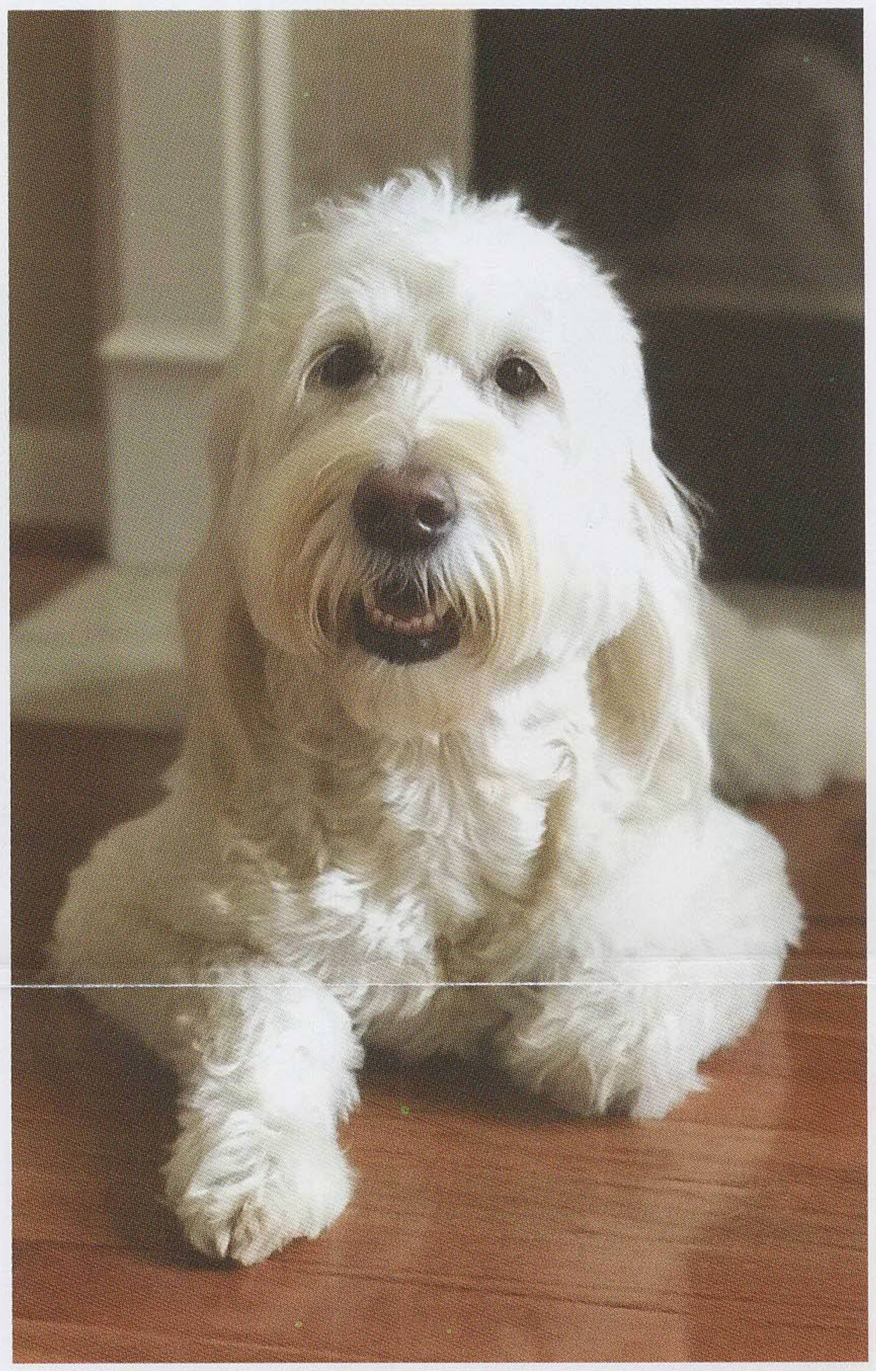
MAY 2023
CELEBRATING 32 YEARS!
SAVING GOLDENS SINCE 1991

GOLDEN RETRIEVER
RESCUE OF MID-FLORIDA™

TALES OF GOLD

WHO ADOPTED WHOM? by Lysee K.



Cody, a golden doodle rescued by GRRMF, found his forever home with my husband Mark and me soon after we had lost our beloved GRRMF alum Luke. It seemed like karma when our new foster, Cody, seemed to choose us to be his forever family. Mark and I had decided to defer any decision about adopting another dog because Mark was battling cancer. Cody evidently felt we were wrong and desperately needed him in our lives, because we soon found that he had just become a permanent part of the family and an unexpected life support for both of us through difficult times. Mark fell head over heels with this sweet boy the moment they met, and Cody delivered the unconditional love that only a dog could give while we struggled through health issues and an unknown future. Who adopted whom? Who knows and who cares! Cody became Mark's constant companion during his battle with cancer and always sensed when he needed more attention. Mark, Cody, and I would travel to the infusion center together and Cody, loving his role as a Hearts of Gold therapy dog, would visit everyone there, offering support and lifting their spirits. When Mark lost his battle, it was a huge loss for Cody and me and we supported each other during those dark times.

Cody helped me heal and eased me back into the real world through therapy work. As a therapy team, Cody and I were able to help others grieving the loss of a loved one at the Soaring Spirits Camp Widow event. With his magical personality and loving demeanor, he cuddles his way into everyone's heart. At a memory care center, all the residents were excited to meet Cody except for one woman. We approached her and sat down, hoping she would interact with us. After a few minutes, the woman reached for the leash and I handed it to her. She talked to Cody and put her head on his. She used to raise Labrador retrievers and seeing Cody seemed to bring her back to a happy place. Cody has been a great inspiration to me over the years and loves spreading joy to others during therapy visits.

GRRMF CONTACT INFORMATION

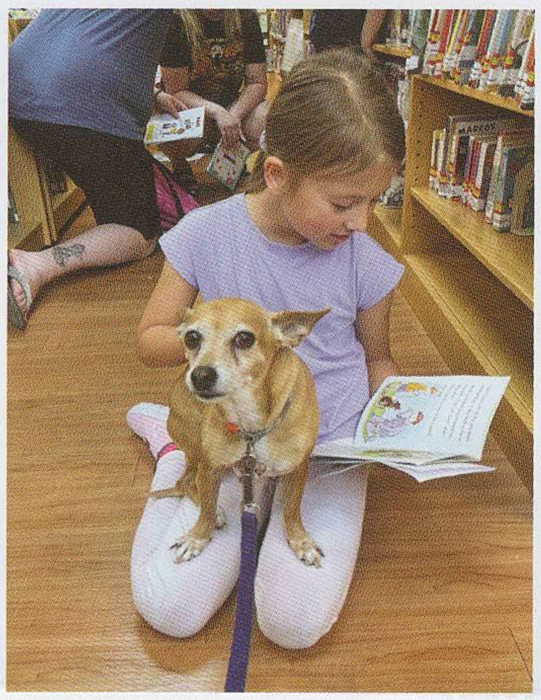
PO Box 1449
Goldenrod, FL 32733

www.grrmf.org
info@grrmf.org

Fax: 888.408.5520
Message Line 407.332.2840

HEARTS OF GOLD

What have we been up to? LOTS! Our Hearts of Gold therapy program continues to expand throughout our mid-Florida communities. We are recognized by AKC as a certifying dog therapy organization and listed on their national website. Currently we have seventy-eight therapy teams supporting over forty-two monthly therapy visits at a variety of facilities. Special requests to attend employee mental health awareness events arrive weekly. We have added multiple Pawsome Readers programs in schools and public libraries located in Palm Coast, Melbourne, Orlando and Safety Harbor. The close of the 2023 school year is a busy time for our teams, but our therapy pups instinctively know how to relieve final exam stress and anxiety for students of all ages and enjoy the interaction.



Last month Hearts of Gold therapy teams proudly supported Soaring Spirits Camp Widow (Tampa), OCLS HR Annual Health & Wellness event (Orlando), Emergency Operations Center events (Flagler County), and Orange County FL Department of Health (Orlando). Our new pet therapy program at St. Petersburg Hospital is receiving positive reviews from staff and patients and we are in the process of onboarding AdventHealth hospitals in Orlando.

There is nothing more rewarding than watching a therapy dog connect with those in need, offering compassion and comfort, and leaving each person they visit wearing a smile. Visit our website ***www.grrmf.org/grrmf-hearts-of-gold-therapy-team*** to learn more about the Hearts of Gold therapy program and upcoming screening events. We accept family dogs who have the personality for therapy work and other agency certified canines are welcome.

PRESIDENT'S 1ST QUARTER NEWS Carol Forsberg

The trend continues for young goldens who need us! Seventy-one percent of all pups entering our program during the first quarter were under the age of two. We have also been able to help our northern golden rescues with breeder pups, mom's and other goldens from surrenders that they have no space to support. We continue to build our transport, foster and training programs to support these special needs dogs when we have available foster homes and experienced partners to help.

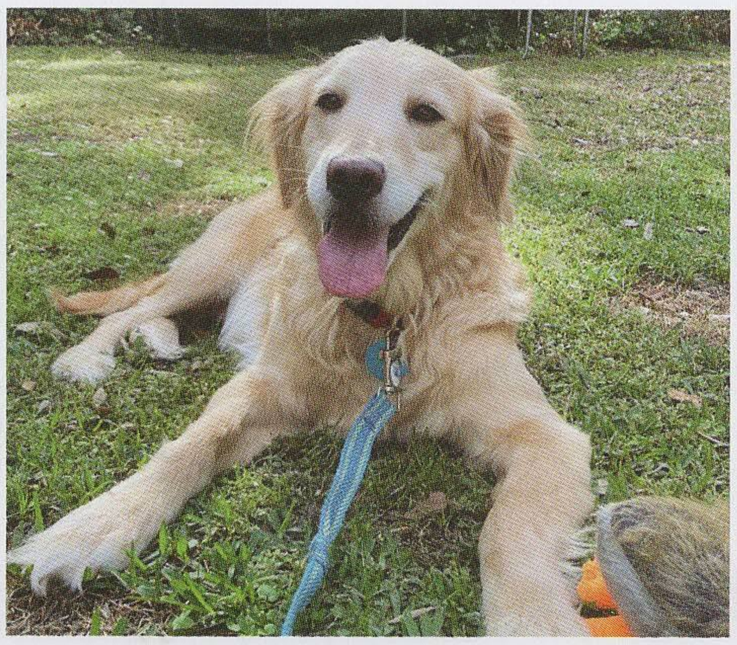
Hearts of Gold continues to thrive with adding twenty-four more teams this quarter and many new facilities to visit. Your dog does not need to be a GRRMF rescue or golden to join our wonderful community outreach program. Our "friendraising" outdoor education events are wrapping up with the hotter weather approaching. Two "tailgating" reunions were held so far in 2023 and well received by all who attended. Watch for one coming to your mid-Florida area after September! April marks Volunteer Month and we are so thankful for our passionate volunteers. We are busy creating a new on-line library for our volunteers to learn more about GRRMF with a tool box for each role in our rescue. We are also launching a quarterly Volunteer Forum zoom call in May to exchange information between our volunteer teams and share fun stories.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

SAVING INNOCENT LIVES by Jamie Demsky

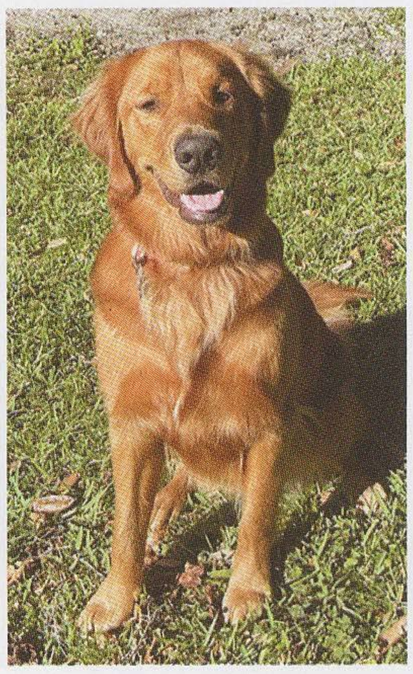
Puppy mills are large breeding factories where dogs are kept in small enclosures and repeatedly bred to produce as many litters as possible. These puppies are sold at pet stores, on websites and through classified ads. Sadly, when females can no longer deliver multiple litters, they are destroyed. GRRMF is working to rescue these dogs, rehabilitate them, and find them loving forever homes. Former mill breeder dogs have never known happiness. They've spent their life in a cramped cage with no socialization of other animals and experienced only negative interactions with humans. Caring for them requires a family with an abundance of understanding, patience, and love. They are timid around people and may retreat when touched or petted. They prefer to eat by themselves, often in the dark, and will spend much of their time in a safe spot in their foster's home. Yet, their resilience is amazing, and they can make wonderful family pets! The ideal home for a former mill breeder dog is a quiet setting with at least one other calm dog to act as a mentor, a fenced in backyard so they can run freely without restraint, and a loving parent who spends more time at home than away. GRRMF has successfully rehomed several of these special dogs and we are dedicated to helping save more innocent lives. If you would like to become a foster to help rehabilitate these special needs dogs, please fill out a foster application on our website.

Together, we can make a difference.



Adoption Stories

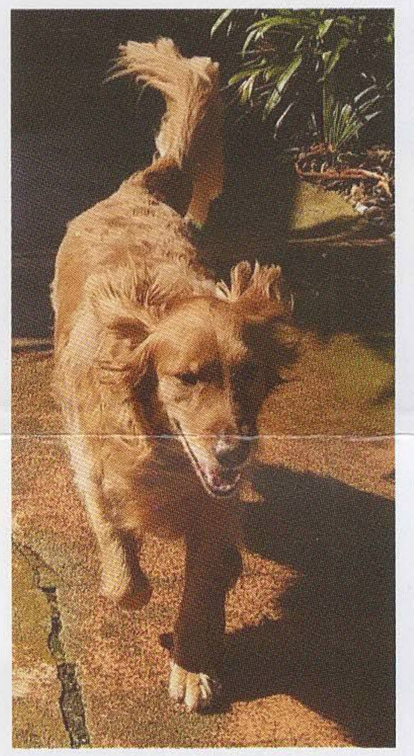
CODY JON



As soon as auburn beauty Andy laid eyes on his adoptive family, he knew he was truly home. The life of the party, he loves making new friends out of every person and dog almost as much as he loves cuddling with his parents, resting his head on their laps or chests, and looking for head scratches and belly rubs. Passionate about swimming, he also loves "saving" anyone who's ventured into the deep end of the family pool, not to mention "protecting" the neighborhood by barking in his basso profundo voice whenever a car or a person passes the house.

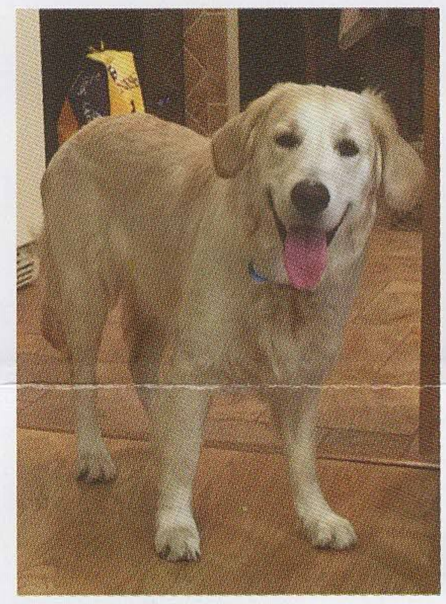
WILLIE FESS

Little did Willie know he was truly home when his dad adopted him after first fostering him. A veritable Velcro dog, he's the ideal companion for his dad who lives alone, faithfully following him everywhere, and getting extremely excited on walks that allow him to stalk rabbits and squirrels. Luckily for the squirrels, though, he stays on his long leash when chasing them up trees! Despite his disinterest in toys and balls, Willie's an avid baseball fan, woofing loyally for his dad's Hyannis Harbor Hawks of the Cape Cod Baseball League when they summer at his dad's Cape Cod home.



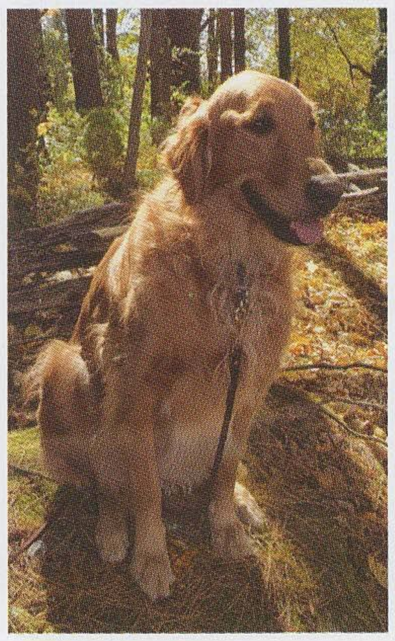
ELLIE FAY

Ella enlivens her family with her endearing ways while they're equally enamored of her. Sliding smoothly into their lives, she made her golden brother Sonny her best friend and still delights in planting sweet kisses on his nose. Sassy and silly, she runs zoomies round the living room while singing, barks if she craves attention and to announce the arrival of the Chewy box, and as a natural born swimmer, she's smitten with beaches – from St. Augustine to the Florida Keys.



TUCKER MURRAY

Both Tucker and his forever family knew they had won the lottery on adoption day! An athletic and energetic two-year-old, Tucker LOVES to swim, so much so that his parents leash him before taking him outside to stop him from leaping into the pool. He, in turn, keeps them in shape by taking them on especially long walks. He also loves belly rubs, his female doggy friends, his black Kong balls and turkey leg squeeze toy, and, more recently, adventures such as riding in a hotel elevator and climbing the stairs when his family traveled to Jacksonville during Hurricane Ian.



HARLEY DUKE

Harley Duke, now called MECO, makes his dad the most adored dad around! Always eager for affection, MECO starts each day by nudging his dad awake to receive the good morning hug that he craves. Always eager as well for adventure, he thrives on being his dad's walking, hiking, and camping companion, and loves going swimming and boating with him while he fishes. Once, when his dad showed him the small fish he had caught and set free, the silly and spirited golden jumped into the water, swam around searching for it, and even put his head underwater in an effort to find it!

HOPE JOELLE

True to her name, Hope brought sweet loving and solace to her family and new sister Sasha after the loss of their previous canine companion. Fast friends from the start, they tussled and wrestled like puppies, stole from each other, and played chase. A true Velcro dog, living for face kisses and snuggling, Hope MUST sleep with her people, never hogging the bed, and always complying when she's encouraged to move over. Always alert to her surroundings, agile and athletic, she adores chasing and catching squirrels only slightly less than taking rides in the car and watching the world whiz by.

Visit us at ***www.grrmf.org/success-stories/*** to read all our wonderful success stories.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: RUSS CROWDER by Jamie Demsky

How did you first hear of GRRMF?
When we lost our golden to cancer, my wife and I decided we wanted to adopt another so after an internet search I found GRRMF. I was astounded at the opportunities, especially photographer and transporter – GRRMF was talking my language. I love playing with my camera and driving.

What is your most cherished GRRMF volunteer moment?
Wow, I have so many memories, how can I choose one? Two special transports have moved me the most. One was spending time with Moose at the vet's office after he was surrendered to GRRMF – he was a very special dog. And the other was transporting a boy I nicknamed Red - I still carry a photo of him.

What surprised you about volunteering for GRRMF?
I'm amazed with the number of volunteers, duties, reach, and future plans. While GRRMF is constantly in search of volunteers, we seem to have a whole army that performs a dizzying array of tasks that keep GRRMF going. On top of that, GRRMF is not a static rescue organization - our leaders are constantly striving to improve every facet of the operation to rescue every golden and blend possible.

What would be your best advice to a potential volunteer for GRRMF?
Look at the opportunities, choose one, and jump right in. You'll find wonderful, caring volunteers who are very dedicated to what they do. Don't be surprised if, after a while, you find that you, too, want to undertake another role, to do more. What we do is fun and very rewarding.

What is it that touches your heart most often about GRRMF?
Every time I'm called to transport a surrendered dog, I get to look them in the eye. What brought them to this point? The fear they must be feeling. Their world has been turned upside down. Now it's our responsibility to see that life is saved. When you look at all that GRRMF does, how can your heart not be touched?

THE KINDNESS OF OTHERS

Although she's only 13, Julia knows what it means to help others. As part of her mitzvah project, Julia made and sold woven bracelets donating the proceeds to GRRMF. Julia says she chose GRRMF because she had a special golden retriever who was like a brother to her. "Not only was it fun making the bracelets, but it was rewarding to know I would be helping GRRMF continue their amazing work!" Participating in a mitzvah project is the beginning of a lifelong Jewish commitment to "Tikkun Olam," which translates to "repairing the world." Projects can include raising or donating money and volunteering in a way that connects each person to the community in a way that is meaningful to them. *Thank you Julia, your kindness will help many dogs find loving homes.*

HOW TO BE BEST IN SHOW!

Caring for a dog is a big responsibility. Beside the obvious day to day duties, you and your pup need to display good doggie manners both inside your home and out. If you learn and live by these rules of etiquette, you'll always win best in show!

The Animal Humane Society lists these guidelines: Make sure you have several poop bags to clean up after your dog. Redirect your dog's attention to prevent them from barking either when walking or in the backyard. Never let your dog approach a stranger without their permission. Always keep a leash on your dog on walks or in the park. And most importantly, be aware of other people's feelings. If your dog does something that upsets someone, apologize then prevent it from happening again.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) breaks their guidelines into three categories:

Home

- Prevent jumping by teaching your dog to sit when greeting others.
- Crate or confine your dog away from guests uncomfortable around dogs.
- Do not allow your dog to beg for food.
- Teach your dog to not bark at postal carriers, delivery people or guests.
- Don't leave your dog outside unattended to prevent boredom barking.

Neighborhood

- Scoop your dog's poop and don't allow them to urinate on a neighbor's lawn.
- Always keep your dog on a leash and respect other people and pets you meet.
- Keep your dog close when passing others to avoid tripping hazards.
- Ask permission before letting your dog meet another dog or person.

Community

- Get permission before entering a store, sporting event, friend's house, or outdoor restaurant with your dog.
- Bring an interactive toy or chew toy to keep your dog occupied.
- Take your dog for a potty break to avoid accidents and marking behaviors.
- Let your dog run and burn off energy before entering any building or event.

To help you and your best friend be the best, sign up for a force free/positive reinforcement training class or participate in the Good Canine Citizen program offered by the AKC. Visit ***www.akc.org*** for details.

RAINBOW BRIDGE

Cindy Beery - Triny
John and Christina Cunningham - Riley
Ted and Pamela Esteves - Rosie
Lyn and Barry Holliday - Montana
Cathy and Cobb Sheridan - Max
Eleanor Tubell - Duke
Laurie and David Wyatt - Mikey

THANK YOU! DONATIONS JANUARY - MARCH 2023

GENERAL

Ade, Marilynn
Allstate
Amazon Smile
Ashwell, Jane
AT&T
Atwell, Caprice
Barnes, Susan
Bennett, Cynthia
Best Friends Animal Society
Blair, Kristin
Blanchette, Sandra
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Buck, Hettie
Bush, Joy
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Chagnon, Dennis A.
Chapdelaine, Mark and Jane
Colter, Michael
Covert, Chris
Crandall, Stacy
D'Alessandro, Melinda
Dell
Dellisanti, Deborah
Disney
Duke Energy
Elliot, Robert
Forsberg, Carol
Foster, Melissa
Friedlander, Leslie and David
Gay, Alan
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Gooding, Jennifer Janeth
Hall, Clyde
Hamel, Susan
Hawk, Suzanne
Hawley, Nancy
Heart of Florida United Way
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Hopkins, Barry
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Jackson, Joshua
James, Peggy
Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC
JD Lab, Inc.
Johnston, Ashley
JP Morgan Chase
Keller, Cliff and Karen
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Lee, Catherine
Lee, Kathleen S.
Leskey, Robert and Betty
Libbe, Michael
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McKay, Charles
McMillan, John
McQuilkin, Craig F.
Miller, Zachary T.
Mitzel, John
Morgan, Kristina
Network for Good
Pagano, Ron
Parker, Jeanie L.
PayPal Giving Fund
Rauzzino, Thomas
Risley, Gayle and Jack
Scalos, Stephanie
Sheehan, Judy
Simpkins Farrar, Maureen
Smith, Susan
Stastka, Michael
Stewart, Darla
The Lee Foundation
Thrivent
Tinn, Steven
Turley, Sandra M.
UBS
UGH
Zimmerman, Renee

IN HONOR OF

Alfson, John and Lynda, for Taja Jillie
Anderson, Barbara and Robert, for Morgan
Calman, Larry, for Casey, Max, Parker, Joey, Lola, and Jax
Casey, Donna, for Jackson
Dower, Rita, for Ruthie
Faulkenberry, Tori, for Murphy
Flanagan, Jean
Forsberg, Carol, for GRRMF volunteers
Frankel, Jessica, for Julia Frankel
Hetrick, Matthew
Klemetti, Stacy, for Charlie Handsome
Lasichak-Morales, Susan, for Jennifer Lasichak
Lum, Dennis, for George and Janet Lum
Marty, Philip, for Patricia Sherman
Naude, Nico
Saini, Sonali
Simpkins Farrar, Maureen
Stager, Elizabeth, for Jan Jennings
Reynolds, Marget, for Jennifer and Comet

IN MEMORY OF

Alfson, John and Lynda, for Terry T
Anderson, J.P. and Michelle, for Blondie
Angle, Nanci, for Ray Angle
Bland, Mary, for Bella
Bynum, Mike and Karen, for Pippa Kwitko
Drapo, Deborah, for Betty Wyatt
Faulkenberry, Tori, for Haley
Ferreira, Marcelo and Neuhaus, Cristina, for Thor
Forsberg, Carol, for Sandy Gonzalez
Frierson, Beth, for Sandy McGrath and her goldens
Gonzalez, Carmen, for Sandy Bonita and Aussie
Hickey, Terence, for Annabel
Jaffe, Steve, for Madison
Laugherty, Kathleen
Massey, Andy, for Joyce LeMay
McNulty, Elizabeth, for Ernie Rhamstine
Misiuk, Patricia, for Bambina and Macushia
Risley, Gayle and Jack, for Maggie, Alex, Tucker, Chloe
Rutter, Corryna, for Dustin Rutter
Ryan, Ellen M, for Carley
Steinard, Linda, for Max, Kirby, Bella
Yost, Cathy, for Betty Wyatt

WOODY FUND

Alfson, John and Lynda, for Canelo Miles
Covert, Phyllis
Greenman, Jason
Gruhler, Alfred
Hawk, Suzanne
Mitzel, John
Pfeiffer, Sara
Risley, Gayle and Jack
Steiger, Ellen

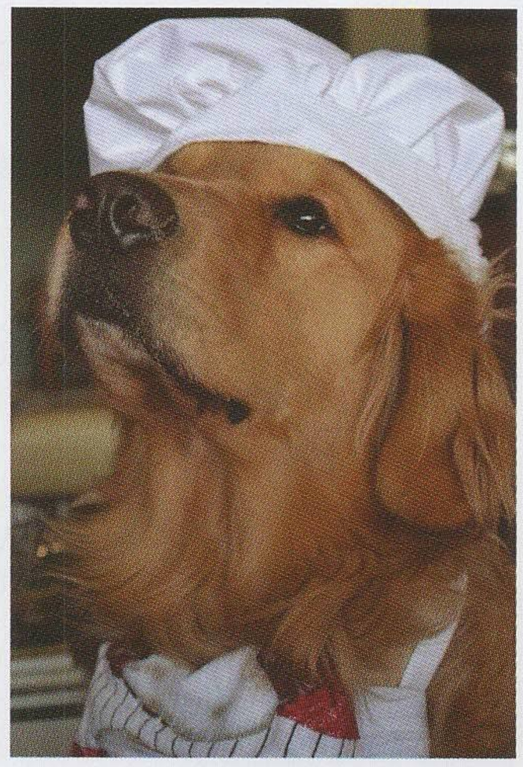
GIFT IN KIND

Mahan, Bonnie
Rice, Jim

FACEBOOK FUNDRAISERS

Corbin, Elizabeth
Haker, Charles
Juday, Jason
Lamendola, John
McGroarty, Harper
Schlosser, Janet
Vail, Jennifer

CHEF FIDO



Flaxseed and Wheat Germ Dog Biscuits

The equivalent of Flintstone vitamins- packed with omega-2 fatty acids, protein, potassium, iron, riboflavin calcium, zinc, magnesium and vitamins A, B1, B3 and E.

Ingredients

- 7 ounces whole wheat flour
- 1 ounce wheat germ
- 2 large eggs
- ¼ cup animal fat (or vegetable oil)
- 2 Tablespoon flaxseed (whole or crushed)
- 6 ounces of all purpose flour
- 2 Tablespoon brown sugar
- ¾ cup water

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350
- Line 2 sheet pans with parchment paper
- In a mixer fitted with dough hook, combine all dry ingredients; then add egg, fat/oil, and water; Mix to form a very firm dough that is smooth and workable; Add a little flour or water as needed.
- Cover dough and set aside for 60 minutes
- Roll out dough to ¼ inch thickness; cut into desired shapes; place on sheet pans and bake for 35 minutes.

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

Return Service Requested

WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB?

GIVEBUTTER - GRRMF has moved to GiveButter, which helps goldens
www.grrmf.org/donate/

GRRMF STORE - Shop our new Spring line that can be personalized
https://partners.animalpride.com/collections/grrmf

HEARTS OF GOLD - Updates, Events, Screenings
www.grrmf.org/grrmf-hearts-of-gold-therapy-team

Please consider becoming a financial caregiver to save our retrievers through your donation. You may donate online at *www.grrmf.org/donate*, use the QR code here, or fill out this form and mail it to: GRRMF - P.O. Box 1449 - Goldenrod, FL 32733. For a monthly recurring donation, matching gift from your employer or considering us for a bequest, please contact *info@grrmf.org*. Donations are tax deductible.

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

Name:_____ Email:_____

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I'd like to donate as follows:

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

$_____ In honor of :_____

$_____ In memory of :_____

To continue receiving our quarterly newsletter in 2023, we request a donation of $25 or more annually to help us defray the production cost of our wonderful newsletter as well as replenish our medical fund to help more goldens.

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.

32 YEARS OF SAVING GOLDENS – 4,164 SAVED SINCE 1991
Golden Retriever Rescue Of Mid-Florida