AUGUST 2017
Celebrating 26 Years!
Serving Goldens Since 1991

GOLDEN RETRIEVER
RESCUE OF MID-FLORIDA™

TALES OF GOLD

EMPOWERING A JOURNEY TO NEW HORIZONS

Ever wonder where that "doggie in the window" was going? It may have been one of our rescues beginning their journey to a forever home empowered by a member of our transport team, the first GRRMF person these dogs meet. It takes many helping hands and loving hearts to carry on this important part of rescuing and our volunteer transporters donate many hours traveling the highways and streets of mid-Florida to safely move dogs from shelters or owner surrender homes to one of our veterinary intake teams for their initial medical exam. Hopefully the look in the golden's eye, the wag of its tail and the wet nose kiss it plants on their cheek will let that transport volunteer know they are the most important thing in that rescue's life at that moment.

Each transporter has influenced the life of one of our rescues, starting from the backseat of their car right up to their amazing success stories. They are an important link to giving each rescue a second chance for happiness with a forever family. By getting that rescue from one place to the next, our wonderful transport volunteers are making a difference that will last a golden lifetime!

The transport team also provides taxi service throughout the year to move our rescues to foster homes and to multiple vet appointments. Their commitment for 2016 totaled 325 trips requiring 496 drivers to achieve this important task and they are trending similar success for 2017 through June with 110 trips requiring 297 drivers! Our transport volunteers also found time to help the Humane Society on the west coast transport 30 puppies, requiring 8 transporters to meet the requirements of the long journey and puppy volume. "They never refuse when I contact them," reports Transport Coordinator Sue Angle, "and Jack alone logged 3,639 miles and $80 in tolls for 2016. His steadfast reply to my calls is always 'It's my pleasure.' Jack is one of our volunteers who knows the wonderful feeling of love and devotion that emanates from every golden he picks up."

Knowing the true meaning of "rescue," many of our transporters also work closely with shelters/rescues and our Loving Friends Transport (LFT) friends when the need arises by opening their hearts, and vehicles, to assist with transferring other dogs, small and large, of different breeds. Rescuing beyond GRRMF saves precious lives and continues to build relationships with our shelters and transportation partners. We have a wonderful story on page 2 of a recent special transport for 6 dogs in need of adoption which highlights the benefit of this partnership.

It takes a dedicated village of volunteers to rescue one dog and GRRMF proudly has many that come together on short notice to get our rescues many miles across the map. Golden kisses to our transport volunteers who seem to be just waiting for the next important phone call from GRRMF to begin another journey!

We're going on a journey, A new chapter in your life.
Your story is still unfolding, Loving arms guide you tonight!

GRRMF CONTACT INFORMATION
PO Box 1449
Goldenrod, FL 32733
www.grrmf.org
info@grrmf.org
Hotline: 407.332.2840
Fax: 888.408.5520

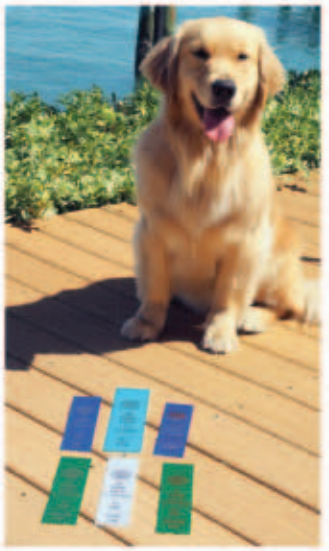
TRANSPORT PARTNERS SPURRED BY LOVE

Looking at the photos one might say "Wait – they're not goldens" but an emergency call from a partner shelter spurred our volunteer transport coordinator, Sue Angle, into her vehicle with special doggie gear needed to keep little dogs safe. Size did not matter nor the task of driving over 2 hours each way to retrieve her precious cargo of 6 dogs! Gently loading these little angels, Sue made new friends with her car mates as she safely delivered them to rescues who hoped to successfully find forever homes for them. Saving 6 lives, helping fellow rescuers and transporters ... that's what partnership is all about!

HEARTS, REALLY BIG HEARTS by Barbara Durham, President

Every day I see our volunteers energetically work so hard to help our goldens. I've been working with GRRMF for almost 20 years. The amazement I feel hasn't diminished one bit, in fact, it has only increased. If you could see what I see - teams of people working selflessly to come together to pull off the impossible - I know you would be just as amazed. Where does all this energy come from? My observation is we have wonderful people coming to GRRMF wanting to help, with hearts full of love. They accomplish countless volunteer deeds needed to help our goldens and their hearts fill even more, and this magical effect happens – all this goodness comes together exponentially. What happens as a result is that the lives of dogs (and people) are truly transformed and every day the impossible becomes possible. All because of our wonderful GRRMF volunteers. God bless all of you!

AN AGILITY STAR IS BORN by Ginger Vincent



"Winnie Jayla came to us having spent a good portion of her first year in a crate," reports Janice, "which made her very restless. She rarely stopped moving and pacing, and while our other dogs were napping, she was still in motion finding toys and trying to instigate play. I started playing games with her - like jumping through a hula-hoop, running through our grand children's play tunnel and doggie dancing. "Winnie thrived on the attention and I quickly found that she was very clever and eager to learn."

"Our only goal was to take our newest GRRMF rescue to a few obedience classes so we'd have a happy, well-behaved dog. I never heard of agility until a good friend introduced us to a whole world of doggie stuff we never knew existed. After seeing the dogs and handlers compete in agility and have an absolute blast flying around the courses, I knew I wanted to try it with Winnie. Mike and I realized Winnie might be a perfect fit for the agility ring when she started walking along the top edge of our couch like a cat and leaping onto the pool table in a single bound to get at a dog toy!"

Winnie attended basic obedience classes and earned her AKC Canine Good Citizen title at the Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg. Now 2 years old, she has earned her AKC ACT I Agility Title and, at her first agility competition, she successfully completed two qualifying runs with a first place and a fourth place. "I think she is a natural," reports Mom. Read Winnie's entire success story and watch her fly through an agility course at *www.grrmf.org/retriever/winnie/.*

A GOLDEN BLESSING CREATES A FAMILY by Erin McGuire

"November 30, 2015 was a day that turned to gold in so many ways," reports Rebecca. "It was our first time meeting Dozer (Doozer at the time) and we instantly fell in love! Despite having no supplies at home, Brad and I left with Dozer in tow and we can't imagine our lives without him."

Less than a month later, on December 21, Dozer helped his dad pop the question by running to greet his mom coming home from work and carrying a note under his Christmas collar. The note Dozer carried read "Will you marry my Dad?" and the engagement ring was attached to his collar. "He made an already special moment even better," recalls Rebecca.

Of course, when it came time for engagement pictures there was no question that Dozer would be a part of the fun. Adorned in adorable bow ties, Dozer and Mozart (one of the original GRRMF family rescues) had a blast taking pictures in downtown St. Pete. "On March 24, 2017 Dozer stole the show as one of the best men in our wedding! He enjoyed every minute of it – from walking down the aisle with his Grandma Patty, to being a part of the vows, to the after party reception in the hotel lobby."

Over the past year and a half Dozer has won over the hearts of many. He turns even the modest animal liker into a huge Dozer lover! He loves to be with his mom and dad most and is happiest when the family is all together in the evenings and on weekends. Dozer loves car rides and going to Grandma Patty's House of Fun to play with other GRRMF rescues and swim in the pool. "We can't imagine our lives without Dozer and appreciate every day we get to snuggle with him. He has made our family complete."

A HOUSE ISN'T A HOME WITHOUT A GOLDEN! by Lyn Holliday

We received this beautiful message written by Lisa, Sam's adopted mom. Many of you may remember following the weekly weigh-ins of this once pudgy boy who arrived weighing 168 pounds and a huge personality to match his large body. Today Sam is healthy and has inspired the whole family to join him in daily exercise!

"We had recently lost our sweet golden Sandy (also a GRRMF alum) and were happy to have a dog in the house again," reports Lisa. "We kept Sam's name and there is a story as to why. We have three daughters and each time I got pregnant we hoped for a boy. If we did, his name was always going to be Sam. Well…we finally got our son Sam, he just has four legs!"

"Sam Jack was extremely heavy when he was rescued by GRRMF. His volunteer fosters spent a lot of time helping him reduce his weight and improve his health. Our fabulous golden has kept his weight down and is a very healthy boy. He is swimming again since the pool is warm, loves playing fetch in the backyard and enjoys his daily walks. Our veterinarian took X-rays of Sam when we first adopted him and found he had muscle atrophy due to his prior life of not exercising and eating too much, but everyone will be happy to know his muscles are back and perfectly healthy!"

"Sam has three human sisters who love to lean on him while reading a book and he's always up for allowing them to put tiaras on his fluffy head. Sam follows them upstairs for bath and bed time and lays next to their bed until they go to sleep. His favorite toy is whatever stuffed animal he has most recently stolen from his sisters."

"The most endearing thing to me, as his Mommy, is that he knows if I am upset or worried and comes right over to me, giving me a big snuggle to remind me that everything will be okay. He is my constant companion and I absolutely love it. Recently when his Daddy was sitting in HIS spot on the couch, Sam barked like he had to go out and when Daddy got up to open the door, he hopped in his spot!"

"Sam has been to our mountain house in Tennessee and is heading out for a beach vacay with us this summer. Since he joined us, we do family walks every night so that he always has his exercise to help him stay at a healthy weight. It's great family time that we didn't do before but now enjoying doing - all because of him! Our family is now complete with Sam!"

THANK YOU! DONATIONS APRIL - JUNE 2017

GENERAL DONATIONS

Ade, Marilynn
Allen, Peggy
Atwell, Caprice
Auger, Donna
Aziz, Douglas
Bartosiak, Steven
Billups, Ted
Buck, Hettie
Bug's Bugs
Claxton, Katherine
Colter, Michael
Covert, Chris
D'Alessandro, Melinda
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Elliot, Robert
Fountains of Melbourne
Fricker-Dias, Rosemary
Gast, Allen
Gonzalez, Carmen
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Sheehan, Judy
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Smith, Patrick & Vicky
Sprague, Robert
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Strickland, Laurie & Larry
Stringer, Mary Jennifer
Sykes, David & Olinda
Tampa Fishman
Tanner, Jessica
Van Meter, Kaylyn
Welsh Charitable Trust – Daniel Hunter
White, Kathleen
Zasada, Robert

IN HONOR OF

Alfson, Lynda, for Ruby
Faulkenberry, Tori & Bob, for Hope
Forsberg, Carol, for Sandy Gonzalez
Fricker-Dias, Rosemary, for Duke
Kulik, Daniel & Rosalyn, for Lew & Sue Burnham
Newell, Barry & Regine, for Murphy
Smith, Dr. Robert & Mrs. Pat, for Boomer
Sykes, David & Olinda, for Chris
Thomas, Michael, for the Thomas Family Dogs

IN MEMORY OF

Alfson, Lynda, for Ripley
Alfson, Lynda & John, for Bailey & Rusty
Alfson, Lynda & John, for Ashleign Elizabeth & Trudi Grace
Atkinson, Mark, for Ripley
Avey, Sandra & Thomas, for Ripley
Bowes, Carol, for Paiute
Brady, Dee, for Bo
Counen, Marilyn & Michael, for our 5 goldens
Darcey, Lynn, for Ricco
Deckard, Lee for Beau, Katie, Kelly, Petey, Lex, Missy, Tanker, Jessie & Brody
Drapo, Deborah, for Autumn
Forsberg, Carol, for Ripley
Ginan, Alison, for Bob Salzmann
Goines, Johann, for Jake
Mazeres, Angela, for Hope
Pridgeon, Jon, for Magnum
Richter, Judith, for Sammy
Sabine, Jennifer, for Zach
Sturman, Janet, for Max, Einstein & Lily
Sykes, David & Olinda, for Jefferson
Wasielewski, Sasha, for Huckleberry

WOODY FUND

Acampora, Isabella, for Sadie
Alfson, Lynda & John, for Chloe
Alfson, Lynda & John, for Seamus
Bogle, Ralph & Janice, for Seamus
Chistolini, Lisa, for Sadie
Clifton, Mary
Crowder, Barbara & Russell, for Seamus
Davis, Rick & Robbi
Deckard, Lee
Dowdle, Jeanne & Jeffrey, for Seamus
Eades, Becky, for Seamus
Engel, Geraldine
Forsberg, Carol, for Sadie
Godwin, Emily & Weierbach, Josh, for Seamus
Gruhler, Alfred
Hanas, Kathleen,for Sadie
Holliday, Linda-Marie, for Seamus
Holzer, Gary, for Seamus
Kwapien, Patricia, for Sadie
Lemay, Erika, for Sadie
McKellar, Karen
Mendez-Penate, Ellen, for Sadie
Priolo, Mary, for Seamus
Rauzzino, Thomas, for Seamus
Smith, Maryanne, for Sadie
Smith, Patricia
Sykes, David & Olinda
Tradelius, Mary Ann
Walsh, Barbara & William

RAINBOW BRIDGE

- Lynn Darcey - Ricco
- Ash Dovel - Max
- Debbie Drapo - Autumn
- Debbie Drapo and GRRMF Family - Jessy
- Tori and Bob Faulkenberry and GRRMF Family - Hope
- GRRMF Family - Axl, Tony and Zippy
- Sandy, Roger and Rachel Harbour - Jake
- Linda Hawk - Max
- Bob and Christy Lancaster - Bo
- Cheryl and Frederick Lipinski - Jake
- Bill and Sylvia McClelland - Farley
- Lynn and Ronnie Sharpe - Zoey
- Michael and Janice Smith - Cubbins
- Susan and Michael Tucker - Max
- Rosemarie and William Wood - Savannah

Adoption Stories

Cookie Nikki

"Cookie has given us more love than we could have asked for," says Mom. She is a well-mannered, sweet girl who loves her snuggle time with her new family and is inseparable with her canine sibling Butters. Squeaky stuffed animals and ones she can shake are her favorite. She loved her impromptu weekend visit to the beach and frolicked in the shallow water during sunrise. Cookie enjoys walks in the neighborhood and relaxing in the garden under the trees. Surrendered due to running away from home, Cookie is now content in her wonderful forever home.

Murphy Jac

Lovable and delightful – that's Murphy, who came to GRRMF when family dynamics changed. He found his furever family that included a canine brother Sam who plays tug of war with him and a human brother that is his very best friend. Not understanding that he is a big healthy boy, he is happy to squeeze in bed with his parents to snuggle. He has attended training classes and improved his listening skill and keeps practicing at home. Murphy's family is thrilled with him and it's pretty obvious the feeling is mutual.

Sadie Dottie

Sadie Dottie has made the perfect addition to Nancy and Bert's family. Whether greeting them at the door with her favorite pillow or acting as the patient while their three year old granddaughter plays doctor, Sadie fills her new home with laughter and love. Sadie was surrendered to GRRMF when her owner could not afford upcoming medical expenses. Healthy and active despite double knee surgeries, she won the "walking with a golf ball on a spoon" contest at the GRRMF reunion in Lakeland. Sadie is now working towards therapy dog certification.

Sandy Farrah (now Lucy)

Surrendered when her owner could not devote time to her, Sandy, now Lucy, is enjoying having family around her. She is definitely a Velcro girl who follows Daddy everywhere and can be found watching TV, reading the newspaper or helping Dad work on one of his old cars, especially the '57 Chevy. While toys are not her favorite she does enjoy playing with a large soccer ball and her brother Lee, an Aussie mix rescue. Lucy is smart, obedient and loves traveling with the family to North Carolina several times a year.

Bella Dottie

"Adopting Bella was one of our best decisions," reports Maureen and Gregory. "As 'certified senior citizens' we were looking for a smaller dog and found true gold in Bella. It took her a while to feel comfortable, but she is now right at home – even in her summer home in Cape Cod, where she enjoys watching the birds and squirrels on the deck. We are looking forward to many years of sharing our lives with her." Owner surrendered due to illness, Bella is happy to have a family of her own again!

Willie Abhi

Rescued from a shelter and heartworm positive, Willie is enjoying a new life. "It took about four seconds to fall completely in love with Willie. Every toy is his favorite for five minutes then into his toy box it goes and he never plays with it again. Perhaps humans and belly rubs feel so much better than any toy! In the beginning, he struggled to adjust and destroyed a few things but that's all changed! He is quite happy now – so he must know that he is very loved. That's okay with our family because we love to love him."

Brooklyn Farrah

Brooklyn, surrendered when her family dynamics changed, puts a smile on the faces of those around her, bouncing up and down to show her excitement for affection. An immediate connection was formed with her new canine sibling Marlo and the two have been inseparable since day one. "Brooklyn has an outgoing personality that has trickled down to shy Marlo, helping to build his confidence," reports her family. A weekend trip to see friends turned into a party weekend for Brooklyn, Marlo and the other adopted goldens. Her zest for life is infectious to others.

CANINE VOLUNTEER by Ginger Vincent

WAY TO GO RILEY! A HUGE congratulations to our TDI certified Canine Volunteer Riley, and his handler Marc, for their recent recognition on Tampa's local TV station WFLA TV on achieving their 200th visit at the Shriner's Hospital for Children in Tampa. Riley is a natural at the hospital and helps the physical therapists create a fun environment that encourages the children to perform their exercises. There is also a wonderful article in the Shriner's Newsletter about Riley and Marc marking this wonderful milestone! Both the WFLA TV and Shriner's newsletter article are on Riley's Canine Volunteer page on our website at *www.grrmf.org/retriever/riley/*.

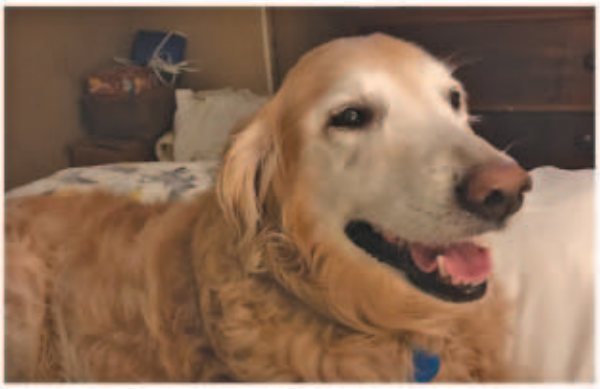
We would love to hear how your GRRMF rescue is spreading joy to others – simply send us an email at *info@grrmf.org* and put "Canine Volunteer" in the subject line.

SANCTUARY PROGRAM by Ginger Vincent

Leo Madison – Caregiver Auger family

At first glance Leo looks like a healthy golden with sparkling eyes filled with excitement and a playful smile on his face, but Leo's insides tell a very different story for this handsome 3 year old. Leo was surrendered to GRRMF due to family allergies and during his intake medical exam our veterinary team noticed blood levels were questionable. After completing several tests it was confirmed that Leo had a liver disease that would require a lifetime of costly treatments. To ensure this young man would receive the medications and special diet he requires to stay healthy, Leo was placed in our Sanctuary program. The testing and monitoring alone will cost GRRMF over $5,000 but this precious boy deserves every chance for survival that we can possibly give him.

The news of Leo's liver disease broke his foster mom's heart. "He is such a good boy and quite the gentleman, takes treats gently and patiently sits by your side while you chat with a neighbor during a walk." Read more about Leo's medical updates on his sanctuary page on our website at *www.grrmf.org/sanctuary/Leo/*.



Marilyn Fernanda – Caregiver Barnett family

This beautiful senior was loving surrendered because of family health issues and based on her age was placed in our Sanctuary Program. Her permanent foster Mom is delighted to have Marilyn's companionship and the two enjoy visiting with old friends and meeting new ones. Marilyn has a very calming demeanor and has formed a special bond with her foster Mom's autistic grandson, Owen, which is truly heartwarming to experience. Sweet Marilyn has nothing but love to share with those around her and is so happy that GRRMF has given her the opportunity to live out her golden years surrounded by family that loves her too.

We could not do all that we do for our sanctuary goldens without your support and we want to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" on their behalf. Currently we have eight precious angels in our program who are receiving the medical care they need plus enjoying all the comforts of a loving family – every golden's dream.

PAWS AWHILE ... we invite you to visit our website, relax and read ... lovely success stories, compassion giving canine volunteers, comfortable sanctuary angels, medical updates in healing hearts and lots more at *www.grrmf.org/*

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT by Lyn Holliday

Volunteer: Marty Burke

Found out about GRRMF: A golden owner for 30 years and looking for another, she stumbled onto GRRMF online and spent about a year wondering if she was good enough to adopt from the organization. She was so honored when she was approved and matched to her golden and was way too thankful not to want to give back. Another volunteer (Cynthia K), became a friend and introduced her to the inside world of GRRMF.

Length of Time Volunteering: Almost Two Years

GRRMF Volunteer Career: Adopter, Medical Supplies Manager, Raffle/Silent Auction Coordinator

Continued Commitment: "I'm so happy to have the opportunity to be managing supplies. I enjoy the opportunity to see all the beautiful babies we are able to help, and I totally fall in love at least once a day! How lucky am I to get to do that and still be reassured that these wonderful pups are healed, watched over and blessed with a carefully vetted forever home through GRRMF."

Most Memorable Moment: "There are many dogs that have left a lasting impression on me, and one in particular whose progress I follow, as he has a great future ahead of him. To see these dogs change from the time they arrive as a foster to when they begin to heal and become happy, confident and 'at home' - is a major gift to me."

Advice to Potential Volunteer: "I would highly recommend anyone considering becoming a part of this organization to do it. You won't find a better place to put your time and energy. The overall camaraderie with the people you get to work and become friends with is amazing. Hundreds of dogs have a happy loving life because of GRRMF and all of the volunteers."

5 STAR FOSTERS

by Kirsten Brown and Bambi Anderson-Ivers

Team Dowdle

Jeanne has fostered many of our most medically in need dogs throughout the years. She always finds room for one more dog even though she herself is a busy mom and wife. Jeanne travels hundreds of miles just to make sure her foster baby gets the best medical attention possible and is the best advocate any dog (or human) could have. She does all of this with a true heart of gold and always in the best interest of the dog. She uses her medical background and her keen intuition to heal where others would surrender. We are blessed to have her on our team.

Team Haker

Charlie Haker truly speaks "dog" and he understands that each dog has specific and unique needs. He has stepped in to foster a new dog on a moment's notice, will drive miles to get that dog and then gently allows that dog the gift of time to blossom into the best dog they can be. Charlie and his own dogs have that special quality that lets his foster know the world is a safe place and all will be well.

SUPPORT GRRMF WHILE ENJOYING YANKEE CANDLE HOME & FAMILY GIFT GIVING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This fall and winter season we are pleased to offer you two special campaigns that are perfect for special occasions and the upcoming fall holidays. They make great gifts for friends, neighbors, family, coworkers, clients and you! This fundraising opportunity is for online orders only, so go to our website at *www.grrmf.org/donate/yankee-candle-fall-fundraiser/* and and click on the Yankee Candle Fundraiser link indicated in orange letters. You will automatically be sent to the selections that are currently available to help GRRMF! 40% of the purchase price will be donated to GRRMF, which helps us save and care for more goldens!

Shop early - we don't want you to miss out on the wonderful selections which sell out fast. On behalf of our goldens, we thank you for your support!

Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida
Post Office Box 1449
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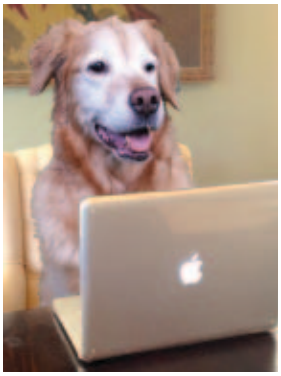

WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB?

Get the latest information about our February 2018 Reunion planning
www.grrmf.org/2018-grrmf-reunion-central/

Find out about shopping opportunities that help to save goldens
www.grrmf.org/donate/yankee-candle-fall-fundraiser/

Discover the date you can start ordering a wonderful 2018 GRRMF Calendar
www.grrmf.org/news/2018-grrmf-calendars/

Please consider making a much needed donation to help save our goldens!
You may donate online at *www.grrmf.org* or fill out this form and mail it to:
GRRMF - P.O. Box 1449 - Goldenrod, FL 32733. Donations are tax deductible.

Name:_____ Email:_____

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I'd like to donate as follows:

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$_____ In honor of :_____

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Membership options (circle one):
$25 Regular $50 Golden Friend $100 Sponsorship

A copy of the official registration and financial information for Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida Inc., a Florida-based nonprofit corporation, (Registration no. #CH11185), may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free 1-800-help-fla (432-7352) within the state or by visiting *800helpfla.com*. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.