



Celebrating 15 Years of Rescuing Golden Retrievers

DECEMBER 2014

**Upcoming
Events**

Holiday Party



**December 14,
2014**

A link to our
[CALENDAR](#) of
events



From Margo, GRR President:

Happy holidays to each and every one of you! As we come to another year's end, I hope that you and your animal companions are well.

GRR could not exist without our generous financial supporters and dedicated volunteers –this includes our intake and foster families, our veterinary caregivers, and our adoption and administrative volunteers. GRR is a community woven together with a shared calling: to provide our Golden Retrievers with the best life possible.

Again this year, I hope you'll consider decorating our **Tree of Hope**. Please see the article below to learn more.

Also in this issue, you'll find the heartwarming story of Jane Shaughness and her therapy dog, Jake. We've also included articles about GRR tax deduction instructions, a first-aid kit, photo tips from Arne Larson and lots more!

With your help, we rescued, rehabilitated and found adopting families for 150+ dogs this year. My sincere gratitude to each of you who works tirelessly to give our Golden Retrievers the chance to thrive.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

-Margo

Celebrate the Season and Help a Golden



Looking for a memorable way to honor a loved one, a volunteer, or a four-legged friend? GRR's 2014 **Tree of Hope** is the perfect way to celebrate and honor that special someone.

The **Tree of Hope** is our annual online tree that lets you 'decorate the tree' with lights, ornaments and presents. You can also attach a unique message in honor of that special someone. Decorations range from \$10 to \$50 or more. It's fun to watch the tree grow as twinkling lights, colorful balls, and unique ornaments appear on the tree with brightly colored gifts under the tree.

Best of all, your **Tree of Hope** donations help a Golden. Please consider donating through the **Tree of Hope** so we can continue serving Golden Retrievers in need in the Central Texas area.

To watch the tree grow and to participate, [click here](#). Do check back often.

Join GRR:

Become a Member. Click this [link](#) to access the GRR Membership page



Connect with Gold Ribbon Rescue on [Facebook](#)



How Can You Help a Golden?

Make a [tax deductible donation](#) to GRR

Become a [monthly donor](#)



Join us at our Annual GRR Holiday Party

Sunday, December 14, 2014 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at the home of Jody Branson and David Baker, 9304 Prince William, Austin, TX 78730.

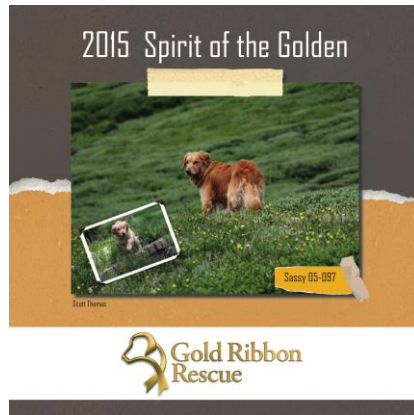
The cost is \$25.00 per person, encourages holiday attire, and serves as one of our few *adult* human-only events. Click [here](#) to reserve your spot due by **December 8th**. There will be a wonderful holiday buffet and silent auction items which already includes holiday baskets, 100,000 American Airline Advantage miles, restaurant gift cards and much more.

We need your help for this year's event! Please consider donating an item to the silent auction, which is always a highlight at the holiday party. Please contact Paula Ellis at prellis@austin.rr.com or Pam Phillips at pamphillips@austin.rr.com by **December 5th** to donate.

Some ideas might include gift cards for restaurants and spas, wine, dog-related supplies, golf items, gift baskets, just to mention a few. All proceeds go towards defraying the medical costs for our dogs in foster care.

Join us to celebrate the holidays, enjoy wonderful food and beverages, and connect with GRR friends!

2015 Spirit of the Golden Calendar



Don't forget to order your 2015 GRR calendar. This year's calendar is filled with beautiful Golden photos and makes a great gift and stocking stuffer! The cost is \$20. You can order here: [2015 GRR calendar](#)

Holiday Shop on Amazon and Help a Golden



Shop on Amazon [with this special link](#) and donate to GRR at the same time. It's that easy --- no registration, no special forms or codes. Simply log on to Amazon with this link (it'll look identical to an Amazon.com page) and Amazon automatically tracks your purchases and will rebate a portion to GRR. It's that simple. So there's never been a better reason to buy that new 60 inch, high definition TV --- and a Golden will benefit from your purchase.

GRR also benefits when you shop at businesses that participate in iGive. To learn more, [click here](#). Thank you.

Thank You Sandy and Bob for Your Generous Support

Many of you know Sandy Nordstrom and Bob Ashenbrenner as they have hosted the annual GRR Holiday Party for several years. Their home has been decorated as a Christmas wonderland as we all feasted on a wonderful holiday brunch, yummy desserts and bubbly champagne. To help raise funds for GRR, Sandy started the GRR Boutique by purchasing items herself and then placing them in the boutique. Sandy ran the boutique for over 8 years and it's amazing how many 'golden items' she was able to find.

Sandy has had Goldens for more than 30 years and has been involved with rescue for most of that time. She joined GRR shortly after it was formed.

Sandy and Bob have decided to move back to New Jersey.

Volunteer Spotlight: Bob and Nancy Pollock



How long have you been volunteering with GRR?

Approximately 21 months.

What made you want to volunteer with GRR?

Two reasons: 1) The GRR volunteers we met during the adoption process were the type of people and families we wanted to be associated with – top-notch people and 2) Since Golden Retrievers have been so much a part of our lives in the last twelve years, the rescue process as ran by GRR afforded us with the opportunity to increase our involvement with these unbelievable animals.

What volunteer position do you hold?

Foster parents (which we failed because we adopted both girls after one week of fostering), transports, home visits, and the

GRR Transport Coordinator.

Explain the activities you participate in as you fulfill this position.

Communication, using interpersonal relationships, and we try to be quick to respond.

About how many hours do you typically spend volunteering in this position?

Weekly average is about eleven hours depending on the number of Goldens coming into the system. It can be higher.

What is your favorite part about all?

Helping the rescue Goldens, especially the ones in bad shape, and dealing with the people in the entire rescue process.

Describe a cute/funny/interesting story while volunteering in this position.

When we were transporting the four musical puppies, I took a photo of Nan holding two of them and sent the photo to each of our three boys and their families. The purpose was to tell them we now had five Goldens and only needed three more to have one for each of our grandchildren. They thought we were serious! And crazy serious at the same time.

Give one piece of advice for volunteers interested in serving in this position.

Communicate, communicate, communicate and have patience.

What are one or two words that describe your experience while volunteering with GRR?

Fulfilled!

To learn more about volunteering with GRR, send an email to Sheila@grr-tx.com.

GRR Monthly Status Report for November

Adopted: 6

14-029 Angie, 14-079 Cozy, 14-120 Emma, 14-125 Madora, 14-126 Justin, 14-123 Duke, 14-084 Moogi, 14-127 Sparky

Came In: 8

In Foster Care: 38

- 22 Fosters / Available Now / Available Soon,
- 11 Foster-Pending Adoption
- 5 Permanent Fosters

and we'll automatically charge your credit card

Volunteer – lots of exciting opportunities

Foster – helping a golden is rewarding

To volunteer or learn more, contact Shelia at shelia@grr-tx.com

Newsletter

Editor: Dawn Marie Rae

Send comments or suggestions to:

dawnmarie@grr-tx.com

Where Are They Now?

Meet GRR Jake, the Therapy Dog, and His Owner, Jane Shaughness



Jane Shaughness adopted 8 year-old Jake (13-044) in February of 2013 and soon after he received his Good Citizen Certification - with flying colors of course! Jane and Jake work

with Divine Canines, although there are a number of good pet therapy organizations in our area, some of which are listed below.

Jane and Jake visit St. David's Acute Care Hospital every week and especially enjoy seeing patients in the ICU and families in the Cardiology waiting room. They also regularly visit a nursing home, have met with soldiers in therapy for PTSD at Ft. Hood, comfort children at Jr. Helping Hand, and visit patients at Austin State Supported Living Center.

Jane says there are so many lump-in-the-throat moments, that she can't count them all anymore. It is a small, but precious moment of distraction and respite from the pain and the loneliness patients experience. Additionally, Jake with his loving presence also brings comfort and joy to hospital staff and entire families. Think about all the times you might have had to sit for hours with your loved ones or in a waiting room. Well, in comes Jake and you have instant smiles all around.

From Jane: Nine months ago, an ICU nurse ushered Jake and I in to visit a young man hooked up with IVs in both arms and tubes running to his nose and mouth that prevented him from speaking. Jake laid his head on the edge of the bed close enough for the man to scratch him behind the ears. Soon tears began to fall from the young man's face. I glanced at the nurse, who nodded back. Although as a pet therapy handler, I have no idea of these patient's backgrounds or illnesses, I knew without a doubt that in that one special moment, the young man felt loved.

To learn more, check out these Pet Therapy references:

Good Citizen Certification. Your local AKC can provide information about these classes.

Pet Therapy organizations: *

In Austin: Divine Canines, Therapy Pet Pals, and Austin Dog Alliance

In San Antonio: Therapy Animals of San Antonio, Paws For Service, and Wags Across Texas

*These are not all-inclusive lists.

A Huge Golden Thank You! A Golden Celebration



Our Golden Celebration Gala November 15th had approximately 50 attendees and generated \$16,000 (and counting)!

The event's success was a cumulative effect of many wonderful people coming together for something we all care deeply about --- rescuing Golden Retrievers.

A Golden thank you to Susan Eggert for the amazing buffet, the lovely keyboardist Marilyn

Rucker, and Susan and Chris Wilson for opening their home for the event. Also, many thanks to

Gold Ribbon Rescue

PO Box 956
Austin, TX
78767
512 659-4653

www.grr-tx.com

Scott Thomas for the wonderful photos of Golden and Dean Phillips for tending bar. Lastly, thank you to Pam Phillips, Elizabeth Kalbacher and Paula Ellis for chairing this event.

Special thanks to event sponsors Kelly Topfer, Nancy Dean, Cody and Clover Anthony, Food Food by Susan Eggert and Tito's Handmade Vodka.

Lastly, our sincere thank you to all of our donors that enable GRR to rescue, rehabilitate and find forever homes for more than 150 Golden annually.

To see photos of the party, click [here](#).

to Shoot a Dog!

(Or...Tips for Better Photos of our Rescued Golden!)

- Arne Larson



You only have one chance to make a first impression, and the photos of a rescue dog represent the first time a potential family will see them to fall in love. Photos used for intakes and fosters are also important and provide input for the web as well. So, how do you get precious pictures that will show off their best side? You don't need a professional camera or a studio set-up to get some good photos of the Golden coming into our system.

- 1) The best camera is the one you have with you.** For most of us, this is going to be your cell phone; it's always with you, and it takes great pictures. As a bonus, you can just text or e-mail them to our Adoption team and not have to go through uploading, downloading, etc.
- 2) Use natural light.** Sunlight causes harsh shadows, so if it's possible, take the dog into a shady area or even better, wait until a cloudy or overcast day. Turn off your flash as it causes red-eye and can frighten the dog.
- 3) Recruit a photography assistant.** It's almost impossible to take a complete body photo of a dog while you have them at the end of a leash. Have someone else hold them while you step back and shoot.
- 4) Be patient.** Rescue dogs are in strange surroundings, afraid of the people around them, and don't know what you're trying to do. Use some treats to get their attention, be calm and let them get used to the camera/phone.
- 5) Take a lot of pictures.** With digital photography, we can take as many shots as we need to and toss the photos that aren't any good. I often take 20 to 30 photos to get 5 good shots.
- 6) Keep the eyes sharp.** If you have the option, try to have your camera focus on the eyes. This is the feature most people look at first.
- 7) Get different poses.** Our rescue photos are used for various reasons (not just for the website), so we need to get a variety of shots from different angles:
 - 1) Get a **full body photo** from the side. Get down at their level and fill the frame with an entire image, without cutting off body parts like their feet or tail.
 - 2) Get at least one photo of their **hindquarters**, showing their bloomers, feathers and tail.
 - 3) Get a few **head shots** from the front and the side, showing their general head shape and condition.
 - 4) If they have any **special conditions**, zoom in and get pictures of injuries, wounds, deformities or abnormal things we need to document. (For intakes.)
- 8) Review the pictures right after you take them.** If your shots are blurry because the dog wouldn't stay still, they won't help us on the website. Be patient, take your time and shoot a few more pictures that are clear and in focus.

If you have a good eye for what makes a good photo, cull your collection and only send the ones you think show the dog's best attributes. However, if you're not sure which shots are the best, send them all and let the intake team sort through them. It's always better to have too many than not enough.

Finally, have fun!



Very Easy Doggy Cookies

From allrecipes.com / Recipe makes 2 dozen

2 cups wheat germ

- 3 (2.5 ounce) jars strained chicken baby food
- 1 tablespoon water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). In a medium bowl, mix the wheat germ, baby food, and water together. Add more water if necessary to form a dough. Roll dough into 1 inch balls and place on cookie sheet. Flatten slightly with a fork dipped in water. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes.



2014 GRR Tax deductions

What you do for GRR can count towards your deductions!

What you CAN claim:

- \$5 per day for EACH dog that you foster in foster care
- Mileage for every mile you travel for GRR purposes: vet appointments, transport, home visits, etc
- Medical attention for your foster dog with our approved vets but you paid for it yourself.

- Money spent on envelopes, postage, containers for supplies, baggies for supplies, etc

What you CANNOT claim:

- Toys and food you bought for your foster dog
- Grooming for your foster dog
- Any non-approved vet visit

Email GRR Treasurer Tim Tierney at tjt@grr-tx.com with your foster dog list, the dates they were at your house, and the total number of foster days and Tim will email you a tax donation receipt.

Example of how to provide documentation for Tim (list all this info):

Foster: #13-142 Andy
01/01/14 - 02/27/14 = 58 days

Foster: #14-073 Buttercup
06/08/14 - 07/28/14 = 50 days

Foster: #14-079 Cozy
06/23/14 - 10/26/14 = 125 days

Total days for foster dogs: 233 days x \$5/day = \$1,165 tax donation

Pl ease contact [Emily Tuczowski](mailto:Emily.Tuczowski) if you have any questions.



Your Golden's First-Aid Kit

Adapted from What You Should Have in Your Pet's First-Aid Kit by the Humane Society of the United States.

All of us should have a basic pet first-aid kit on hand. The good news is that you likely have most of these items in your home; but

these are especially critical when **travelling**. One way to start your kit is to buy a first-aid kit designed for people and add pet-specific items to it.

Pet-specific supplies

- Pet first-aid book
- Phone numbers: your veterinarian, the nearest emergency-veterinary clinic (along with directions!), and a poison-control center or hotline (such as the [ASPCA poison-control center](#), which can be reached at 1-800-426-4435)
- Paperwork for your pet (in a waterproof container or bag): proof of rabies-vaccination status, medical records, and a current photo of your pet.

Basic first-aid supplies

- Self-cling bandage (bandage that stretches and sticks to itself but not to fur—available at pet stores and from pet-supply catalogs)
- Muzzle or strips of cloth to prevent biting (don't use this if your pet is vomiting, choking, coughing, or otherwise having difficulty breathing)
- Ear cleaning solution (especially for our Goldens)
- Absorbent gauze pads
- Antiseptic wipes
- Blanket (a foil emergency blanket)
- Cotton balls or swabs
- Hydrogen peroxide (to induce vomiting—do this only when directed by a veterinarian or a poison-control expert)
- Non-latex disposable gloves
- Petroleum jelly (to lubricate the thermometer)
- Rectal thermometer (your pet's temperature should not rise above 103°F or fall below 100°F)
- Scissors
- Sterile saline solution
- Tweezers
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl®), if approved by a veterinarian for allergic reactions. A veterinarian must tell you the correct dosage for your pet's size.

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5 Permanent Fosters

** As of November 18, 2014