



# Gold Ribbon Rescue

March 2011

27Th Edition

Dedicated to Helping Golden Retrievers and Their Owners in Central Texas

## Letter from GRR's Outgoing President—Maura Phelan

On this, the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original puppy mill rescue that incited the creation of Gold Ribbon Rescue, I have been contemplating what we have accomplished and how far we have come.

It was 13 years ago on Superbowl Saturday that a few other volunteers and I traveled down to south Texas and picked up 97 Golden Retrievers and 17 Yellow Labradors from a former puppy mill in an operation we called the "Tie A Gold Ribbon" rescue. These dogs were being kept in pens and raised like livestock, most were unsocialized and pregnant when we picked them up. It took ten months to rehabilitate and place them all, and by that time the Austin Golden Retriever Club (who I did rescue through) was really tired of having to deal with rescue at every meeting, all the time. It was time to form a non-profit rescue and move forward to do more to rescue the dogs, educate the public, and stop the irresponsible breeders creating bad examples of the breed so that we could help maintain the true Golden Retriever we know and love. Thus it was that Gold Ribbon Rescue was born.

And, after 12+ years as President of Gold Ribbon and 2+ more years doing Golden Retriever rescue by myself, I have decided the time has come to take a break and concentrate instead on getting my new law practice established.

While I will miss all the day to day dealings with all of you, and being involved with all the rescue dogs, I will still be doing what I can by hosting the Oom-Pup-Paws and Shake Paddle & Roll events, and fostering when I can.

So, if you have anyone who needs estate planning, a



business established, general counsel, or a civil litigation attorney, have them give me a call!

Thank you all for all you do and for letting me be a part of it for so long. Good luck!

Maura

## Letter from GRR's Incoming President—Margo Biba

*(Continued on page 2)*

Back in 1998, while planning Gary's & my move from ru-

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## Gold Ribbon Rescue

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Non-Profit 501(c)(3)

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**www.GRR-TX.com**

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*(Continued from page 1) Letter from GRR's Incoming President—Margo Biba*

ral Nebraska to Big City Austin, I phoned Maura Phelan about helping "a little" with Golden Retriever Rescue. At that time, I was the Rescue Coordinator for Golden Retriever Rescue in Nebraska, GRRIN; and Maura was the Austin Golden Retriever Club's go-to-gal for rescue. As we talked, both then & on my subsequent trips to Austin, we realized that our rescue philosophies were virtually identical – and a partnership was formed.

By November 1998, Gold Ribbon Rescue was officially incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. I arrived in Austin one month later, still imagining "retirement" from rescue after 5 busy years with my former team. Well...all of you that know Maura can attest to her charismatic powers of persuasion. My plans to help "a little" crumbled; I joined GRR's board, and we dove headlong into building GRR.

We send our many thanks to Maura for her long years of service, as GRR's president. With her leadership, almost 2,000 Golden Retrievers have been saved & placed in loving homes. We are happy that Maura has accepted a position on GRR's Advisory Board, and that she will continue to be involved with our grand organization.

Looking forward, expect Gold Ribbon to continue as a top notch rescue team. The quality and dedication of our volunteers is key to the organization's success.

GRR's longevity is partly attributable to our strong financial base. GRR does not have any paid employees. GRR volunteers work out of their homes; we do not have a facility. Ever conservative with funds, we keep a close eye on medical expenditures, while maintaining extremely low overhead. Almost all of our income goes to direct dog care.

Foster families are the backbone of GRR's success. You've heard us say it before & we'll say it again: Please Foster. Those of you that have adopted previously from GRR are already cleared to foster. For the rest of you, start the foster process by filling out an online application today.

By fostering even one Golden per year, you will change the lives of many. The positive reverberations from each foster travel past the obvious. Not only is that particular dog's life changed for the better; but each foster family also positively changes. Our volunteers are able to work jointly toward a common positive goal, and ultimately when the Golden is adopted, he gives love forward.

It has been my great joy, helping Gold Ribbon grow to become the highly respected, Cracker Jack team it is today. I am happy & excited to continue this journey, as GRR's President. As we look forward to 2011 & beyond, know that Gold Ribbon Rescue will be there; helping Golden Retrievers to better lives.

Margo Biba, President  
Gold Ribbon Rescue

## Where Golden Lovers Go to Meet!

By Erica Dillard, Founder, Austin Golden Retrievers Owners Meetup

Do you love Golden Retrievers? I mean, *really* love Golden Retrievers? Do you think they're the best breed in the world? Then you should join the Austin Golden Retriever Owners' Meetup.

About a year and a half ago, my husband and I got our first dog, a pale blonde girl named Samantha (AKA Sam). We were instantly OBSESSED with our dog and increasingly found ourselves at dog parks in our spare time... and we noticed that whenever Sam saw another Golden, she recognized it as "family," lit up, and immediately took to playing with him or her. I thought surely there must be a Meetup for Golden owners in Austin, where Sam could have even more time to play with a bunch of other sweet Golden friends. And when I found out that such a group didn't exist, I started my own—I figured, "If I build it, they will come." Sure enough they did! Within months, the Austin Golden Retriever Owners' Meetup grew and now stands at 46 members.

Since its initiation, the group has visited Redbud, Emma Long, Zilker, Walnut Creek, and the Georgetown Bark Park, as well as dined at Austin Java and Ski Shores. Additionally, we made a "splash" at the GRR Oom-Pup-Paws and managed to recruit a few GRR members into our group.

Obviously, GRR and the Austin Golden Retriever Owners' Meetup go together like peanut butter and jelly. If you are looking for an opportunity to watch your Golden play with other Golden Retrievers, dine together at dog-friendly establishments, and meet others with a common interest in Golden Retrievers, then you have found your Meetup!

Go to: <http://www.meetup.com/The-Austin-Golden-Retriever-Owners-Meetup-Group/> and join today!\*\*

\*\* Make sure you join us for our weekly standing Meetup at the Turkey Creek trail at Emma Long Park. Starting March 6, we will meet every Sunday at 1 PM. See our [website](#) for details.

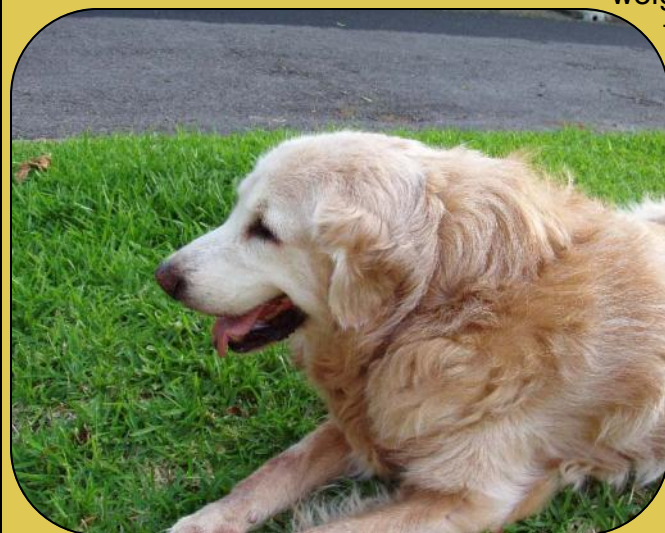


Sam, AGROM  
Founding Member

## Meet Our Oldest Golden

By Becky LaBrum

He's Sweet Sixteen! Chewie was already a senior when he came to GRR in 2004, after his family left him at the shelter: "We can't care for him any more." His original vet notes weren't encouraging: "Overweight. Weighs 83# but should



weigh ~65#. Unthrifty, muscle wasted. Hair loss on base of tail. Moderate tartar on molars. Both ears have discharge. Ear swab results: bacteria. Old hematoma on left ear." In fact, Chewie's ears were so bad that he was in constant discomfort and pain, and ended up having a total ear ablation, where the inner workings of the ears are simply removed and the ear is closed up. "Both ears were really nasty deep inside with infection and pus. He will feel much better now!" said the vet. And he did! Just look at handsome Chewie SIX years down the road! He looks like a million bucks and enjoys every minute.



# Ring Out the Old Year...

by Becky LaBrum

*GRR's twelfth year was yet another busy one, as it was all over Texas for groups like ours... the economy may be slow, but the rescue business is booming. We finished out 2010 with 202 incoming dogs, ranging in age from over 16 to brand-new (more on that below). As usual, we were about evenly split between shelter dogs and owner turn-ins—our Golden Retrievers came to us from 28 Central Texas towns & cities and 21 shelters, all told. And as always, there were a few who slipped in “through the back door,” so to speak—neither turned in by their families nor picked up by Animal Control, but abandoned in the yards of empty homes, left tied to the front doors of clinics, and so on. 2010 was a banner year for networking with other Golden rescues—believe it or not, in some other states there's actually a SHORTAGE of rescue Golden Retrievers! In May, a GRR convoy transported NINE dogs to Arizona Golden Retriever Rescue; and in October, another nine cruised in style (in volunteer Vicky's luxury motor home!) to two different rescues in Colorado. Many, many thanks to our rescue partners and our champion transport team!*

*November started out slow.... Just four dogs in the first half of the month. Could it be we were finally getting a much-needed breather? Nope. From November 15 through the end of the year, it was the familiar furry holiday flood, and then...*

## Ring in the New!

... Look what happened on New Year's Eve!

Kopper, a dainty auburn-haired 3-year-old, had arrived in care on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010— more than a little pregnant, as we soon learned. (The surrendering family had had their male Golden neutered a bit too late.) “I think she's 2 to 3 weeks away from delivery, and there are a LOT of pups in there,” said the vet. He was right on both counts: on December 31, bang on cue, Kopper proudly produced TEN adorable pups: seven girls, three boys. She is a wonderful mom, and the furry family—sisters Chiclet (the smallest, of course), Taffy, Joy, Dot, Razzles, Tootsie, and Skittles, and brothers Dudley, Cadbury, and Rolo—grows fatter and cuter with each passing day. Thanks to the interest generated by puppy [Rascal](#), posted on our site in December, we had so many “puppy families” waiting in the wings that **ALL of Kopper's pups were spoken for the instant they made their appearance on the scene... and their lovely momma has been matched up, too.**



**And speaking of “spoken for” – many visitors to our website ask, “Don't you have any young dogs?” and “If there are over 50 dogs in foster care, how come only a dozen or so are pictured?”**

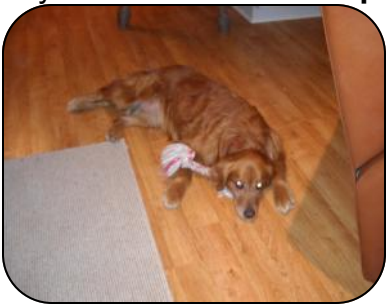
*The answer is that of course we DO get in young dogs, but so many of our approved families are looking for the younger Golden Retrievers that our GRR matchmakers typically have a home in mind for each young dog the minute the surrender form bounces through online. That's why many of the youngsters described below never have appeared on our webpage. If you want a young rescue Golden, please DO apply... and read on about the great “teenagers” who have already come to GRR in 2011.*

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What a prize! **Gretchen** has it all: good with kids, good with other dogs, good with cats, and that bonus that always thrills us: a complete vet history. Our very first dog of 2011, the 3 1/2-year-old girl came to us when her owner's life got just too busy—two jobs plus a return to school don't leave much time for keeping a young, active dog happy and healthy. The minute we got the call, volunteer John zoomed out to meet her: "She's gorgeous and she's a sweetheart. If you have an foster-to-adopt candidate available, go for it. I can hardly wait to see her again on Monday, 1/3, to bring her in." The social girl moved right into her forever home, and mom & dad made it official on January 30<sup>th</sup>!

"Oh my gosh! How did Stevie get out??" Arriving home from work in the winter darkness, GRR mom Rebecca saw a red Golden in her headlights and panicked: how on earth had her own dog wound up outside? She scrambled out of her car and realized the dog heading down the road wasn't her boy—but then who? Why was he or she alone on such a dangerous, busy street? Rebecca slowly followed, calling gently... and found sweet **Spicer** crouching down in a ditch. The stray girl quickly

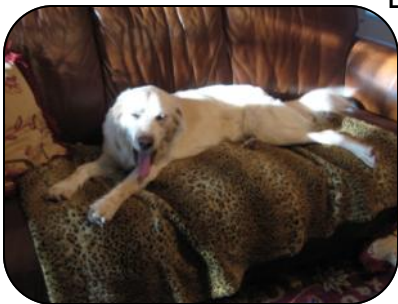
recognized that help had finally arrived, and gratefully headed home with her new friend. About five years old, she turned out to be chubby, dark red, petite, adorable, beautifully socialized, but with a worrisome, big, and very ugly growth on one hip. She did her obligatory stray hold at the shelter (nobody came looking) with an early release for medical reasons—and great news: the tumor was completely benign. Soon Spicer went right back to Rebecca & Dale... to stay for good. Guess it was fate that brought them together!



Driving down a highway in the Valley, the family watched in disbelief as the car ahead of them stopped & a young blonde dog was pushed out. The owners parked, chased her away from the car and up a hill, then ran quickly back to their car and sped away from her as she ran after them.

Luckily for beautiful **Stella Luna**, her rescuers were as kind-hearted and generous as her original owners were heartless: they promptly opened their own car doors and invited her in. "They'd keep her, but they live in a VERY small apartment," said GRR volunteer

Jessica, who went to meet the dog. "She is a TOTAL sweetheart. Not more than 18 months old." She's also not entirely Golden... but when we showed her photos to a family on our wait list: "We want her! She looks perfect to us." Now named Bella, the abandoned girl has all the love & security that any dog could ever want.



Named for a soccer position, puppy **Striker** (only 9 months old) came to us when her owner's schedule found him spending long, long hours away from home. He tried baby-gating her in a laundry room, but the bored pup made her own entertainment by merrily chewing things up, even managing to clamber on TOP

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of the washing machine (“Hmm, I wonder what’s up here?”) and nibble on the cabinetry. So she wound up crated for a whopping 18 to 20 hours a day—that’s no life for any dog, as the owner knew. The curious, active, pretty girl got matched up and adopted in no time at all. Here you see her living the life in her new home. Now that’s a happy ending!



“Help! I found a stray Golden, maybe 2 or 3 years old, but I can’t keep him at my house. He’s a doll but a wild as a March hare & strong as a freight train and BOY does he need a bath!” The Good Samaritan was thrilled to get a quick response to her Hotline call and whisked the bouncy foundling to the shelter for a stray hold. Soon Mr Personality, GRR name **Moonshine**, was vetted (some really horrible ear infections needed immediate attention), shampooed to a squeaky clean, and heading for his foster home. His foster parents were up for the challenge of reeling in this happy guy—so much so that they decided to make the arrangement a permanent one. Moonshine even got a new name, Reuben, to go with his brand-new life.



Lovely **Chrissy**, age 2, was living all outdoors, all the time, with her “husband” and their son. When another of her adolescent pups arrived for a visit & began to pester her, Chrissy corrected him as mom dogs do—but the owners interpreted her behavior as aggression and decided the young blonde had to go. At her evaluation, though: “Aggressive? That’s a bum rap,” was the vehement report. “She is adorable and starved for affection. She’s had virtually no human interaction, but once we got her away from the two wild males she is living with, she settled down nicely.” As soon as she did her 2 weeks in foster care, she was matched up to a couple who think the world of her...and she feels the same way about them.



Trembling, ill & anxious, 6-year-old shelter boy **Magnum** looked like a geriatric bag of bones—and twice his actual age. Go to his webpage and take a look at him now! Three weeks of medical care and good food and complete security have made an unbelievable difference. And no, we haven’t switched dogs on you! That’s the same fella, he’s just getting healthier by leaps and bounds. Heartworm treatment is in his future, but in a few months he’ll be ready for adoption.

What a tale of adventure & miraculous escapes **Mr. Jackson** could tell! In late December 2009, a motorist driving along a busy street saw a red Golden get run over by a UPS truck. She stopped her car, expecting the worst—but was astonished when the dog popped to his feet once the truck rumbled on. Apparently the quick-thinking canine had flattened himself enough that it drove right over him and did not injure him. And when she opened her car door, Jackson jumped right into the passenger seat and said, “Hi, I’m yours.” And he was, for over a year. Sadly, due to life changes, his owner had to give the 3-year-old charmer up early this year. Said his foster mom, “Jack is a sweetheart! He has blended in to our home so well it seems as if he has been here for a long time. He is easygoing, sweet, and lovable. He loves couch cuddles and can adapt to the mood of his people with ease. He enjoys an evening of TV with us, but he’s also game for

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an active run around the property with his foster sister. Jack is just an overall great dog!” Such a perfect guy quickly found his perfect home—he was adopted just a few weeks ago.

Beautiful red **Daisy**, age 5 1/2, and her 4 1/2-year-old son **Bruno** came to us when their owner became ill and could not care for them. They had spent their entire lives outside and hadn't had much contact with other dogs, so we were a little concerned: what would happen when they moved indoors and suddenly found themselves living with completely unfamiliar canine foster brothers and sisters? Not to worry! Bruno in particular settled in so fast that he got adopted in a flash. You'd think he'd been a house dog all along! Daisy took a bit longer to calm down—she was so excited to have lots of human company at last that she just couldn't keep from jumping up and asking for lots of pets all the time... and then there were SO many interesting things (toys, socks, shoes, you name it) to pick up and “examine” (= chew). With hard work on the part of her patient and dedicated foster family, though, the lively gal is coming along great.



Plump **Sunrise**, picked up as a stray with a rusty choke chain around her neck, was listed in her shelter posting as age 1. When our volunteer met her: “I think she's more like five.” When the vet checked her out: “She's about seven.” Oh well! Whatever her age, she's sunny and sweet, with bright eyes and a million-dollar smile. Her foster mom says, “Sunrise settled right in with the other fosters. She waits her turn for treats, or to go out the door. She is not pushy to get pets and snuggles, but she lo-o-oves to be brushed and stroked. She is a perfect little lady... although I HAVE caught her trying to stretch to reach the kitchen counter. She's not quite tall enough, but if there is a stool there she probably could reach the counter! She shreds plushies, but likes to strut around with a rubber bone in her mouth. She has the sweetest personality. A calm household with an older couple would probably suit this darling dog to a tee.”



We don't often get gorgeous pale blond Goldens, so imagine our surprise when THREE of them—all young males—arrived in close succession! The first was 18-month-old **Milo**, surrendered when his family had to move out of town into an apartment. Smart, active, eager to please... just what a young Golden should be. “The perfect gentleman inside,” reported his foster mom. “Learning to heel, not to jump up on me during play time, and to ‘give’ on command. Great dog!” Then, just three days after Milo arrived, we got a Hotline message: “We are moving and our year-old Golden. Can you call determined that “We are moving”

planning to move” – it meant “we are moving RIGHT NOW.” The ready at the house! Yikes! Volunteers John and Liz hotfooted it out to meet beautiful **Chase**, a foster home was found in record time, and the picture-perfect boy soon became GRR #11-015. And four days after that: “We've got a stray Golden here, picked up by AC, wearing a halter and a rabies tag from a town about four hours north, tag's a dead end. Do you want?” Yes, we sure did! Dubbed “**Frio**” (since he came to us just as February's deep freeze was sweeping into town), the handsome 4-year-old “was BORN to retrieve,” says his foster mom. “Loves that tennis ball. Inside, he wants to be with me at all times.



need to surrender help?” A follow-up didn't mean “we are movers were al-



**Chase**

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In fact as I'm writing this right now, I can only see half of my laptop screen because he is trying to fit in my lap! He will sleep if you are sleeping, but the second he hears the alarm go off in the morning you better be prepared for a wet nose in your face! He needs a home where outdoor activities are a part of life—where walking, jogging, or swimming will be a part of his daily routine, no exceptions. And plenty of attention and loving too. He is a little timid around other dogs but he loves people.”



**As we were saying, young dogs go like hotcakes! – so Milo and Chase have already found their forever homes, and Frio is matched up, too.**



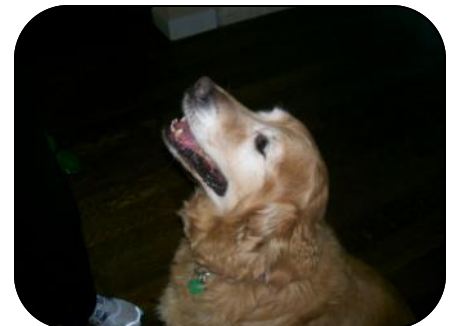
**Puzzle** is a super-cute, sturdy girl who acts like a typical pup in every way: busy, mouthy, curious, into everything. So you can imagine her owner's shock when, at her 6-week checkup, the vet said, “She has a severe heart murmur.” Maybe she'd grow out of it? But at age 12 weeks, when she went back to a different vet, the report was the same. “An operation for about \$1500 might fix it,” he said. Now what? The funds weren't there for further diagnostics, let alone surgery, but they didn't want to put Puzzle to sleep, either. The 15-pound fluff-

ball came to GRR at age 17 weeks & immediately went to a cardiac specialist. We were all hoping for a fixable issue, but it wasn't to be: Puzzle has serious heart problems that have no surgical solution and will decrease her life expectancy. But SHE doesn't know a thing is wrong with her! She's busy doing what a puppy does, conquering new worlds (just this week she triumphed over the stairs and is so proud of herself!) and learning new things. Puzzle will need a very special home, one who can live life from day to day, just as she does. The philosopher Robert Ingersoll once wrote: “The time to be happy is now. The place to be happy is here. The way to be happy is make others so.” That is certainly the Golden attitude, and it's what we want for Puzzle: a family who can savor every minute they spend with her, who can focus on the joys of the here & now and be happy because SHE is, despite their knowledge that the good-bye will likely come too soon. Please contact us for more information.



What a wonderful dog! Eight-year-old **Durango** has known nothing but love and affection, and it shows. Life changes forced his family to give him up. He's a well-socialized guy and fit right in to his foster home, though he was a bit anxious at first: after all, he had known only one home since the age of 8 weeks. He's a bit of a tub but loaded with energy, so his activity level will probably be even more impressive once the excess 20 pounds are gone. He does have a history of occasional seizures, but we're hoping that with high-quality food and better overall health, that problem will go away... or stay in the background, at least.

“He can go to almost any kind of home,” says his foster dad. “With or without kids or cats. With or without other dogs. Just as long as he gets lots of attention!”



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It's been a dramatic few weeks for 5-year-old [Paloma](#). As an iron-hard freeze blasted into Central Texas and dropped temperatures into the teens, something else "dropped in" at a nice lady's house,



too: a three-legged dog wearing a chain collar with a strand of rusty wire attached to it. The finder isn't sure if the friendly girl was dumped in her yard (she does dog rescue herself) or strayed there, but by asking around, she did learn that somebody knew somebody who knew somebody else who knew that the original owners (who seem to have disappeared) had had Paloma's hind

leg amputated after it had become hopelessly

tangled & badly mangled in barbed wire. As dogs do, she has coped beautifully with the loss of her leg and gets around fine. Unfortunately, she turned out to have a few other issues: (a) heartworms; (b) hookworms; and (c) a heat cycle just beginning. She had her spay surgery pronto, just the day after coming to GRR—but that afternoon, as she was on her way to her foster home, problem (d) suddenly arose: the incision began to bleed heavily. The quick-thinking transport volunteers applied pressure and sped to the emergency hospital, only to find locked doors; it did not open for over an hour. They zoomed down the road to the closest vet clinic, where a pressure wrap was applied to reduce the bleeding. Then they transported Paloma back to ER. It was touch and go throughout the night, as the vets tried to figure out the source of the bleeding & whether surgery was needed—but luckily, the issue resolved on its own. Best guess is the bleeding came from blood vessels in the skin or from a ligament that is torn when spay surgery is done. Phew! Talk about a survivor! The tenacious redhead is recuperating nicely now, but we're giving her at least a full month before we start thinking about HW treatment.



...And that's where we stand as of mid-February. There's never a dull moment in the GRR world—and we do mean that!



**Have some  
free time?**

**Love Golden?**

**GRR Needs  
Volunteers!**

**See [Page 11](#) for details**

**GRR has some exciting events  
coming this  
spring!**

April 9: **The GRR  
Annual Golden  
Afternoon in the  
Park....**See [Page 12](#)  
for details

May 21: **Shake Paddle and Roll Swim  
Fest....**See [Page 13](#) for details

We hope to see you there!



## Spreading Magical Golden Dust from Texas to Arizona

By Emily Tuczowski

As GRR approached the end of April, we were overwhelmed: we had more than a dozen dogs lined up to come in, and no foster homes to put them in. "More dogs than space" is the usual story for us, but this was different, simply because of the sheer number of dogs waiting for rescue. Not wanting to say "no" to any of these Golden Retrievers, some of whom were shelter dogs or strays with an unhappy outlook if they didn't come into our care, our Intake Team had to think outside the box.

Amazingly enough, while the line of incomings seemed never-ending to GRR, the Arizona Golden Retriever Rescue group was facing the exact opposite problem. They had many approved applicants, but very few Golden Retrievers to adopt out.

It didn't take much time to do the math!

After many hours of planning—figuring out which dogs to transfer, finding a driving team to meet up with the Arizona group, figuring out safe places where both drivers and dogs could stretch their legs along the way—

Operation Gold Dust, a convoy of four SUVs, hit the road very early on Saturday, May 1, with nine Golden Retrievers as traveling companions. Twelve hours later, we reached Las Cruces, New Mexico, where the AGRR group was ready and waiting to transport the Golden Retrievers the rest of the way to Arizona.



And that's where our GRR team broke down in tears. Despite the fact that we'd met these Golden Retrievers for the first time when we picked them up that morning, despite spending most of our driving time paying attention to the road rather than interacting with the Golden Retrievers, a bond formed between each transporter and these dogs over the course of those 12 hours, and we all experienced a feeling of sadness as we watched the dogs get loaded back up to continue on to their new lives. A true testament to the power of Golden Retrievers, even when the time spent with them is brief.

But we all knew that these Golden Retrievers already had forever families anxiously waiting for them when they arrived in Arizona. And within days, the Arizona team was sending us pictures of the newly adopted Golden Retrievers with their very happy families. Truly heartwarming!

*Many thanks to the Arizona group for coming to not only these wonderful Golden Retrievers' rescue, but really, to ours as well!*

And many thanks to our Intake Director Jacki Mulkey, who did an extraordinary job pulling it all together; Pat Capin, our Transport Sergeant, whose idea of outfitting all the SUVs with walkie-talkies was invaluable in keeping us all together; and our Adoption Director Kathy Simmons, who masterminded the pick-up of the Golden Retrievers heading up from San Antonio.

P.S. Note for next time, if there is a next time: bring a box of tissues :-)

P.P.S. ... and of course, there WAS a next time. To read all about "GRR Takes It on the Road, Part II" – our trip to Colorado at the end of October, click [here](#).

## Therapy Pet Pals of Texas

By Arlen Zander, Volunteer Trainer and Therapy Teammate, Therapy Pet Pals of Texas

Therapy Pet Pals of Texas will again have an information table at the annual GRR Spring Picnic on April 9, 2011 (See [page 12](#)). Like GRR, TPPT is an all-volunteer organization. About 200 pet/volunteer teams regularly visit a variety of healthcare facilities, enhancing the patients' quality of life by giving them hands-on interactions with our trained therapy pets. We focus on the elderly population (often underserved by other animal therapy groups), so most TPPT

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(Continued from page 10) *Therapy Pet Pals of Texas*

visits are to nursing homes, hospitals and assisted living facilities. A number of TPPT teams work with therapists in the institutions they visit to assist patients in regaining or improving motor, voice and mental skills.

Therapy Pet Pals serves about 90 sites in the Greater Austin and North Houston (Woodlands) areas. Regular visits to these facilities promote human-dog bonding as well as providing the mental and physical health benefits that arise from regular interactions with pets. Volunteers are expected to make at least two visits per month to their assigned institution, although many volunteers visit on a weekly basis.

In order to qualify for TPPT, dogs must meet several important criteria, the most important of which are temperament and sociability. So, compared to many other breeds, most GRs automatically earn "two paws up" for suitability as therapy dogs. Other criteria include basic obedience and good health. The dog must also be at least one year old and must have lived with you for at least one year.

Why not consider turning your rescue dog into a therapy dog? The positive impact it will have on the lives of others, as well as on you and your dog, is immeasurable. Several GRR dogs have already qualified for TPPT certification. And one team, the late "Hallie" (charter member & El Campo rescue GRR#98-27) and her teammate Brenda Hampton, an active GRR volunteer as well, earned the Outstanding Volunteer Service of the Year award from TPPT in 2007. Now "Lexie" (GRR#06-160) and "Angel" (GRR #08-144) accompany Brenda on TPPT visits.

Qualifying and training classes for TPPT are held four times per year in Austin. For more information about TPPT and how to apply for membership for you and your dog, stop by the TPPT information table at the Spring Picnic. You can also go to [www.therapypetpals.org](http://www.therapypetpals.org) or call the TPPT office at 512-347-1984.

## Help GRR Help Goldens!

*By Becky Garcia, GRR Volunteer Coordinator*

We need you!

As GRR grows, we need dedicated volunteers more than ever before. In the past few years, we've rescued 200+ Goldens each year—and every one of them needs (at the very least!) a Hotline volunteer to take down the surrender information, another volunteer to do a meet & greet, a foster home to stay in, transport TO that foster home, a foster coordinator to answer the foster family's questions, an interviewer to talk to potential forever families, and a match-maker to match the perfect dog to the perfect home. That's a lot of people-hours per dog—but those Golden smiles are worth every minute of time we spend.

Can you spare some time to help?

As a non-profit, non-paid, all-volunteer organization, we have many different positions available. It's fun, it's rewarding, and all training is provided!

Are you good with dogs? Do you know how to handle an anxious Golden, settle down a Wild Child, and put a timid shelter dog at ease? You'd probably enjoy transport, intake evaluation, and, of course, fostering.

Do you love talking to people? You may be just right for Hotline—you'll return calls and chat with folks who want to adopt dogs or surrender dogs or just ask about our group. Or you may want to do phone interviews with interested families, or help us with home visits—going out to prospective adoptive homes to meet families in person and help them learn all about caring for Goldens.

And there's so much more! We need help with website postings, organizing files, special events coordination, grant writing, fund raising, webstories for our adoptable dogs... the list is endless. Any area that you think can help with - we can find a place for you!

Whether you have just a few hours to spare every month or lots more time to put in, whether you want to be an occasional volunteer or become more deeply involved in the group, we need you!

To learn more, email [volunteer@grr-tx.com](mailto:volunteer@grr-tx.com).

Please join us for the Gold Ribbon Rescue Annual  
**Golden Afternoon in the Park**

Saturday, April 9, 2011  
(rain backup date April 16)  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

At The Polo Picnic Picnic Area in Zilker Park

(Click [here](#) for directions)

Gold Ribbon Rescue invites you to join us for a fun-filled afternoon in the park. Bring your family, friends, and dogs—Golden or not, rescue or not! Every dog gets a bandanna, and rescue dogs can participate in our famous annual parade. Plan on browsing our boutique and enjoying a casual lunch—we will have hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, soda, bottled water, and cookies available for purchase.

The event is free, but there is a fee for parking.



**Check Out Our Raffles!**

Win two round-trip tickets on American Airlines or American Eagle, anywhere they fly in the United States, Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean. These tickets are the “Mile SAAver” award tickets, based on availability. Drawing date will be at our Holiday Party in December 2011. Winner need not be present to win and will be notified via e-mail; winner will be responsible for any airport taxes and fees that apply to the award tickets. Tickets are \$10 each, or six for \$50. [Click here to order raffle tickets online.](#)

We will also have \$1 raffle tickets for many other great items available at the picnic.

**Event Schedule**

11:00 am - 2:00 pm Food Booth & Boutique  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm Grooming Demonstration  
1:00pm Parade of Adopted Golden and Group photo  
1:45pm Raffles awarded

Plus [Therapy Pet Pals of Texas](#) will be there! See their article on [page 10](#).

We will be microchipping dogs at the event, \$25 per GRR dog, \$30 all other dogs.

**Join us for a splashing good time  
at the Happy Hour Farms for our Seventh Annual  
Shake Paddle and Roll Swim Fest**

Saturday, May 21, 2011  
9:30 - 11:30 am

**Humans get to enjoy a breakfast buffet while the Goldens  
get to swim and play in the large pond.  
There will also be a doggy wet t-shirt contest!**

\$10.00 fee includes:



Breakfast Tacos generously donated by Rudy's  
Pastries from Upper Crust Bakery  
Drinks & fruit provided by HEB Grocery

**Please bring your own chair and some towels. There will be a doggy rinse  
off area as you are leaving the farm.**

*Parking will be limited, we urge you to park at the gate and walk in from  
there.*

*Thank you*

We will be microchipping at this event. The cost is free for a foster dog, \$25 for a GRR adopted dog, and \$30 for any non-GRR dog.



## Oom-Pup-Paws— A Big Splash!

Another successful Oom-Pup-Paws event was held at Happy Hour Farms courtesy of our terrific GRR events committee! As you can see from the pictures, the day was full of a lot of wet dogs, muddy paw prints, cold drinks, and terrific food! Our annual meeting was also held, donated items raffled off to lucky attendees, and a great time had by all!



As one of our annual fundraising events, Oom-Pup-Paws is always one of the favorites. Please make plans to attend next year... and our [Picnic on April 9<sup>th</sup> at Zilker Park](#)... and our [Swimfest on May 21 at Happy Hour Farms](#)! Remember, all the funds raised go to help the Golden Retrievers!

Hope to see you at the next event! —Maura Phelan

*Photos courtesy of Scott Thomas*



## GRR at the Nonprofit Fair in Georgetown

By John Horne



On February 18, Gold Ribbon Rescue joined over fifty nonprofit organizations in the Sun City Georgetown ballroom, giving hundreds of attendees the chance to learn all about Golden Retriever rescue. Fair visitors learned about rescue, rehabilitation, adoption and fostering, and had the opportunity to meet face-to-face with the volunteers who make things happen in the world of animal rescue. Susie Schaffer, Jan Kuhl, and I manned our world-class booth (see photo). Other volunteers participating were Pam Phillips, Diana Brown, and Don Mehaffey, along with Liz Horne, who helped with the set-up. The only thing missing at our table was a real live Golden – no animals were allowed inside the ballroom. No problem! We simply set up a greeting area at the main entrance.

Our display drew lots of interest, and of course our canine “greeters” at the door were a big attention-getter; we handed out GRR business cards to interested individuals on the spot, encouraging them to stop by our booth for more information. Greeters were Pam & #06-159 Jingles, Diana & #10-051 JoJo, Don & #10-003 Millie (formerly Madonna), and yours truly & #07-151 Abby. Susie couldn’t resist going outside and meeting JoJo (her former foster dog) and Diana, so she too became an influential greeter.

The Golden Retriever lap rug (i.e., small blanket) we used to cover our table was purchased from the GRR boutique at the 2009 holiday party. It drew many admiring comments; a couple of people inquired as to where they might buy one. Another gentleman coveted my GRR cap that was left briefly on the table. He asked if they were available on our website, but we had to reply in the negative.

Bottom line: we all had a great morning! In addition to the goodwill extended to fair-goers, we did receive cash donations. We were so busy that we neglected to get any live action pictures. Next year we’ll take photos...

## Golden Success Stories

### A Tale of Two Goldens

In the spring of 2007, multiple pet food companies purchased ingredients containing melamine from a Chinese manufacturer. Melamine, a plastic, was used to artificially inflate the apparent protein content of ingredients such as rice and wheat gluten, in order to increase profits. In dogs and cats across the United States, however, melamine (possibly in combination with another ingredient) caused sudden, severe kidney and liver damage. Among the recalled pet foods were certain lots of Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance Venison & Brown Rice dog food. Bill and Francesca Pappin's two dogs, 9-year-old Petey and GRR Golden Lucy, only 18 months old, became ill from the tainted food just as news of the recall reached the media. Both dogs received multiple treatments, including continuous IV fluids to flush the liver & kidneys, but ultimately they could not be saved, leaving their stunned family shocked & in mourning.

In a small town north of Austin, 5 1/2-year-old Christal was in mourning, too. The owners had purchased Christal and her sister as puppies—but at just one year old, Christal's sister died of kidney failure. And after the loss of her constant companion and best friend, “she got depressed,” said her family. “She needs more attention and time than we can give... and we feel like she's never really bonded with us or got over losing her sis. She can lift the latch of the gate and she keeps getting out and going down the road.” An all-outdoor dog, Christal was shaggy, a little dirty, and a lot tubby (20 pounds overweight). She was also a perfect doll when our intake evaluators came to meet her. “Couldn't get to us fast enough... carried her favorite toy around (owner said she's been very attached to a couple of stuffies since her sister passed away), but gave it up to us nicely. Wagged and wagged. Sat nicely for a treat. She's a good-looking girl with a Golden personality.” Soon Christal got her GRR number, #07-041, and arrived at her foster home.



Meanwhile, as the weeks and months passed, the Pappins felt ready to bring another Golden into the home. Matchmaker Tracy suggested they might like to meet Christal. Was it a match? Well, a few hours after that first meeting, the hefty girl had been buckled into her special dog seatbelt and was rolling down the highway on her way home! Today her family says, “Crissy came to us when we needed her the most. We were both way down due to the loss of our other two dogs, and she picked us when we went to see her in San Antonio. She was a BIG girl at 90+ pounds, but she did not act like it! She came right to us, and when we went for our first walk, she was so cute with her little waddle that she made us smile. We had bonded before we even got home. She is a fine girl... sweet and gentle. She has never tried to run off and minds really well. Life is good for Crissy and we are so glad to have given her the forever home she was waiting for!”

The next few years saw several foster Goldens come to keep Crissy company, then head off to their new homes... and then, this past summer, GRR received an e-mail from a rescuer down South: “I am writing because there is a lovely male Golden at the shelter down here. I think he is about a year old... very friendly and playful. I already did the evaluation on him and he was great. He is high energy, very trainable, smart, and affectionate. Could you accept him? Please let me know so that we can try to coordinate something. Oh I have named him *Belle Vie*, since I want him to have a beautiful life.” In early July, this skinny blond “work in progress” (recovering from hookworms and ehrlichia, a tick-borne disease) arrived at the Pappin home to foster... and has never left!

“Belle Vie (his new name is Buddy) started out as our foster pup, but he ended up fitting our family like a glove. Unlike his sister Crissy—when adopted she was an out-of-shape 94-pound sweetie—Buddy was recovering from various parasites and weighed in at only 46 lbs. Well, Crissy now is a healthy 75 lbs and Buddy is looking great at 55 lbs! We have learned that you don't judge these wonderful animals based on first impressions. It takes a little time and patience. It's such a disservice to both you and the dog if you give up too soon. Buddy is curious, lovable and friendly; he's still a baby at 1 1/2 years old, and I can honestly say we couldn't ask for a better companion! Gone are all traces of the little guy who wanted to run out the front door or wake us up in the night. Gone is the pup who

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wouldn't let you know when he needed to go outside (told you it takes patience!). The dogs both sleep through the night, go on long road trips and bring us hours of laughter and joy. Crissy seems so much younger and happier having someone to play with—we were worried it would be difficult for her, but we couldn't have been more wrong (our advice now: if you have an older dog, find another one that doesn't want to be the boss, and everyone will be happy). She runs and plays like a puppy with Buddy.



Are they great watchdogs? ...probably not... he thinks the broom is an instrument of death and she would sell belly rubs on a street corner if we'd let her. We love them though—and they did bark at the UPS man the other day, so there's hope!

Thank you GRR for making lightning strike twice and allowing Crissy and Buddy to become Pappins!"



## EGF Success: #09-051 Dillon

Remember this little pup? He was one of our EGF Goldens from 2009. Now two years old, he was surrendered as a pup of just 14 weeks, after being hit by a car. The original owners' vet had done his best to repair a badly damaged hind limb (a week after the injury, since the owners had delayed vet care), but the joint didn't heal properly—so as soon as Dillon came to GRR, he went to straight to Central Texas Specialty Vet Hospital. The surgeons had planned to realign the bones and insert another pin to hold things together, but: "Dr Beardsley and Dr. Kerpsack found a great deal of infection, and the entire joint was 'mush' from infection and extensive bone deterioration. Dr. B told me that the joint cannot be repaired; and if things are left as they are, it will never heal, and Dillon will be unable to use the leg and will be in constant pain. Both she and Dr. Kerpsack recommend that the leg be amputated, so that's what we decided to do."

So how did things work out? Well... just look at Dillon now! (And yes, that "Golden" puppy grew up to be a Lab mix... not that his owners care about that!)

*Mom and Dad say:* "Dillon is doing beautifully! He turned into quite a handsome young man. He's so social and active and has absolutely thrived here! We've been very lucky all the way around."

Recently Dillon welcomed the family's first foster dog, #11-010 Bruno, into his home. Bruno hadn't had any experience with indoor living, so Dillon was happy to help him learn all about house manners. And with Bruno happily adopted, he is looking

forward to mentoring more foster brothers and sisters in the future!



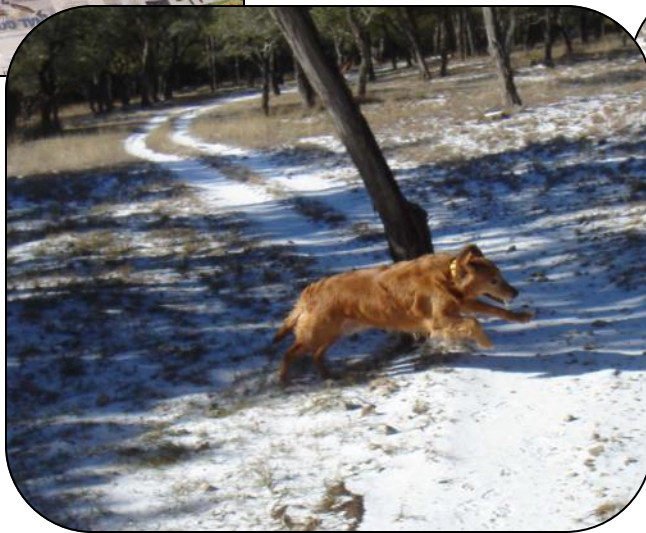
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## Madison: From Puppy Mill to Peppy Miss



A picture is worth a thousand words—and these photos say it all. In August 2010, 6-year-old Madison was rescued from a puppy mill, where she'd been living for years in a concrete enclosure. She was timid, tentative, fearful, and withdrawn. A wonderful foster family and the guidance of five happy Golden foster brothers and sisters helped turn her around—and how! Just look at her smiling for the camera and leaping through the snow, full of spunk and *joie de vivre*. Her foster mom says, "Fostering dogs like Maddie is what rescue is all about. With lots of love and patience, a reclusive little girl has become a beautiful Golden, full of vim and vigor and loving life."



## Sparky's Success Story

*#10-124 Sparky came to GRR from a family who had purchased him "for the kids," but the kids weren't interested, so Sparky ended up lonely and bored in the backyard. Luckily, the owners surrendered him to GRR, and now he is living the life of a Golden's dreams!*

Well, I've been with my new forever family now for a little more than one month, and I KNOW they really love me!! I overheard them talking the other day about how perfectly I have fit in, and how they feel like I've been with them for much longer than only one month. Yay!! The love runs deep already!! We pretty much have our routines all sorted out. My new family has a lot of kids... and I LOVE it! I ride along with Dad every morning when he takes the kids to school. I have to say though, I know I really cry quite a bit when they get out of the car and I don't get to go to school with them. I just want to stay with them SOOOO badly I can't help myself!! But maybe I'll get used to it one day.

My new family has an older daughter who lives in another place with her husband, and so I haven't met them yet. But I can't wait! Then they also have another daughter who is 18 (Becca), so I get to hang out late at night with her and all of her friends. I really like to go walking on the hike and bike trail with her. She walks faster than when I go with Mom and Dad. They also have a boy who is 13 (Davis). He loves to play basketball and I could just watch him for hours. He plays the piano, and I like to help him practice. He's in charge of keeping the backyard cleaned up, and I love that he takes that job seriously! He likes to sleep in, but I think it's pretty important I push his door open

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and wake him up sometimes on a Saturday morning. Then there's the littlest boy—he's 10 (Dale). I'm in charge of waking him up in the mornings, and he sleeps on the top bunk. I haven't really figured out how to get up there yet, but I will one day... Anyway, Dale is in charge of feeding me. He likes to make me do super easy tricks, and then gives me treats! He has yet to figure out just how smart Golden Retrievers can be... all I have to do to make him happy is sit, lay down, cuddle on the floor with him, play tug-of-war, and come when I'm called!



I do have to say, though, sometimes it does get a bit boring when all the kids are doing homework. I try to get in the way as much as possible, but Mom always makes me move. But, when it's not a school night and the boys have a sleep-over...WOW!!! That is fun! Wall to wall air mattresses and boys sleeping all over them. I get to sleep right in the middle with them. I just move around and lay down wherever I want, and they all think I am really awesome!

I had a blast with all the kids when it snowed. They threw snowballs for me to catch, and then we all went to their cousins' house and I ran around the yard in the snow having fun while all the kids jumped on the trampoline. After that, we came back home and spent hours laying in front of the fireplace together. I must have looked really handsome, because they just couldn't stop petting me! It was very cozy lying all together all day.

Well, my next big fun is going to be on Spring Break. I overheard Dad and Mom talking about going camping, and I GET TO GO WITH THEM!!!

I can't wait!! All the kids, the water, the outdoors, aaaaaahhhh...it's going to be a blast! I'll be sure to look extra gorgeous so Mom will remember to take lots of pictures for me to send on to all of you!

OK, bye for now!

love, Sparky and the Owens family

## Jake: A Gold Ribbon Gift

**By Dave Streilein**

**From Jake's intake report, July 2010:**

**Comments on timing and living situation: This dog needs vet attention ASAP. He has either hotspots or some other allergy going on and he can't stop itching. He also has fleas. His skin is in terrible condition and he is missing a substantial amount of hair in the shape of a triangle on his back. Has not been to a vet in well over a year. He needs immediate vet care—I am not sure how he still is so incredibly sweet and has such a happy demeanor given the skin issues and CONSTANT scratching until he is bleeding in areas. It took every bone in my body to not cry in front of the owner. She understands he needs more than she can give him and she wants him to get the vet care he deserves and a family that will be able to take care of him.**



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### How things have turned around for Jake since then! His new family takes up the story:

We lost our precious Bear in August this past year. We decided that our home needed a Golden so began looking at Gold Ribbon Rescue. And we found Jake (#10-098 Jakester was his name on the website). He was the right age, right coat color and right size. As we worked our way through the adoption process, we found that Jake had been having seizures and that he'd had a skin infection. This information sealed the deal—we wanted him regardless of these issues.

Our first move was to have our vet examine Jake and discuss both his seizures and what appeared to be allergic reactions. We decided to not put him on seizure meds, as the seizures were petit mal and the drugs would be hard on his liver. To tackle the allergies, we put him on a prescription diet of duck and potato kibble; at the same time, we began to give him small doses of Benadryl.

Over the next month, he did improve to some degree—but he continued to have allergic breakouts that made him miserable. He also had one seizure during that month. In spite of it all, though, Jake was one great boy. We both were immediately taken by him and he “worked” Pam totally. Great on a leash, easy with the kids in the neighborhood, and he had that pure Golden personality. But appearance wise... his coat was a bit straggly, his fur felt more bristly than smooth, and he'd lost much of the feathering on his tail and legs.

One of our friends, who does rescue for another breed, has often taken in dogs with problems like Jake's and had always recommended a raw diet as a solution. I must admit, I was more skeptical of this “solution” than Pam, but several weeks of personal research—Googling “raw diets for dogs,” doing lots of reading—turned up compelling anecdotal evidence that dogs do thrive on these diets, and in many cases, allergies and seizures are resolved by the change. So, in early December, we put Jake on a total raw diet. Following the guidelines we found, we started out with bone-in chicken wings and boneless chicken thighs—a total of about 1 1/2 pounds of meat and bone daily for Jake's weight of 62 pounds. We feed him once daily in the morning, as it takes a full day for complete digestion of bones, cartilage, etc. He gets the odd chicken heart and chicken liver, and after a few weeks we added beef to his diet. We are picky about the meats we choose, and what we buy for Jake is what we buy for ourselves as well.

The changes to Jake have been pretty amazing. Since December, he has not had a single seizure and his energy level is even higher than when we got him, and that is a lot of energy. His allergies are gone and he hasn't had one breakout or eruption since the change. His ears have cleared, as have his eyes. That “doggy” odor is gone, too. Jake's coat is smooth and glistens as a Golden's should. Both legs and tail are growing feathers, plus he now has a mane at his chest. Had it not happened before our eyes, we would not have believed this much change could take place. I might add that our vet blesses the new plan, although he was not completely comfortable with the bones—and we were concerned, too! But it has worked out fine. Jake chews and grinds them up and his breath has improved significantly. Finding treats has been a bit of a challenge. However, we found pure “sweet tater” strips and salmon bits at PetSmart. We have also found that some apple a couple of days a week and pure pumpkin help his digestive process. This was one suggestion we found in our research on the internet.

Jake now has the home that he deserves. We do daily walks morning and evening. Besides the food allergies, we found that he may be allergic to our backyard grass. So, we take him elsewhere for his running exercise and that works well. Not spending time in the yard is not a problem for Jake; he prefers the comfort of being inside.

We could not be more pleased with Jake and the opportunity to find him through Gold Ribbon Rescue. Folks looking for a great Golden should not let minor potential medical issues stop them from adopting a dog like Jake. With a little research and discussions with a good vet, there are always solutions, and the results are good for you and the dog.

*Editor's note: Before putting your dog on any new diet, do what Dave and Pam did: research thoroughly, and discuss the plan with your vet.*



## Notes from the Intake Team

*By Jacki Mulkey, GRR Intake Director*

### **Making new friends along the way.....**

In 2010, GRR helped 202 Golden Retrievers find a place to call home. A place where they can feel safe, have two meals a day, get any medical care they need—and most of all, a place where they know they will always be loved. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Well, maybe not easy... but certainly it's easier when you have a team of caring volunteers ready to spring into action to do whatever it takes to help a Golden in need. This past year, everyone was feeling the financial crunch, and that led to many people surrendering many Golden Retrievers to GRR. At several points during 2010, dogs being turned in by their owners simply had to go onto a long wait list. We had to give priority to those Golden Retrievers who wound up at shelters throughout Central Texas: as we all know, for shelter dogs, a wait of even a day or two can be the difference between life and death. One thing was clear—we needed to start thinking outside the box and get creative in order to help ALL the Golden Retrievers who needed us. We started networking with out-of-state Golden Retriever rescues who had the same criteria for finding adoptive homes as we do. We made new friends in Arizona (see [page 10](#)) and Colorado. And at the same time, we kept up our already close relationships with other Texas GR rescue groups in Dallas and Houston.

If I had one wish for 2011, it would be this: that everyone who has ever adopted a Golden from GRR would foster ONE Golden, ONE time a year. This truly would allow us to save many more Golden Retrievers. I know you must get tired of hearing that same old plea to foster! -- but without foster homes, we cannot save Golden Retrievers. It's as simple as that. Whenever a Golden appears on our radar, that's the first thing we think of: Where in the world are we going to put him or her? We worry about a lot of other things, too—but “where to put this Golden?” is the #1 concern we all share.

“What if I want to adopt my foster dog?” you ask. That's wonderful, and foster families always have first choice! But that's also one way we do lose foster homes over the years—and one reason we always, always need more foster families. So please, make 2011 the year you foster a Golden in need. Thank you!

## GRR's Hands On Training Day

*By Jacki Mulkey, GRR Intake Director*

Great news for GRR this year in the dog-training department! We are very fortunate to have found Greg with Gateway Dog Training (<http://www.gatewaydogtraining.com/>). Greg has helped Gold Ribbon Rescue with those “extra special” dogs who need a little extra assistance to become the Golden we all know they can be. Besides offering board & train, Greg also does in-home consults along with his colleague Elizabeth from Texas Hearing and Service Dogs. Whether you need help with your foster dog or your adopted Golden, we recommend Greg. His force-free, reward-based, positive training methods have already worked their magic on a few of our dogs (one Gateway “alumnus” is #10-124 Sparky; see his success story on [page 18](#)).

On January 22, Texas Hearing and Service Dogs opened up their training facility so that Gold Ribbon Rescue could conduct our first hands-on training day. Greg and Elizabeth donated their time and talent, covering topics such as loose leash walking, crate training, waiting, and reactivity in dogs. There was also a question and answer period at the end of the day. It was wonderful to see both adopted and foster GRR Golden Retrievers there.

We received notes thanking us for the training day, and those who attended now feel they have better tools and resources for working with their Golden Retrievers. Thank you, Greg and Elizabeth!

## GRR Adoptable Golden Retrievers

### Memo from the Matchmakers: Mature Is Marvelous!

With all the interest in young dogs, our older Golden Retrievers—and that's anyone older than about five or six—often have to wait far too long to find that perfect home. But "older" (and even "senior," as in 9 or 10) does not mean "over the hill"! Our mature dogs have so much to offer.

You can find web stories for all these Golden Retrievers on our adoption page, but for our newsletter, we asked our foster families to describe their adoptables in just a few phrases. Don't they all sound like dogs you'd like to welcome into YOUR home?

### Gentry



Loves massages & grooming \* Affectionate, presses his head up against me \* True gentleman \* Serious & thoughtful \* Relaxed \* Noble \* I feel safe & grounded when with him, due to his quiet, calm, steady demeanor

### Indya



Quietly friendly to everyone \* Likes ear massages \* Gentle \* Occasionally sits in my lap \* Small gal with endearingly big feet \* Waits patiently for her artificial tears 2x daily \* Loves ice cubes! \* Would eat until she popped—thus helps everyone adhere to Portion Control \* Loves kisses

### Taylor



The perfect "pocket dog" \* Quiet, calm and companionable \* Champion squirrel-deterrent \* Canine no-bark alarm clock! \* Adaptable to almost any situation \* Loves to go to the dog park \* LOVES car rides \* Easygoing \* Small dog, big heart!

### Sammie



Wonderful companion \* Wants to be included in everything \* Esther Williams in fur! Ready for swim season even in freezing weather \* Loves to tote things around \* Collects her leash in her mouth when it's walk time \* Adores her "double" dog bed (two beds piled on top of each other) \* Fantastic with little kids \* Totally trustworthy in the house \* Personality, personality, personality! She is a hoot

### January



Loves to play \* Friendly & well-adjusted \* GREAT with kids \* Relaxed and agreeable with all other dogs, even our crabby teacup poodle \* Reliable, no need to crate \* Great family pet \* A dream dog

### Zed



Outgoing, a sweetheart \* A "leaner" who cuddles up for more love \* Energizer bunny! Plays like a puppy \* Loves tug, fetch, walks \* Great with other dogs \* Gets along with everyone; lives with four other Golden Retrievers \* Tall, red, and handsome \* One "cool dude" ready to be someone's best friend \* He's full of life and love!

More adoptables on next page...

## More Adoptable Golden retrievers..

### Charlie & Rex



Funny and lovable \* Settled into our home in no time \* Easy and charming \* Always by each other's side—and yours \* Love a good belly rub \* Explore new adventures together \* Walk perfectly on lead \* Love to carry around socks and shoes \* Fantastic with small children \* Rex has a special way of bouncing downstairs on his hind feet \* We absolutely adore them! They are such good dogs

### Mattie



Spunky! \* But calm with kids, likes petting from children \* Good car rider \* Good retriever: actually brings it back and drops it! \* Great with other dogs, always up for a game of tug \* Knows how to “talk” to you \* Clever fellow, knows how to take a tempting tidbit from the counter—will help you keep your kitchen counters nice and clear! \* Reliable in the house 100%

### Murray



Good looking! \* Play hound—likes toys, balls, ropes, “all star wrestling” with other dogs too \* Enjoys grooming—just watch that tail, it tickles! \* Good watch dog, likes to investigate anything unusual and let you know \* Outgoing and energetic \* Always happy to see you—will make you feel welcome every single time, even if you've only been out for ten minutes!

**And one personal note about “mature” Golden retrievers:** My husband and I welcomed shelter gal #08-152 Queenie, then

about age 11, into our home the day before Thanksgiving, 2008. She was covered with lumps and bumps, had a scanty, dull coat & the worst ear infections Dr Stried had ever seen, and was frankly obese—as wide as a dining room table & could flatten anything in her path. We nicknamed her “Bronko Nagurski,” after the famous Chicago Bears fullback of the '30s, and got a big kick out of doing commentaries: “The symbol of terrifying, crushing power on the gridiron!” we would (and still do!) say. “All who see her play speak of her in only the most awestruck terms! Playing offense, she is unstoppable! Playing defense, she is impassable!” Two and a half years on, she is slimmer by 22 pounds, her ears are clear, she has a

beautiful thick auburn coat, and she continues to entertain us daily with her hijinks. Sure, at age 13+ she's arthritic and can't go for long walks, but she has Personality Plus and plenty of energy for short strolls and vigorous games of tug (she lies on her back with her jaws of steel fastened on a toy while the puny human tugs... and always loses). And yes, when a snack is in sight, she can still flatten anyone in her path!

Will we have her for another ten years? Probably not. Is she a barrel of laughs, wonderful company, and a great addition to our lives? YES, she is. —Becky LaBrum



# Thank you for Giving...

All donations, large and small, make a huge difference in the lives of homeless and unwanted Golden Retrievers in Central Texas. Your donation is fully deductible as a charitable contribution—we are a 501(c)(3) organization as designated by the IRS.

Thank you for your support. You can make your donation online at: [www.GRR-TX.com](http://www.GRR-TX.com) Or, via check or credit card—mail to: Gold Ribbon Rescue, PO Box 956, Austin, TX 78767

*Donations listed are those received from February 2009 through November 2010.*

## Platinum Circle Membership Level \$1001 and above

Kelly Topfer

## Golden Circle Membership Level \$500 - \$1000

Betsey Ward

## Gold Medalist Membership Level \$250 - \$499

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Bob Dallas  
Jill Flannery  
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James Martino  
Paul Mason  
Marla McClain  
Terre Michaels  
Kevin Noble  
Susan Resendez  
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## Gold Nugget Membership Level \$100 - \$249

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Michael Chamberlain  
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Dorothy Scheel  
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Kathy Simmons  
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Kristi Wilkerson  
Anne Williams  
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## Golden Friend Membership Level up to \$99

Amy Belaire  
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Reina Bernfeld  
Margo Biba  
Winn Bieseles  
Carol Blackwell  
Dennis Bobincheck

Jody Branson  
Rebecca Breyfogle  
Robert Brown  
Susan Bryant  
Janet Callahan-Morton  
Arthur Cannon  
Maureen Cannon  
Pat Capin  
Joe Carl  
Thomas Carter  
Jeff Chumbley  
Mardi Clissold  
Suzette Coen  
Randall Cook  
Eva Critchfield  
Sarah Critchfield  
Betsy Davis  
David Deming  
Carl Dennis  
Thomas Ecord  
Michelle Eddy  
Margaret Fitzgerald  
Lainey Garcia  
Denise Gates  
Rick Gilpin  
Bob Gustwick  
Colleen Gutierrez  
Brenda Hampton  
Peggy Hannan  
Ann Hart  
Vicky Hastings  
Steve Heagerty  
Cristina Helmerichs  
Alice Hoffman  
John Holland  
Rosie Hollrah  
Jean Johnston  
Neelam Julian  
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James Jurica  
Sondra Karlebach  
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Donna Larson  
Laura Lein  
David Luscombe  
Janet Martin  
Dorthea McCutcheon  
Nancy McGowan  
Lacy McNamee  
Don Mehaffey  
Jacqueline Mero  
Michelle Miller  
Nadene Morning  
Beth Morton  
Cindy Moss  
Sandra Nelle  
Frank Nichols



*(Continued from page 24)*

Sandy Nordstrom  
 Michael Page  
 Kacee Pals  
 Sherry Patton  
 Lawrence Person  
 Dean Phillips  
 Charlene Poodry  
 Debra Pylypec  
 Agnes Rasmussen  
 Traci Reece  
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 Bonnie Reid  
 Kathleen Reish  
 Susan Roehm  
 Eyan Rubio  
 Mark Salmanson  
 Carol Sammons  
 Susie Schaffer  
 Maureen Seals  
 Laura Shimer  
 Judy Sohn  
 John Stanley  
 Michael Stauffacher  
 Mark Stevens  
 Christina Stevens  
 Kathleen Still  
 Connie Sullivan  
 Jill Sutton  
 Sharon Sutton  
 Donna Svoboda  
 Mona Tague  
 Lorraine Thirion  
 Barbara Torossian  
 Tracy Torrez  
 Karen Weaver  
 Sandy Weeks  
 Luke Wendling  
 Sharon West  
 Paula White  
 Susan White  
 Devon Williams  
 Arlen Zander  
 Marianne Zastawski

## General Donations

### Platinum Circle \$1001 and above

T.D. Brown  
 Brent & Suzette Coen  
 Shirley Colton  
 Dell, Inc - Matching Gift Program  
 Give Realty, Inc. & The Ruggero Family  
 Golden Retriever Foundation  
 Julie Jerabek  
 Susan Roehm  
 Arthur Rossiter  
 Lisa Savage  
 Sheila Thomas

### Golden Circle \$500 - \$1000

Adobe System  
 Maria Lynn Badgett  
 Jody Branson  
 Ryan Franks  
 Toga Hartadinata  
 Igive  
 Deena Nelms  
 Dean Phillips  
 Melinda Ried  
 Bruce Rossiter  
 Safeway (Randalls)  
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 Lorraine Thirion  
 Topfer Family Foundation

### Gold Medalist \$250 - \$499

Maria Badgett  
 Susan Culp  
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 Deena Gutierrez  
 Sherry Keller  
 Barbara Luttrell  
 Andrew J. Napora  
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 Jennifer Quilkey  
 Terry Ross  
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 Margaret Lucy Sheehan  
 Heather Smalley  
 Suzanne Smith  
 Pamela Steding  
 Dolores Stoner  
 Catherine Elizabeth Vance  
 Jan Wallace  
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Deb Alme  
 Diane Barkalow  
 Nicole Belleville  
 Martin Berdan  
 Anne Bolgert  
 Robert Brown  
 Laura Cannon  
 Pat Capin  
 Kimberly Collins  
 Patrice Coons  
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 The Soup Peddler  
 Laura Steinbach  
 Mark Stevens  
 Melanie Strybos  
 Emily Tuczowski  
 Michael Ulrich  
 Catherine Vance  
 Susan White  
 Susan Wilson  
 Nikki Zern

### Golden Friend Up to \$99

Janet Adkins  
 Jean Alme  
 Ahmad Alwi  
 AT&T  
 Betsy Baggett  
 Teresa Baird  
 Christopher Bauserman  
 Susan Bell  
 Alexis Bellman  
 Reina Bernfeld  
 Margo Biba  
 Patrice Biskynis  
 Dennis Bobincheck  
 Samantha Bosch  
 Leslie Box  
 Robyn Boynton  
 Bryon Brashear  
 Sandra Burton  
 Darlene Cannon  
 Jean Carroll  
 Mary Carter  
 Mardi Clissold  
 Suzette Coen  
 Ginger Copen  
 Betsy Davis  
 Leigh Dubose  
 Jeffrey Dulude  
 Thomas Ecord  
 Debra Fairoath  
 Margaret Fischer

*(Continued on page 26)*

(Continued from page 25)

Brenda Forsythe  
 Monie Fulmer  
 Kath Gabbitas  
 Lainey Garcia  
 Terri Gilbert  
 Rick Gilpin  
 Alice Gunter  
 Carey Gunthert  
 Brenda Hampton  
 Melanie Handowski  
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## Extraordinary Golden Fund

*Faced with the prospect of turning away or euthanizing Golden Retrievers with high medical costs, we created the Extraordinary Golden Fund. Donations made to the EGF are strictly used for beyond-the-ordinary medical treatments of Golden Retrievers in need. Visit <http://www.grr-tx.com/about/egf.htm> for information on the Golden Retrievers who are being helped today. A special THANK YOU to those listed for your generosity and continued support of GRR.*

## Platinum Circle EGF \$1001 and above

Susan Elizabeth Roehm  
 Sherry Keller  
 Michelle Miller  
 Sandy Nordstrom  
 Pam Phillips  
 Arthur Rossiter  
 Bill Thom

## Golden Circle EGF - \$500 - \$1000

Winn Biesele  
 Jody Branson  
 T.D. Brown  
 Dell  
 Carl Dennis  
 Jill Flannery  
 Joyce Grapes  
 Gail Kirkpatrick  
 Max Ploeger, III  
 Bruce Rossiter  
 Lisa Savage

Lorraine Thirion  
 Martha Willis

## Gold Medalist EGF \$250 - \$499

Amazon  
 Nicole Belleville  
 Pat Capin  
 Suzette Coen  
 Carolyn Galle  
 Igive  
 Terre Michaels  
 Bonnie Reid  
 Susan Resendez  
 Flint River Ranch  
 Safeway (Randalls)  
 Jan Wallace  
 Betsey Ward  
 Carolyn Whitten

## Gold Nugget EGF- \$100 - \$249

Gary Bernfeld  
 Bruce Bramley  
 Elizabeth Christopher  
 Leigh Dubose  
 Paula Ellis  
 Lainey Garcia  
 Gail Gordon  
 Toga Hartadinata  
 National Instruments  
 Lorna Lawrence  
 Joan Lechner  
 Janet Martin  
 Jessica Mitchell  
 Susie Schaffer  
 Suzanne Stanley  
 Mark Stevens  
 Elsie Stubbe  
 Dennis Teague  
 Kelly Topfer  
 Wells Fargo  
 Luke Wendling  
 Anne Williams

## Golden Friend EGF Up to \$99

Austin's Pizza  
 Reina Bernfeld  
 Dennis Bobincheck  
 Lera Borden  
 Sandra Burton  
 Robin Caldwell  
 Janet Callahan-Morton  
 Kathy Coolman  
 Julie Coyle  
 Susan Culp  
 Margaret Fitzgerald

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Melanie Handowski  
Geoffrey Hughes  
IBM  
Jan Kuhl  
Becky LaBrum  
Nancy Luscombe  
Nancy Martin  
Nancy McGowan  
Carl Millican  
Lisa Moore  
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Susan Scott  
Heather Smalley  
The Soup Peddler  
Gwen Stovall  
Helping Udders  
Wachovia Bank  
Karen Weaver  
Scott Wisson



## We Love our Vets!

*GRR wishes to thank these animal clinics for their continued support of our dogs and rescue efforts. Please show them your support and tell them "Thanks for helping GRR!" next time you're in one of their offices.*

All Creatures Mobile Clinic (Austin)  
Angel of Mercy Animal Critical Care (San Antonio)  
Animal Emergency Clinic of Central Texas (Round Rock)  
Austin Veterinary Dermatology (Austin & Round Rock)  
Canyon Animal Clinic (Canyon Lake)  
Castlerock Pet Hospital (Georgetown)  
Central Texas Veterinary Specialty Hospital (Austin & Round Rock)  
Converse Animal Hospital (Converse)  
Deerfield Animal Hospital (San Antonio)  
Emergency Animal Hospital of Northwest Austin (Austin)  
Forest Creek Animal Hospital (Round Rock)  
Heart of Texas Veterinary Specialty Center (Round Rock)  
Highland Knolls Veterinary Hospital (Katy)  
Hiway 620 Animal Hospital (Austin)  
Kyle Animal Hospital (Kyle)  
Lampasas Veterinarian Clinic (Lampasas)  
Pet Medical Center of San Antonio (San Antonio)  
San Marcos Veterinary Clinic (San Marcos)  
Seguin Animal Hospital (Seguin)  
South Texas Veterinary Allergy & Dermatology (San Antonio)  
Spicewood Springs Animal Hospital (Austin)  
Town & Country Animal Hospital (Kerrville)  
VCA Tanglewood Animal Hospital (Austin)  
Veterinary Cardiology & Medicine (Austin)  
Village Veterinary Hospital (Bee Cave)  
White Rock Veterinary Hospital (Pflugerville)



Dogs may not be our whole life, but they make our lives whole. —Roger Caras

## Golden Kids

***If you are looking for the ideal family dog, there is no better choice than the Golden Retriever. Good-natured, playful, and tolerant, Goldens help to reduce anxiety and stress and can improve a child's self-esteem. Now researchers are finding that being in a dog's presence can even improve reading skills. Read on to discover what our younger GRR members have to say about adopting a Golden...***

I think you should adopt dogs and not buy them. I think you should adopt them because there are a lot of dogs out there that don't have a home and need one. So if you can trade your time to foster a dog and help it to find its forever home that would be great. If you didn't adopt a dog, more dogs would come into the shelters and there wouldn't be enough room for the dogs and they would have to be put to sleep. A common slogan is "Don't breed or buy while shelter animals die."

The people that volunteer to be a foster home don't get paid. They just help the dogs that need homes. Like my family, we don't get paid we just help the dogs that need homes. There are non-breed rescue groups and specific breed groups. Some of the specific breed groups are Gold Ribbon Rescue, Austin German Shepherd Rescue and Russell Rescue.

Gold Ribbon Rescue is a specific breed group that only takes Golden Retrievers. In 2009 they placed over 200 dogs. In 2010, over 130 dogs were adopted between January and October and over 160 dogs were rescued.

There are at least three local animal shelters. The names are the Austin Humane Society, Austin Animal Center and Town Lake Animal Shelter. There are many non-breed rescue groups. Some of the names are Blue Dog Rescue, Paws of Austin and Austin Dog Rescue. Since they are non-breed rescue groups they take any kind of dog.

If you adopt a dog you can help it by helping it find its forever home. So many dogs need your love. Again, a common slogan is "Don't breed or buy while shelter animals die." You can help out a lot by doing this. The people at Gold Ribbon Rescue and places like that will appreciate it too.

Colby, age 10, attends a Montessori School in Austin



### The Story of Nigel

Nigel is a special dog. He helped me become happier, and gives me something to do when I'm bored. Believe it or not, before we got him, I didn't like dogs at all. I thought I was in bad luck when they said they wanted a dog. They wanted a golden retriever puppy. It felt like ultimate torture.

My family kept talking about the new puppy that was to come. Then one day I came home from school and there he was; A tiny, cute Golden retriever puppy came bounding towards me. I realized it wasn't my doomsday, it was my destiny day.

Since then, Nigel has been my favorite pet. Nigel made big impacts in my life. He was someone to love and care for. Someone to be proud of. He makes me happy when I pet him. Sometimes he rolls over on his back and kicks—that makes me giggle sometimes. When people rescue a dog, it does more than save a life. It also helps their owners.

Julian, age 9, lives in San Antonio



Dudley



Cadbury



Chiclet



Joy



**GRR has some exciting events coming this spring!**

April 9: **The GRR Annual Golden Afternoon in the Park....**See [Page 12](#) for details

May 21: **Shake Paddle and Roll Swim Fest....**See [Page 13](#) for details

We hope to see you there!

Rolo



Dot



Razzles



Tootsie



Taffy



Skittles

