb Justin #3153

Caleb Justin was surrendered when his owner's employment took them overseas. "It was a great first day," reports his new dad Matt.



"He is very goofy and still acts like a puppy at 3 1/2," including stealing socks and rolling in the dirt immediately after a bath. Caleb has learned to swim and enjoys jumping into the pool after tennis balls." Downtime includes snuggling on the couch with dad and sibling Kobe. "He is a great addition to my family and I couldn't be happier."

Donations continued from page 3

Griffin-Koch, Patricia, for Merlin & Hunter
Haas, Kyle, for Vince Mazzara
Hall, George, for Robin
Litt, Peggy & Pam Harrell, for our 5 golden boys
Matzonkai, Cindy, for Zoomer, Midas, & Fred
McAlister, Daniel & Diane, for Garth
McClure, Jerryan, for Hillary IHO-Ryder
Nock, Nancy, for Carl Nock
Osburn, James & Carol, for CC & Mike
Pacheco, Marie, for Jaxson
Rarick, Susan, for Sima Rarick
Rizzo, Michael, for Vince Mazzara
Ruth, Anita, for Nancy Spears
Smith, Debra Perry, for Scout
Smith, Karen & James, for Sadie
Stewart, Linda, for Dutchess
Storms, Jane, for Bookie
Taylor, Karolyn, for Janice Faust
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Thomas, Tracy, for Aspen
Vanwhy, Joe, for Daisy & Dakota
Wadsworth, Candace, for Lew Wadsworth
White, Charlie & Barbara, for Bernie, Ace & Trax
Yost, Cathy, for Dakota
Young, Brenda, for her Mother Nancy Spears

In Honor Of

Aitken, Linda, for Ruby Too Forsberg
Brubaker, Lynne, for Bailey
Bulzoni, Emma, for Scott Flower
Butz, Beverly & Donald, for Brandy & George
Coppola, Annette, for John Moore
Curry, John, for Cassie
Evenden, John & Nancy, for Sasha Boot-Handford
Ferrante, Barbara & John, for Kaelie
Forsberg, Carol, for the Aitken Family, the Saini Family, Carmen & Sandy
Gonzalez, & for the Jones Family
Gonzalez, Carmen, for Ruby & Sandy
Hawk, Megan, for Linda Hawk
Jones, Pamela, for Phil & MareJane Muse
Kresner, Debra, for the Flower Family
Mayer, Patricia, for Vickie
McClure, Jerryan, for Ryder
Myers, Sharon, for George Dowdle & Emma Dowdle
Shepard, Pat & Bill, for Bella Shae
Slaughter, Marilyn, for Champ & Piper
Smith, Susan, for Mary Lou Nelson, Micky Atwater, Kathy Rothstein, Judy Leckner, Kay Burklund, Betty Moore, Jeanine Pouzzner, Linda Bohn & Lisa O'Neill

Vincent, Ginger, for Stephanie Robbin's Birthday
Wright, Maureen & Harold, for Pam Jones
Ziegler, Lori, for Max

Woody Fund

Anson, Richard
Forsberg, Ruby, for Roxi's Cousins
Shepard, Connie, for Roxi's Cousins
Davis, Rick & Robbi
Gruhler, Alfred
Lemus, Corrine
McKellar, Karen
Wood, Rosemarie & William
Martin, Donna, for Hazel

Special Thanks

To Olives & Grapes of Cocoa Village, FL for fundraising efforts on behalf of GRRMF. Olives and Grapes will sell dog treats throughout the year with all proceeds going directly to animal rescue groups. Please visit them if you are in Cocoa Village and tell them you are from GRRMF.

To Phil Doherty for sponsoring the rental of our pavilion for the 2015 Rescue Reunion.

To all our GRRMF Event volunteers who helped staff our many events during the busy fall season. The donations you raised helped our dogs we thank you!

To our foster homes, volunteers and veterinary partners who have had to deal with some very sick dogs in the past month. We know it has been a stressful time but one thing is sure – any dog who has one of you on their side is blessed. You give them the ultimate gift of love, concern and care when many have never received this in their lifetime until they came into our program. Thank you for all you do and the difference you make each and every day.

Rainbow Bridge

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

■ Nancy Wood - Reef ■ Jane and Mike Tarallo - Harry ■ Darlyn and Jerry Stockfish and GRRMF volunteers - Fred ■ Susan and Michael Tucker - Marley ■ Kathleen & Richard Arrich - Sadie ■ Rob, Jackie and Lauren Whitham - Kaz ■ Patty Anderson Kwapien - Casey ■ Sue and Ray Angle - Dixie ■ Kirsten and Russell Brown - Ali ■ Wendy and Keith Erskine - Rudy ■ Gregg Eddie and GRRMF volunteers - Rosie ■ Wendy Leininger - Buc ■ Bill and Denise Sell - Louie ■ Barbara and Kevin Massey - Dinger

Volunteer Spotlight: Cynthia Knopka and Kris Viles

by Janet Sturman

Keeping records for GRRMF entails gathering information from various sources—surrendering owners, partner vets and other sources—then organizing those documents and uploading them into our electronic storage program for each dog. Through this process, we save important medical information like immunization details and special medical conditions which are stored and maintained in the GRRMF database and then provided to others (partner vets, adopters' vets, fosters, etc.) upon request or as situations require. Managing and maintaining accurate records is critical to our mission.



**Camera-shy Cynthia Knopka's
furry family**

her. "Cynthia is dependable and always rises to any occasion. She consistently gives her all. I am proud to work with her!" says Bert Hacker, Director of Intake, "my team is highly dependent on the accuracy and thoroughness of our records."

Cynthia's involvement in GRRMF "began shortly after our adoption of Sadie. She was adopted as a companion for our golden Maggie. They were great pals. Last November we lost Sadie after a relatively short battle with cancer. Since then we've had seven fosters with one failure, Cooper. He was with us recovering from surgery when we lost Sadie and he really helped us heal from our loss. Currently, we are fostering Miss Hazel".

Cynthia believes that GRRMF has a great mission and the organization's volunteers are steadfastly focused on that mission. "I have been most surprised by the great friendships I've formed by working with different aspects of the organization: transport, intake, fostering and handling medical records. I've learned a great deal about dog behavior through fostering and also about many different medical conditions and treatments, including management of neurological issues, acupuncture, heartworm treatment and many others", she says.

"The most challenging aspect of being a volunteer is time.

I've been especially fortunate that at a time when my work was ramping up Kris stepped in, trained quickly and has been instrumental in keeping our pup records up to date. I am grateful that so many people want to help and joyfully help. We need more volunteers to come forward and share their skills and learn new ones. We recently added a new volunteer in records, Cathy, who has jumped in and learned new computer skills and has really helped us out."

According to Barbara Durham, GRRMF president, "Kris Viles is a wonderful volunteer with a can-do attitude. When you give her something to do she's efficient, reliable, and gets things done in a timely manner. I love working with her because she has such a positive attitude. We're lucky to have her on our volunteer staff!"

"My first impression of GRRMF, after adopting nine year old Lexi in 2008 and four year old Gracie in 2010, is that it is a very caring rescue organization," Kris says. "One indicator is that the adoption application asks many questions about the care and safety of the dogs. Working on the records has been my first time volunteering with a rescue organization and I really enjoy it". For Kris, the most challenging part of volunteering has been the sadness she feels when GRRMF takes in a dog that is very ill and ultimately has to be put down. But, she says, "that's one of the realities of a rescue group and we do all we can to avoid these situations if possible."

Like Cynthia, Kris has made many new friends in GRRMF even though she hasn't actually met them in person yet. "Helping a golden find a forever home takes a village", she says, "and whether it's the work I do or a donation I make, I feel good every time I do something to help a golden. The happiness of giving a golden a chance at a better life really matters to me. In today's world rescuing is a great idea for people and it seems to be becoming more realistic than buying a dog. Besides, you are saving a life. What I do matters and I encourage anyone who has a passion for goldens to fill out a volunteer application at: www.grrmf.org. You won't regret it!"



Kris has a true commitment to rescue!



Five Star Fosterers

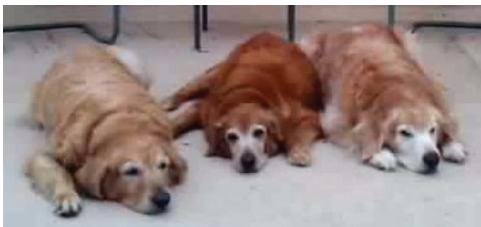
by Renee Ferguson & Barbara Burgner

A special note:

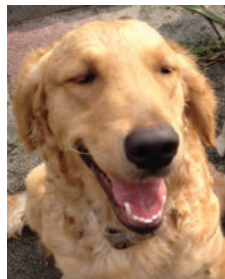
It's been a tough year. We placed a lot of dogs and we lost some to the bridge...and way too many during the month of December. Barbara and I send this note to each and every one of you who fostered for us over the past year. We value the time, effort and love you have put into each one of our dogs. Without this amazing team we could not be the successful rescue that we are. It takes a village to rescue a dog—Carol F says this all the time. She is right. What an amazing village we are.

Bless you all and bless those of you who are going to join our team. You will feel the sense of love the minute you get your first foster. You will feel pride in what you are giving back. And the best part is you will find and make friends you will never forget. Thank you all, Renee

Team Bennett & Bertrand



Asking someone to take a foster with special needs is hard, but asking someone to take a dog that we know has a limited amount of time is heart wrenching. That is what we do with the Bennett/Bertrand team. These devoted fosters are where our hospice rescues go. They never turn us down and their generous hearts are so appreciated. Giving a dog the best place to rest and be loved is the ultimate of giving. The B/B team knows the importance of caring. They also know the importance of when to let go. So Danny and Keith, we want to tell you both how grateful we are to have you and how you have helped our precious pups live out their lives with dignity and love.



Team Spake

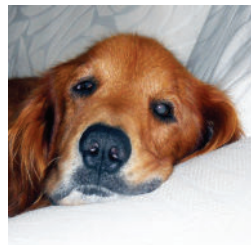


We have had some challenges this year. Some pups have come to us with issues we have never been exposed to. Finding a foster for these pups was not always easy. We chose carefully. We have been blessed with being able to go to the Spake team with some real emotionally damaged dogs. The first thing we noticed was that determination and a good sense of humor carried this team a long way. They can proudly say they took a pup that was scared and insecure and sent her off to her new home with confidence and a new golden heart. This is truly what fostering is about. Saving each dog ... one at a time. Thank you, team Spake.

Team Bauer



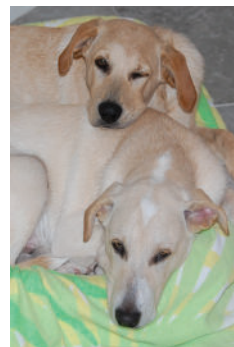
Char has been fostering for a long time. Whenever we have a really "heart breaking tear your guts out dog" come in, we first say "how many does Char have". She is our go to girl when we need to take a broken dog and give him a reason to live. She has the compassion and fortitude to fight the fight for them and with them. Char likes the old golds and they adore her. Thank you Char for opening your heart and home and spreading so much needed love.



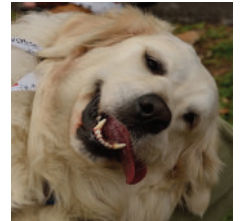
Team Sheehan



What can we say about Jerry and Judy? If there is a wild child to be tamed or a young one that needs the perfect setup who do we call? The Sheehans! It takes a lot of time and very special skills when you are dealing with a pup that has not been given any direction. Our fosters fall into many categories. The Sheehan's are in a category of their own—Super! When we asked them to take puppies (these may have been the youngest), true to form they didn't say no. They also didn't take one they took two. Quinn



and Lee just blossomed in their care. These two little cutie pies learned how to romp and play and socialize. They are now ready to take on the world. The Sheehan's will send them to their forever homes with confidence and love. We could not ask for a more successful story. Thank you so much Judy & Jerry.



2015 ANNUAL GRRMF REUNION, LAKELAND FL

Saturday, February 21, 2015

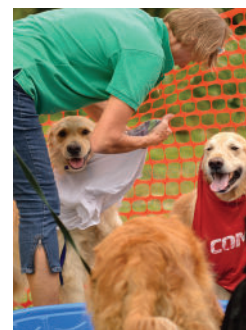
10:00am to 3:00pm

Lake Parker Park
899 E. Robson Street,
Lakeland, FL 33805

This is a wonderful homecoming celebration for all our adoptive families and their goldens, our donors, volunteers and supporters. Our planned activities include:

- fun games for owners and their dogs
- silent auction and raffle
- grooming station for paw and trimming
- golden goodies to purchase and best of all
- networking and enjoying time with GRRMF volunteers and our GRRMF dogs and forever families!

Please mark your calendars so you don't miss it! If you would like to volunteer to help with some of the activities of the day, financially sponsor an event, or contribute something unique for our raffle, please contact us at info@grrmf.org.



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

Return Service Requested



Don't to forget to take pictures to submit to our 2016 Calendar Contest! Send your original size pictures of GRRMF Alumni to: grrmfcalendar@gmail.com. Even if your pictures aren't selected for the calendar, we often use them in our newsletter and website throughout the year. We love getting your pictures!



GRRMF CONTACT INFORMATION

Website: www.grrmf.org Hotline: 407.332.2840 Fax: 888.408.5520

Email: info@grrmf.org Visit us on Facebook!

23 YEARS OF SAVING GOLDENS -- 3,227 SAVED SINCE 1991!

Golden Retriever Rescue Of Mid-Florida

Please Help The Goldens In Our Care -- Your Donations Are Needed and Appreciated!

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ **CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:** ☐ General Membership \$25 ☐ Golden Friend \$50

☐ Sponsor support \$100 ☐ General Donation \$ _____ ☐ Woody's Fund General \$ _____ ☐ Roxi's Cousins \$ _____

☐ In Memory Of: _____ \$ _____ ☐ In Honor Of: _____ \$ _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____

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

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE OF MID-FLORIDA, A FLORIDA-BASED NONPROFIT CORPORATION (REGISTRATION NO. CH11185), MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1.800.435.7352 WITHIN THE STATE OR BY VISITING www.800helpfla.com. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.