

**Gold  
Ribbon  
Rescue**



2015

ANNUAL REPORT



# Mission

**Gold Ribbon Rescue (GRR)** is an all-volunteer organization that rescues and cares for displaced, abandoned, and homeless Golden Retrievers regardless of their age or health. Gold Ribbon finds safe, loving homes through a comprehensive adoption process, and also provides lifetime foster care for Goldens that cannot be adopted.

Gold Ribbon provides public education on responsible dog ownership; and information on training, health problems and local dog activities while serving as a forum for Golden Retriever fanciers to meet.

Recognized as a rescue organization by The Golden Retriever Club of America, Inc, Gold Ribbon Rescue focuses on Golden Retriever welfare and needs throughout the Central Texas area.

## Board of Directors

Margo Biba, *President*

Paula Ellis

Michelle Goldberg

Jacki Mulkey

Kathy Simmons

Tim Tierney

Emily Tuczowski



# President's Message

## ***To Friends of Gold Ribbon Rescue,***

This year, we celebrated our seventeenth year of rescuing Golden Retrievers. It has been wonderful to look back at all we have accomplished—including rescuing more than 2,700 Goldens.

I often reflect upon why GRR has survived these many years as many rescues sputter and close due to lack of funds, disagreements or burn out. I strongly suspect that these key points have allowed GRR to thrive:

- Careful fiscal management and the ongoing generosity of our donors.
- Celebrating and accepting our volunteers' diverse personalities and skill sets.
- Utter determination, love, and the goal of working toward the greater good in rescuing these wonderful, beautiful dogs.

I am proud that we were able to rescue 149 Goldens in 2015. We could not have done this without the generosity of our supporters: volunteers and donors along with our many wonderful vets. Everything that Gold Ribbon Rescue does is a result of our shared commitment for animal rescue.

With your help, we have accomplished so much; but, there is still much more to do—so we remain firmly focused on the future. I'm excited to be watching all of the Goldens we save in 2016 and beyond.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

Margo Biba, President  
Gold Ribbon Rescue





# Key Accomplishments



## Rescue. Rehabilitate. Rehome.

In 2015, we supported the intake, care and adoption of 149 Goldens. Each dog coming into our program receives a thorough intake assessment, medical care, and behavioral support, as necessary, while being cared for in a foster home.

Through our Extraordinary Goldens Fund (EGF), we are able to provide care for dogs that have significant needs, including hip surgeries, repairing broken bones, removing tumors, ear and eye surgeries, knee surgeries, allergy testing, behavioral needs and a host of other items. With this fund, we are able to deliver on our commitment to helping *all* Goldens, regardless of medical needs. Our 2015 EGF Goldens are Sam, Brayden, Mona, Paisley, Allison, Zoey, Angel, Bailey and Simon.

There are a few Goldens who are best served by living out their lives in permanent foster homes. These sweet dogs enjoy life to the fullest while remaining under GRR care. In 2015, GRR permanent fosters include: Mikayla, Magnum, Wheeler, Truman, Miranda, Velvet, Duchess, Sam, Allison and Paisley.

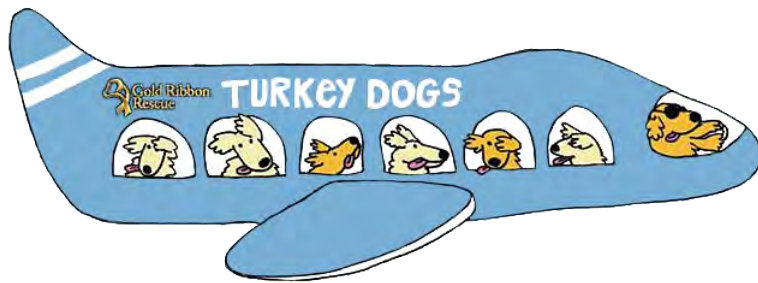
## Puppies. Puppies. Puppies.

While puppies are generally rare at Gold Ribbon Rescue, we raised three litters during 2015: the Gem litter, the “Sweet Treetts” litter and the Christmas litter. Each litter remained with a foster family for at least eight weeks, where they received proper medical care and human and canine socialization. Needless to say, this represents an extraordinary effort in time and attention for the foster families. The rewards are paid in puppy kisses.

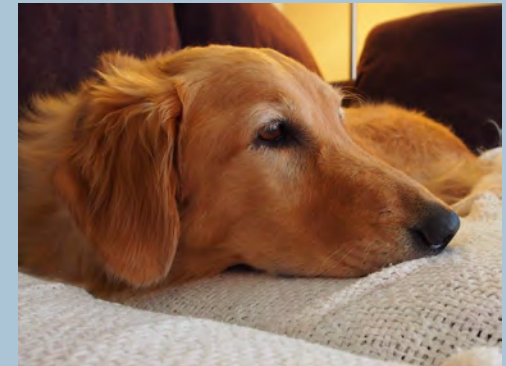


## Operation Home: Turkish Goldens

After more than 24 hours of traveling 6,500 miles, fourteen excited Goldens arrived from Istanbul on November 15. The dogs were welcomed into their new homes where they started a life filled with love and attention, good medical care, nutritious food, toys, and comfy beds. Operation Home was a major initiative, but so worthwhile when you see the happy smiles on these Golden faces. Welcome to Texas!



*To all of you who helped  
with this incredible journey,  
we thank you a million-fold.*



They've been living on the streets  
They've got mud caked on their feet  
They've got no place to go  
They're used to people saying no  
They spend their nights all alone  
With no place to call their home  
Finally a new life is about to begin  
GRR has agreed to bring them in . . .

—Michelle Goldberg





# ***Our Supporters***

## **All Volunteer Powered**

As an all-volunteer organization, we can devote almost all of our resources to the direct support of the dogs. It takes many hands and talents to sustain our operation. More than 100 volunteers across Central Texas contribute their talents, time, and passion. People from all walks of life come together with a shared love of dogs and a desire to help them on their journeys home.

Volunteers are involved in every aspect of our operation—intake, fostering, training, adoption interviews and home visits, transport, matchmaking, fundraising, events, marketing, web support, and more. Much more. You are truly the heart of Gold Ribbon Rescue and we wouldn't exist without you. Our gratitude is boundless.

## **Events and Fundraising**

At GRR, it's always 'all about the dogs,' but we all enjoyed getting together for 'fun' activities during the year, including Valentine's at the Zoom Room, Splashfest at the Quarries, the GRR Gala, the Holiday Party and the Volunteer Appreciation event. Major fundraising initiatives in 2015 included Amplify Austin, the \$5 Challenge, the GRR calendar auction, and the Turkey Golden Sponsorship program.



# Rescue Trends

In our seventeen years of operation, more than 2,700 dogs have been helped on their journeys home. During the height of the recession, our numbers soared to nearly 200 dogs in a single year.

The improved economy and, more importantly, education, has led to a gradual decline in dogs abandoned or euthanized in shelters. While there is still more work to be done, this great success has led to fewer homeless Golden Retrievers—and longer waits for families who strongly support adoption. Golden Retriever rescue groups across the United States are seeing a similar trend.



Gold Ribbon Rescue is supporting the trend to take in a small number of Golden mixes each year. While these dogs may not be pure Golden Retrievers, they have golden hearts and are otherwise at risk.

Golden Retriever rescue groups across the United States are joining together in international rescue initiatives. While more than 20 groups have participated in rescuing Golden Retrievers from Turkey, other groups have rescued dogs from Taiwan, China, Korea and Mexico. We see this trend continuing, as more and more people open their hearts to international Golden Retrievers.



# Forever in Our Hearts

Every dog that comes to us is special and loved. Still, some stand out for their exceptional needs and the care they require. Here are just a few who were able to complete their journeys because they found their way to Gold Ribbon Rescue.

Peabody. Brady. Turkish Golden. Mary's Christmas puppies. The list goes on and on every year. Our Gold Ribbon Rescue village of incoming Golden runs the gamut. Sometimes, they are easy owner surrenders that were kept up to date on all medical care, and sometimes, they are strays in deplorable health condition, in need of a tremendous amount of medical support before they find their forever homes. All of these dogs have found better lives through Gold Ribbon Rescue. While each of our 2015 rescue Golden are special, we want to highlight six that touched us in many ways:

**King George** • Surrendered by his owner, George was an 11 year-old that had a huge golden heart and spirit as well as a myriad of medical issues. While the medical issues were inoperable, George's foster family made sure that every one of George's 'todays' was the best it could be.

**Andrea** • Scared, withdrawn, nervous and shy, Andrea had likely been abused. Her anxiety and fear of people was apparent—she even cowered when she heard her name. When in foster care, Andrea slipped her collar and ran. We were joyous when we received the message that Andrea had been found after running for over a week. Fast forward: today Andrea adores her adopting mom and is enjoying life to its fullest.

**Honey and Bailey** • Surrendered as a bonded pair, Honey and Bailey were 18 years and wanted to stay together. Both were adopted together and are still going strong—enjoying every day to its fullest.



**The Daisy Girl Scout troop from Maryland made dog toys for our Turkey Golden, after learning about their plight.**

**Mylee and Ginger** • Mylee is an unbelievable service dog for Ginger, her chocolate Labrador Retriever best girlfriend, who developed severe cataracts 5 years ago. In true Golden fashion, as a three-year-old pup, Mylee volunteered to become her constant companion and her "eyes". On walks, they use a dual lead, with Mylee side by side with Ginger, guiding her along the way.





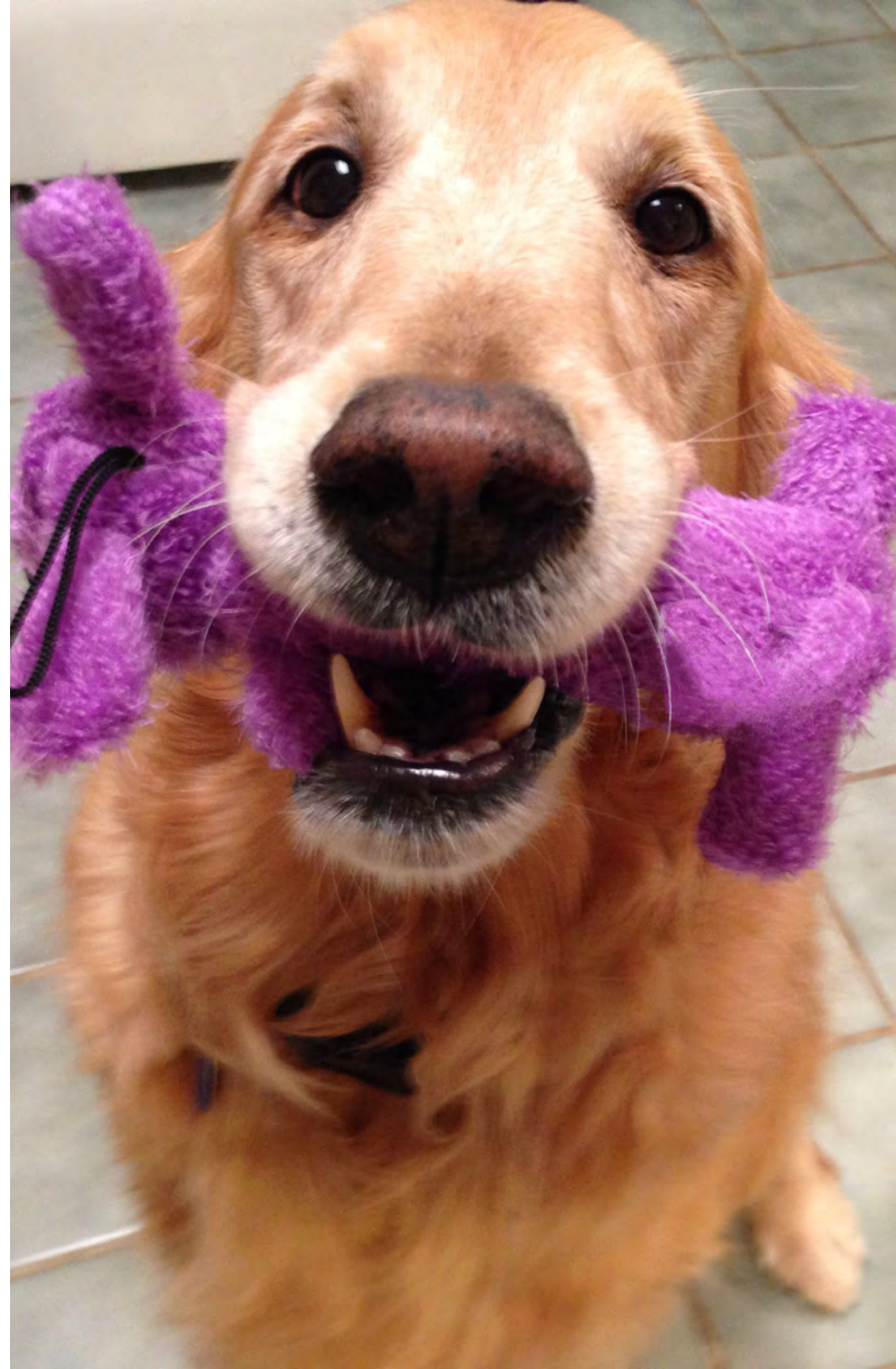
*Everyone everywhere can play a role in supporting our work. Here are just a few ways that you can help:*

- Spread the word about the importance of spay and neuter*
- Educate others about puppy mills and responsible breeders*
- Train and socialize your dog from the very beginning; educate others about the importance*
- Learn how to report neglect or abuse in your community*
- Help an elderly or ill neighbor to keep their pet in their home by lending a hand*
- Donate—in whatever way works best for you*

# How You Can Help

Less than 30% of our operating expenses come from adoption fees. This means that Gold Ribbon Rescue significantly relies on generous contributions from individuals. Whether financial, or gifts of time and talent—there are many ways to contribute to our effort.

- **Financial Support** – Through General Donations and the Extraordinary Golden Fund, you are helping provide direct medical care for dogs. These donations cover routine care such as vaccinations, spay/neuter, and heartworm treatment and special care such as hip surgeries, repairing broken bones, removing tumors and behavioral needs.  
<http://www.grr-tx.com/about/how-can-i-help>
- **'In Honor of' or 'In Memory of'** – Lets you remember or honor a special person, a special animal or a special occasion. Click here to learn more. <http://www.grr-tx.com/about/how-can-i-help>
- **Planned Gifts** – Leave a lasting legacy that may also offers benefits to you or your heirs. Talk with your tax or financial advisors about the best approach for your unique situation.
- **Volunteer** – Have a particular skill? Or just want to spend time helping dogs? We need you! Contact our volunteer coordinator and attend one of our Volunteer Training sessions listed on our website. Click here <http://www.grr-tx.com/support/volunteer> to learn more.
- **Foster** – There is no greater gift than providing a dog in need with a caring home and the support it needs to become adoptable. Click here <http://www.grr-tx.com/support/foster-parent> to learn more.







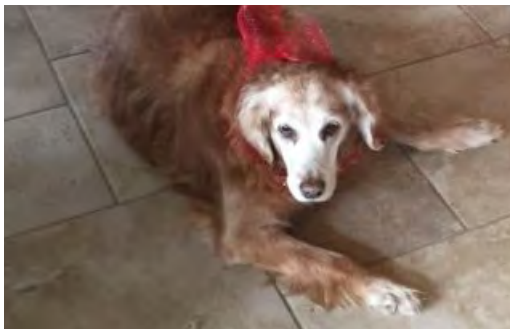


# Financials 2015

## Condensed statement of activities for year ending December 31, 2015

Income	
Adoption/Application Fees	\$38,212
Calendar	\$6,735
Donations	\$66,542
Events	\$10,682
Membership Dues	\$10,875
Turkey Dogs Initiative	
Adoption Fee	\$3,890
Donations	\$23,786
Other	\$3,746
Total Income	\$164,468

Expenses	
Administrative	\$17,299
Golden-Related Costs	\$125,507
Fundraising	\$1,218
Turkey Dogs	\$31,268
Other	\$151
Total Expenses	\$175,443
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>-\$10,975</b>



## 2015 Rescue Demographics

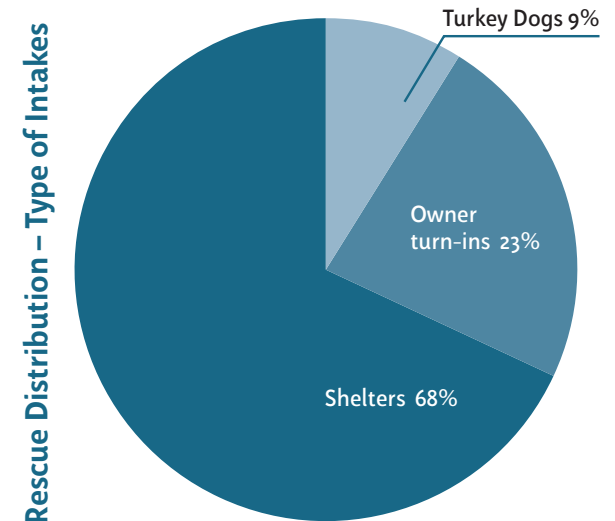
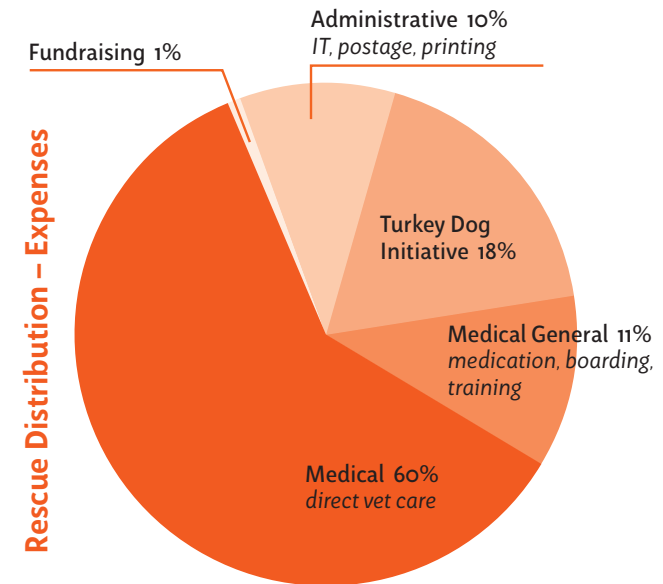
**165 Rescued**

**82% Adoption Rate\***

\*82% rate includes 2015 and other in-house dogs



## Rescue Distribution – Age









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**<http://www.grr-tx.com>**

