



TALES OF GOLD

SPECIAL HEARTS NEEDED...



Dogs are wonderful, giving us unconditional love and devotion. Everyone wants his or her pooch to be perfect, happy and healthy, but what happens when a dog has special needs? Who cares for them and helps them get the proper medical attention they need? GRRMF does!

Just look at Buffy – she's a beautiful, sweet and fun loving puppy with everything going for her. Her foster mom says, "Buffy is everything that is wonderful about puppies. She is curious, floppy, soft, full of zoomies and super silly!" Sadly though, Buffy was born with ectopic ureter, a condition where her urine continually leaks. We are thankful that the breeder realized Buffy needed expert care and called GRRMF because they knew we would provide her with the very best medical treatment and work hard to find her a loving forever home. Earlier this month, Buffy received the specialized surgery required to correct her problem. It was expensive and her recovery will be long and costly, but she is on her way.



When Buffy and her foster family spent time getting her ready for surgery, her loving furry mentor Bennet was there to help. Although Bennet was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma about 6 years ago that required an amputation, he welcomed many fosters through his doors with open paws and joy. Buffy misses her special friend Bennet, who sadly crossed the Rainbow Bridge in July. His last days were spent caring for precious Buffy and showing her how good life will be because of special GRRMF donors. Please donate at www.grrmf.org/news/help-buffy or use the form on the back page of this newsletter. Your gift gives Buffy joy and freedom for a future without diapers.



FLY TUCKER FLY...

"Taking on the responsibility of a new family member is always one that makes us a little nervous," reports Barbara and Rick. "You don't want to upset the balance of the household, but at the same time we were missing having a second dog and Tayla was missing having a friend after the passing of our GRRMF rescue Lily." With Tucker came a whole new level of rowdiness as Tayla and Tucker are enthusiastic players toppling lamps and clearing tables. Tucker is a very active boy who loves competing in frisbee and dock diving. His AKC registered name is Tucker's Faith Of The Heart. He takes weekly obedience/rally classes and has his first leg in Rally Obedience and his Dock Junior (5 jumps in the 10 to 15-foot range), Dock Senior titles (5 jumps in the 15 to 20-foot range) and needs one more jump to get his Dock Master title (20 to 24-foot range). Tucker is Mr. August and can be seen "flying" in the GRRMF 2019 calendar.

PO Box 1449
Goldenrod, FL 32733

GRRMF CONTACT INFORMATION
www.grrmf.org
info@grrmf.org

Hotline: 407.332.2840
Fax: 888.408.5520

CANINE SPORTS 101

Creating a relationship, building a bond, and sharing your life with an entirely different species can be challenging, but so rewarding. Often the dog is full of energy and in need of a job. Engaging in sports not only fulfills that need, but can contribute to the relationship, building a close bond between human and canine. Which sport to choose depends on what each member of the team likes, the condition of each member, the time and effort the human half is willing to invest. There are many activities that are fun and challenging for all.



- Obedience, Rally, Rally O - Obedience is the traditional sport of measuring a dog's responsiveness to certain exercises. Rally and Rally-O are more relaxed versions of Obedience. Many organizations offer these games. <https://thebark.com/content/teaching-your-dog-obedience-and-rally-o>
- Agility is a fast moving and intense handling game which encourages speed and accuracy over a series of obstacles. www.akc.org/sports/agility
- Dock Jumping is an relatively new sport in which a dog runs down a 40 foot dock and jumps into a pool to retrieve a toy. www.dogids.com/blog/dog-dock-jumping-how-to-join-the-fun
- Flyball is a fast moving sport. Teams of 4 dogs each compete against each other to see which group can retrieve a tennis ball the fastest from a spring-loaded box. www.vetstreet.com/our-pet-experts/dog-sports-101-flyball
- Barn Hunt is another relatively new sport which many dogs and owners enjoy. Hay bales are placed around an area with live rats in PVC tubes hidden amongst the bales. Dogs are timed as they search for those rats (and the rats are loved and trained to accept dogs for those who worry about the rats). www.barnhunt.com
- Many organizations offer competitions with discs (frisbees). Some allow the dogs to accumulate points while the discs roll on the ground, others only for catching in the air. A growing sport, one of the fastest growing organizations is UpDog: <https://updogchallenge.com>. Also new to the scene is K9 Frisbee Toss and Fetch, a neighborhood league representing teams internationally: <http://tossandfetch.com>.

With so many offerings for dogs and humans at different energy/conditioning levels, it pays to investigate an activity which will support the abilities of each team member. It's also a great way to establish friendships with other dog lovers.

Written by: Jan Casey, BA, MS, Diploma Canine Behavior Science & Technology (Honors), Golden Hearts Dog Training and Behavior (retired), GRRMF Volunteer

HURRICANE SEASON by Jamie Demsky

Michael, Wilma, Irma, Andrew, Charley. For Floridians these names bring back images of destruction and devastation from killer hurricanes. Thanks to meteorologists' forecasts, we know in advance of a storm's approach and have time to stock up on food, medicines and batteries. But what about your furry, four-legged friend? Do you know what to do to ensure your pet's safety? There are several easy things you can do now to help both you and your dog be prepared for hurricane season.



- Micro-chip your dog and verify that your contact information is up to date.
- Make sure your dog has at least one ID tag on their collar or harness – two is better.
- Stock up on your dog's medicines and food.
- Learn ways now to keep your dog calm during loud storms.
- Make sure your evacuation plans are pet friendly.
- Share your plans with family or friends so they know where you and your pet will be going.

These simple steps could be the difference between heartbreak and happiness. For more detailed information, go to our web site at www.grrmf.org/hurricane-season. There you will find links to federal and state resources, lists of pet friendly hotels and shelters, and disaster maps with evacuation routes. Being prepared early, having a pet friendly plan in place and stocking up in advance will take the fear and nervousness out of hurricane season. Like Benjamin Franklin said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

HEARTS OF GOLD THERAPY TEAM UPDATE



Entering a room and seeing a smile radiate on someone's face when they are greeted by a golden is very rewarding and something our therapy teams experience with each visit. Interest in our Hearts of Gold therapy program continues to grow and new dog/handler teams are attending our pre-screening events and passing their final assessment certification with Project PUP. Congratulations to Bourbon (handler Sandy), Jake (handlers Vicki and Dan), Pancake (handler Judy) and Minnie (handler MaryLou) who are our newest Project PUP certified/handler teams and Hearts of Gold team members. Plans are being finalized to outfit our Hearts of Gold therapy teams with a vest for the dog and a shirt for the handler with our Hearts of Gold logo so our teams are clearly identified at GRRMF sponsored facility visits and events. Our list of facilities requesting visits is growing and our therapy teams are busy responding and bringing smiles to those in need. Share your special golden with others by contacting us to schedule a therapy visit.

GRRMF is currently holding pre-screening events every other month on the west coast and on the east coast to help you and your dog prepare for the Project PUP final assessment. You will receive helpful tips and one-on-one feedback so you can practice your skills at the different testing stations and arrive at your Project PUP evaluation session full of confidence. Dates and locations can be found on our Facebook page and our website. Volunteers are needed in the Orlando area to open a pre-screening location for our central teams (registration desk and station role playing). We are also seeking applicants to fill our Dog/Handler team coordinator(s) position, which involves phone/email contact with facility coordinators and dog/handler teams to schedule therapy visits, obtaining feedback from facilities and therapy teams, and updating spreadsheets. Those interested in our program as a handler team or volunteering can contact coordinator Ginger at GRRMFtherappups@grrmf.org for more information. Be the reason someone smiles today ... join our Hearts of Gold therapy team.



TAURINE UPDATE

Recent studies have shown that many goldens are being diagnosed with taurine deficiency and dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). If left untreated, this condition can be fatal to your pet. It is felt that grain free foods play a major part in taurine deficiency and pet owners should carefully read the ingredients to be sure Taurine is listed. Tufts University and University of California Davis have ongoing studies on taurine deficiency and several pet food companies are involved in the scientific research and committed to resolving the problem. Your golden can be tested for taurine deficiency and if the level is below normal, an echocardiogram is recommended. Low taurine levels and DCM can be reversed if caught early. GRRMF updates the links below when new information becomes available.

www.grrmf.org/news/taurine-and-grain-free-information
www.grrmf.org/learn/feeding-your-golden

We encourage every owner to be proactive in their pet's health. Always consult your vet to discuss the right solutions for your dog.

5 STAR FOSTERS

by Kirsten Brown and
Bambi Anderson-Ivers



Team Bingham

When the call goes out to our foster team that a new golden has arrived and needs a special foster home, Lou Ann and Bill always say yes! Even their kitty says yes to most of the golden interlopers who have needed their help through the years. Pups who are fostered in the Bingham home enjoy wonderful walks and people (and a feline) who make them feel safe and secure. Thank you team Bingham!



Team Connelly

This special foster will take pups when she prefers seniors but Cherie loves them all. Recently she fostered a special needs dog who was a mess when he arrived. Now, through her love and care, he is almost ready to be adopted and has blossomed into a beautiful golden with silky new fur, especially on his tail. You rock Cherie!



Adoption Stories



Titan Sonny (now Swarley)

"Swarley is an easy going boy who brings joy and playfulness to our household," reports Dawn and Matt, and is always nearby for a comforting squeeze when his humans are in need. Swarley enjoys greeting everyone during his slow walks through the neighborhood, encounters with his Yorkie girlfriend Bradee, and interacting with

the toddlers who always seem to have good treats in their hands or on their faces, which he is happy to lick for them! Favorites are fruit and veggie treats from the frig and chomping on his Froggie toy to make it croak.



Buddy Marino

"Buddy enjoys his three daily walks and runs to the door, tail wagging, when he hears me reach for the leash," reports Catherine. "Sometimes we go to a nearby Botanical garden where he loves all the different sights and sounds." Buddy traveled with his family to spend a week on the Georgia coast, where he enjoyed interacting with family members they visited and getting lots of

attention. "Most people can't believe Buddy is over 8 years old because he acts so young and is playful. We are very excited to have given him his forever home!"



Abbie Judy (now Abbey)

Lisa and Jake were excited to adopt Abbey, especially since they never had a dog. When they get home from work each day, Abbey is thrilled to see them so they can play outside and go on runs. Swimming, boat rides, and hiking are other activities Abbey enjoys with her new family. When it's time to relax, Abbey will sweetly nudge Lisa and Jake so they will remember to pet her (all the

time). Rescued from a shelter, Abbey has fit right into this family's active lifestyle. "We can't imagine life without her."



Griffin Marino

"Griffin is my little buddy and constant companion, who enjoys traveling with me on weekends for our overnight stay with friends who have four dogs and two cats to entertain him", says Vicki. He looks forward to their daily long walks and stopping at the pond to watch the ducks. "Griffin is my 3rd GRRMF rescue, but the only one that lays like a frog with his back legs out flat behind him!

It warms my heart that he is always excited to see me even if I am only gone five minutes!"



Mikey Drew

Surrendered when his owner could no longer care for him, Mikey hit the jackpot when Laurie and David adopted him. He is now well-adjusted and knows that he is loved. Playing with his squeaky toys, going on walks, and spending the day at doggie daycare keep Mikey busy. When he would like a treat or wants to go outside, he will twirl around until he gets what he wants. Rub his belly, and he will erupt into a comical

sneezing fit while rolling around on his back.



Bella Aprel (now Lina)

"I have been given an amazing gift," reports James, "and just looking at her melts my heart!" Lina has two dachshund fur siblings who don't mind that she gets all the attention and has filled the house with over 20 nylabones. She loves long trail walks, trips to the dog beach and playdates with her two boyfriends, a Golden and a Goldendoodle. "My special girl has earned her Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certification and

won her first blue ribbon in the GoldenFest Dogolympics Sit-Stay event. We are working towards doing therapy work with children - Lina is truly an Angel."

Adoption Stories



Holly Julie

"When Holly joined us, it was as if she had been with us her whole life," reports Julie and Jeff, and easily bonded with their GRRMF alum Henry and Winston, a Springer Spaniel. Holly loves to cuddle, eat paper and chase squirrels, but her favorite place is in Mom's painting studio, which is why Holly

proudly wears paint spatters. "She sleeps on any piece of furniture that she can squeeze into, until she gets caught. We truly love Holly and appreciate the good care she received from GRRMF before finding her forever home with us!"



Dodger Jag

Dodger's forever family knew he belonged with them the minute they began fostering him after he was surrendered to GRRMF. He is a loving companion, a good listener, and a caring brother to his fur sister, Bella. His favorite pastimes are greeting people and dogs, taking long walks and cuddling with his favorite teddy bear. Dodger's an exceptional traveler and a very intense lizard hunter who will run into the fence during the chase. This golden, who couldn't walk on a leash, is now enjoying long walks with his new family - Forever!



Buddy Mason (now Bourbon)

Bourbon was surrendered when his owner could no longer afford his medical care. Luckily, Sally and John were excited to give him a happy, loving home and his fur sister Sienna

agreed. Bourbon likes to sleep late on the weekends, but once he wakes up, he enjoys jumping in the pool and retrieving his tennis ball. Going on four walks a day and spending his time helping a variety of people as a certified therapy dog (GRRMF Hearts of Gold and Project PUP) round out Bourbon's busy and rewarding life.



Aang Miller (now Rex)

"We always knew that Golden Retrievers were great dogs, but Rex is all that and more," says Stephanie and Fred. "He's incredibly calm and loveable; the kind of dog that makes even non-dog lovers question their views!" Rex gets the most out of every day playing with his high energy fur sister, Lexi, and has learned how to trick her into giving him a bone or toy he wants. He simply places a

"decoy" toy on the other side of the room and waits for her to go investigate. "Our smart boy has also earned his CGC certification."



Sienna Meg

It's a good thing John and Sally just built a pool because Sienna is definitely a water dog. She loves to swim and will often yelp with delight that she is in the water. Sienna also sings and often uses her voice to communicate what she wants. When she joined her new family, Sienna was a bit insecure, but has since

become confident and trusting with gentle guidance. She enjoyed trips to NC and SC with fur sibling Bourbon, especially when they stayed on the beach so she could enjoy listening to the waves.



Josie Aprel (now Bella)

Bella touched Faith and Michael's hearts immediately. She is a great traveler and enjoys trips to Grandma and Grandpa's house and joining her new family on their annual beach vacation, where she loved hanging out on the beach

level deck. Bella jumps up and down when excited and looks forward to her four walks daily, especially when one is on the nature trail. She amuses herself stalking squirrels in the backyard and loves to snuggle between Mom and Dad on the sofa watching TV. "Bella completes our family and we love her to the moon and back!"

Goldens Rule!

THANK YOU! DONATIONS APRIL - JUNE 2019

GENERAL DONATION

Ade, Marilyn
 Anderson, Robert
 and Barbara
 Atwell, Caprice
 Bailey, Charles
 Billue, Pamela
 Boule, Arthur and Kathryn
 Carter, Frank
 Covert, Chris
 D'Alessandro, Melinda
 Dahlquist, Linda
 Dolan, Priscilla
 Elias, Rebecca
 Friedlander, Leslie
 Gators Dockside
 of Baldwin Park
 Gerard, Helen
 Gulfport Get Rescued
 Hadley, Tracey
 Hamel, Susan
 Hatton, Patti
 Havener, Marcia
 Hodgett, Dianne C
 Horan, Mary Ann
 Howard, Edward
 James, Peggy
 Jett, Marilee
 Johnson, Frederick
 Juliano, Marcus
 Kard, Charles and Carole
 Keilholtz, Joseph
 Keller, Cliff and Karen
 Kusky Jr, Anthony J
 Langmann, Thomas
 Manley, Chris
 Mckenzie, Graham
 Mitzel, John
 Network for Good
 O'Grady, Lisa

O's 20/20
 Pagano, Ron
 Parker, Jeanie
 Pet Emergency Education
 Porter, Linda A
 Risley, Gayle and Jack
 Schwassmann, Marcia
 Serterides, George
 Sprague, Robert
 Stringer, Mary Jennifer
 Taylor, Linda and Charles
 The Lee Foundation
 Waycaster, Jacquelyn
 Zimmerman, Karen

IN HONOR OF

Eckstein, Dr. Paul,
 for my 5 goldens
 Molina, Kristine,
 for Rusty's 14th birthday

IN MEMORY OF

Brubaker, Seth, for Buddy
 Chan, Jim,
 for Kevin Contessa
 Collier, Joan,
 for Noah and Chase
 Dahlquist, Linda,
 for George Scheufele
 DiBenedetto, Peter,
 for Miley Doherty
 Doherty, Phil, for Miley
 Downs, Flavia,
 for Rascal Eddie
 Downs, Flavia and
 Thomas, for Simon Angle
 Drapo, Deborah,
 for Leslie Godwin
 Duncan, Maggie,
 for all Duncan dogs

Eckstein, Paul,
 for my 5 goldens
 Fitzgerald, Pete
 and Susan, for Bishop
 Friends of Don Ferguson,
 for Don Ferguson
 Kingman, Diane,
 for Clementine
 McNulty, Elizabeth,
 for Fancy McNulty
 Pearson, Barbara,
 for Miley Doherty
 Phillips, Reenie,
 for Winston
 Porter, Linda,
 for Pete Rathbun
 Risley, Gayle and Jack,
 for Maggie
 Sifford, Wiley and Ann,
 for Paton
 Taylor, Ford and Karolyn,
 for Ben and Tim
 Taylor, Karolyn, for
 Ray and Gary Kopicko
 Terry, Paul and Nancy,
 for Beau Terry
 Webster, Victoria,
 for Roxy Stiner
 Wilson, Sally,
 for Krissy Lee Stokes

WOODY FUND

Adler, Jeffrey S.
 Alfson, John and Lynda,
 for Lucy In Memory
 of Terry T
 Alfson, John and Lynda,
 for Paris, In Memory
 of Sugar and Sunnie

Alfson, John and Lynda,
 for Penny, In Memory
 of Terry T
 Brown, Alison,
 In Memory of Princess
 Chagnon, Dennis
 Dalton, Penny,
 for Penny Jelly
 Drapo, Deborah, for Paris
 Duncan, Maggie,
 for all Duncan dogs
 Eckstein, Dr. W. Paul,
 In Memory of Aspen
 Elias, Rebecca
 Gerard, Helen,
 for Leo
 Graves, Betsy
 Gruhler, Alfred J.
 Gurtner, James
 Holliday, Linda Marie
 Klemetti, Stacy
 Mayer, Patricia
 Porter, Linda A.
 Risley, Gayle and Jack,
 In Memory of Maggie
 Ryan, Patty,
 for our senior care
 Sheehan, Judy
 Steiger, Ellen
 Petsdam, Jay
 Vincent, Ginger
 and George

GIFTS IN KIND

Alfson, John and Lynda
 Riley, Cat

RAINBOW
 BRIDGE

- John and Lynda Alfson - Sunnie
- Paul Eckstein - Aspen
- Susan and Frank Grasso - Wilson
- Lubbin and Dowdle Families - Bennet
- Chris and Vicki Middleton - Brock

- Karen and Al Phillips - Honey
- Stephanie Sager - Domingo
- Maureen and Greg Thomas - Bella Dottie
- Lynn and Charles Tosh - Mia



UPCOMING EVENTS



GRRMF Hearts of Gold Pre-screening - Melbourne, FL - September 14

Pet Fair Sylvan Abbey United Methodist Church - Clearwater, FL - October 5

3rd Friday Safety Harbor – Safety Harbor, FL - October 18

GRRMF Hearts of Gold Pre-screening - Pinellas Park, FL - October 19

Wag-O-Ween - Madeira Beach, FL - October 29

Fall GoldenFest Reunion - Pinellas Park, FL - November 9 (New Date!)

3rd Friday Safety Harbor - Safety Harbor, FL - November 15

Dogtoberfest - Dunedin, FL - November 16

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT by Lyn Holiday

Volunteer: Lynda Alfson (with loving support from husband John)

Found out about GRRMF: Searching for another golden to keep our dog company, I found GRRMF and started looking at the available dogs on-line. I saw Trudi, who had been found on a dark and rainy night on a dirt road. I never knew who the transport person was, but I loved her for saving Trudi Grace so that we could adopt her.

Length of Time Volunteering so Far: Eight Years

GRRMF Volunteer Career: Adopter, Phone Screener, Home Visitor, Communications and Administration.

Continued Commitment: I had been talking with my son about how to pick the best golden for us to adopt and he advised, "Who needs you the most, Mom?" He was right and that changed my thinking ever since. He put me into a totally different mindset on adoption and helping golden retrievers, which has affected my choices ever since. Although we don't have a golden now, I do whatever I can for these precious dogs through GRRMF.

Most Memorable Moment: I enjoy writing and had the opportunity to do thank you letters for donations. Seeing the requests honoring or remembering family members or beloved pups always touches my heart deeply. The fact that a dog means so much to that person and, in a beautiful act of love, they can help other pups be adopted by the donation they've made is truly special.

Advice to Potential Volunteer: There is a volunteer form to fill out on-line, with an opportunity to state your strengths, interests and desires. Even if you think that you can't do a specific job, it might be an opportunity for you to grow and expand your skills and knowledge. The people with whom I work are straightforward and understanding of my time constraints, and no one pushes me to do more than I am comfortable doing. A group of people acting responsibly and most respectful of each other - I love volunteering for GRRMF.



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

Return Service Requested



WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB?

Our 2019-2020 events added to our schedule -

www.grrmf.org/about/upcoming-events/

Updated Volunteer page with areas needing extra paws -

www.grrmf.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer/

Volunteers share stories of their golden joy -

www.grrmf.org/ask-a-volunteer/

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: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Would you prefer to receive your receipt letter by (circle one) EMAIL US MAIL

I'd like to donate as follows:

\$ _____ General donation \$ _____ Buffy Fund \$ _____ Woody Fund for special needs dogs

\$ _____ In honor of : _____

\$ _____ In memory of : _____

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.



28 YEARS OF SAVING GOLDENS -- 3,760 SAVED SINCE 1991
Golden Retriever Rescue Of Mid-Florida