



Gold Ribbon Rescue
2017 Annual Report

*A dog is the only
thing on earth that
loves you more than
he loves himself.*

—Josh Billings



Our Commitment

com·mit·ment / *noun* / the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause or activity

Gold Ribbon Rescue was founded in 1998, based on a dream to provide safe, loving, lifetime homes for Golden Retrievers in need regardless of age, medical conditions or circumstances. Everything we do as an organization supports that goal.

In addition, Gold Ribbon Rescue provides education on responsible dog ownership, organizes dog activities for Golden Retriever fanciers to meet and supports a community Facebook page for exchanging information.

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. We are an all-volunteer, 501(c)3 organization.





2017 Board of Directors

Margo Biba, *President*

Emily Tuczowski, *Vice President*

Tim Tierney, *Treasurer*

Paula Ellis

Michelle Goldberg

Kathy Simmons

Jacki Mulkey

Friends, Old and New

friend / *noun* / a person whom one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection

To Old and New Friends of Gold Ribbon,

In 2017, 149 dogs came through our door. It is heartwarming to look back at our accomplishments—all made possible by the dedication and passion of our volunteers and supporters.

Every day

- Our Intake volunteers evaluate and transport our dogs.
- Our Adoption volunteers talk to potential adopters and find the best possible match for each dog and family.
- Our Medical team works tirelessly with area veterinarians.
- Our Fosters provide needed care, love and attention to get dogs ready for adoption.
- Our Operations volunteers work behind the scenes to keep the organization running.

Each time we ask for help, our supporters step up, ensuring that we have whatever a dog needs. I'm truly humbled by your dedication and generosity.

You may notice not all of our faces are pure Golden. Thanks to a variety of reasons, the number of homeless purebred Golden Retrievers is declining. This trend has enabled Golden Retriever rescue groups across the US to help golden-mixes or dogs in great need, such as during the Hurricane Harvey Relief efforts. We think you would want that.

We continue to see more dogs with serious medical issues and more dogs with emotional and training needs. Fortunately, we were able to address both in 2017, resulting in reduced euthanasia and more dogs having the opportunity to move forward in their forever home.

With your help, we have accomplished so much. But there is still much more to do—so we remain firmly focused on the future. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

Margo Biba, President



Harvey



Scooby Doo



Hero



Chase

Extraordinary Goldens

Ex•traor•di•nary / adjective / very unusual or remarkable

Extraordinary Golden Fund

Through our Extraordinary Golden Fund (EGF), we are able to provide care for dogs who have significant needs such as broken bones, tumors, hip surgeries, ear and eye 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 their issues.

We celebrate our 2017 Extraordinary GRR Goldens: Chase, Scooby Doo, Hero, Amethyst, Dallas, Ransom, Harvey, and Shirley.



Dallas



Ransom



Amethyst

*Dogs, for me,
are the role model
for being alive.*

—Gilda Radner





Collin



Truman

Permanent Fosters

Per•ma•nent / adjective / lasting or intended to last or remain unchanged indefinitely

Fos•ters / verb / bring up, raise, care for

Not all Golden Retrievers we rescue are adoptable because of age, health or emotional reasons, so they remain with Gold Ribbon Rescue for life in a committed foster home. These homes love and care for them without the burden of financial constraints, as 100% of their expenses are covered.

Your very generous donations and Golden Angel Sponsorships help us continue this important part of rescue. In 2017, GRR permanent fosters included Beau, Collin, Duchess, Mikayla, Miranda, Paisley, Skeeter, Stevie, Truman, Velvet and Wheeler.



Miranda



Duchess



Mikayla



Wheeler



Stevie



Beau



Paisley



Skeeter



Velvet

Our Generous Supporters

gen-er-ous / adjective / showing kindness toward others

Our Volunteers

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 talent, time, and passion. People from all walks of life come together with a shared love of Golden Retrievers and a desire to help them on their journeys to their forever home. Volunteers are involved in every aspect of our operation: intake, fostering, training, adoption interviews and home visits, transport, matchmaking, medical, fundraising, events, marketing, web support, and more. Volunteers are truly the heart of Gold Ribbon Rescue and we wouldn't exist without them. Our gratitude is boundless.

Our Donors

Without our donors, Gold Ribbon Rescue would not exist. When you make a gift to Gold Ribbon Rescue, you are supporting the dogs already rescued and others receiving needed care as well as ensuring more Golden Retrievers will have access to safety and care in 2017 and beyond. We greatly appreciate each of you.

Our Members

Gold Ribbon Rescue members are Golden aficionados. We love all things Golden: getting together at meet-ups; talking and learning from each other; setting up doggie play dates; and finding the perfect Golden t-shirt, mug or holiday decoration. Best of all, we know that our membership dues help care for more rescue Golden Retrievers.

Events and Fundraising

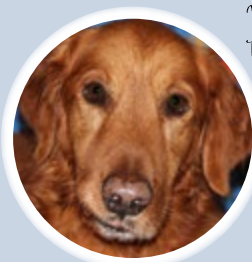
At Gold Ribbon Rescue, it's always all about the dogs. But we also enjoy getting together for fun activities, including Swimfest at the Quarries, the annual GRR Gala, the annual Holiday Champagne Brunch and the Volunteer Appreciation event. We also hosted several educational seminars presented by trainers and supported local events such as Dogtoberfest at the Domain.

Major fundraising events in 2017 included Amplify Austin, the calendar auction, Golden Angel Sponsorships for Permanent Foster Golden Retrievers, the holiday Tree of Hope and the Extraordinary Golden Fund (EGF) campaign in conjunction with the 2017 Gala.

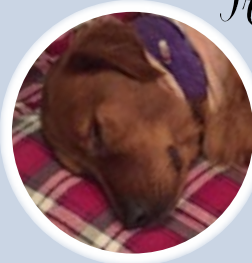


Etched In Our Hearts

Etched / verb / to fix permanently in or implant firmly on the mind

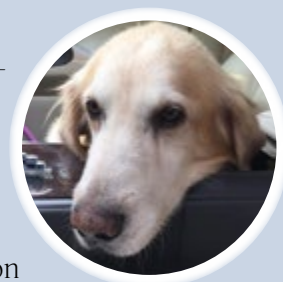


Harvey, age 10, is a handsome redhead who was surrendered to the Laredo shelter when his owner took a job working offshore rigs. We immediately noticed Harvey was lethargic and had serious mobility issues. Harvey was rushed to a specialist who suspected a systemic fungal infection. Harvey's prognosis was poor, but he was started on Sporanox, an expensive non-generic medication. What a difference this medication made. Today, Harvey walks, runs and jumps without limping and pain. Harvey will likely be on the antibiotics for life, but he is enjoying the good life in his forever home.

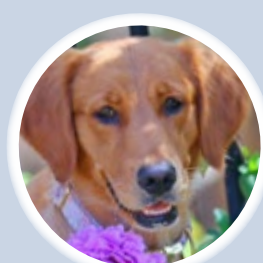


Trigger, age 2, was an owner surrender due to a medical emergency. Trigger had abdominal obstruction surgery earlier in 2017 and 8 inches of intestine were removed because of an ingested sock. Then it happened again. Trigger's owner called the GRR hotline, saying "I am needing someone to rescue this Golden because I cannot afford this surgery and he's a beautiful dog and he's wonderful and we need this pretty quick. Otherwise he's going to have to be euthanized tonight so I'm just trying to rescue this dog." GRR sprang into action and took Trigger to the specialty hospital where another 8" of bowel was removed. The bowel was nearly perforating, so surgery was in the nick of time. Trigger is now recuperating and enjoying life in his foster-pending-adoption home.

Thibeaux, age 8, is a Hurricane Harvey survivor, plucked from the flood waters in La Porte by the Cajun Navy! Thibeaux was delivered first to FEMA, then to the La Porte Animal Shelter, then to the Houston Golden Retriever Rescue Group, who then sent him to GRR. A bit of background on



Amethyst, age 3, became ours on a Saturday afternoon. Bone thin and covered with ticks, her skin was dark with flea dander. This young girl was diagnosed with an advanced case of tick borne disease and her bone marrow was destroyed. Immediately hospitalized, Amethyst was in critical condition. For two weeks, Amethyst, GRR and GRR veterinarians fought to save this bright spirit. Sadly, her story ended way too soon. However, Amethyst left an indelible mark on our hearts.



Clara, age 2, came through a shelter with five mostly healthy puppies. Her sixth baby was too sick and GRR mourned its loss. Clara's prominent ribs and tight skin across her skull revealed to GRR veterinarians that she had starved herself to save her family. Clara needed swift medical intervention and received everything she needed. Now, her babies are with their forever families and Clara is getting the love and attention she so deserves.

Mexico City Initiative. Gold Ribbon Rescue was approached by a GRR adopter and supporter who wanted to bring homeless Golden Retrievers from Mexico City to Austin. Our supporter had participated in the Turkish Dog rescue and saw a similar situation with many beautiful Golden Retrievers wandering the streets in Mexico City. **Operation Close to Home** was launched in early 2017, and we brought in nine dogs: Dusty, Ned, Happy, Shakespeare, Momma Mia, Ophelia, Woods, Pippa and Toby. Today, they are enjoying the sweet life in their forever homes.



Ophelia

Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring—it was peace.

— Milan Kundera



How You Can Help

Help / verb / offering one's services or resources

Gold Ribbon Rescue relies almost solely 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, you are helping provide direct medical care for all dogs including routine care such as vaccinations, spay/neuter, and heartworm treatment, allergy testing, ear, eye and skin issues, repairing broken bones, removing tumors and behavioral needs.

We also offer programs that focus on needs for specific dogs. These include:

- **Extraordinary Golden Fund (EGF)** The EGF supports dogs with significant medical or behavioral needs. <http://www.grr-tx.com/about/extraordinary-goldens>
- **Golden Angel Sponsorship** (<http://www.grr-tx.com/about/how-can-i-help>) This program helps fund a Permanent Foster Golden. Click on the link above to meet these sweet dogs.
- **In Honor or In Memory of** (<http://www.grr-tx.com/about/how-can-i-help>) This link provides a meaningful place for you to remember or honor a special person, a special animal, or a special occasion.
- **AmazonSmile** (<https://smile.amazon.com/>) Go to Amazon and simply set Gold Ribbon Rescue to receive donations every time you purchase from this website. Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase amount to GRR . . . same products, same prices and same service. This is an easy way to support GRR.
- **Planned Gifts** Leave a lasting legacy that may also offers benefits to you or your heirs. Talk with your tax or financial advisors who can advise you on the best approach for your unique situation.
- **Monthly donor program** It makes it easy to donate regularly. You select the amount and it is automatically deducted from your account.

Volunteer

Have a particular skill? Or just want to spend time helping dogs? We need you! Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@grr-tx.com and attend one of our Volunteer Training sessions.

Foster

There is no greater gift than providing a dog in need with a safe place to land before it gets adopted. All you need to supply is a loving home and quality dog food. To help, please contact <http://www.grr-tx.com/support/foster-parent>.



*Everything I know
I learned from
dogs.*

– Nora Roberts

Financials

2017 Income

Adoption/Application Fees	\$ 38,543
Calendar	\$ 5,435
Donations	\$ 101,352
Events	\$ 23,211
Membership Dues	\$ 15,345
Other	\$ 5,614
Total Income	\$ 189,500

2017 Expenses

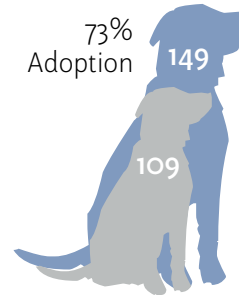
Administrative	\$ 25,959
• Telephone	
• Website	
• Legal	
• Accounting	
• Postage	
Golden Care Costs	\$ 152,975
• Supplies	\$ 2,555
• Medication	\$ 12,573
• Training	\$ 9,554
• Vet/Medical	\$ 128,293
Fundraising	\$ 4,886
Education	\$ 313
Mexico City Dogs	\$ 10,897
Other (Credit)	\$ -275
Total Expenses	\$ 194,755
Net Profit/Loss	\$ -5,255

Demographics

Demographics

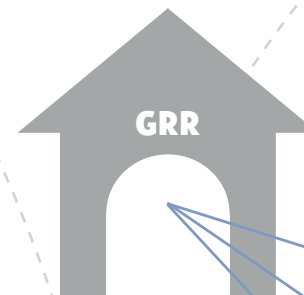
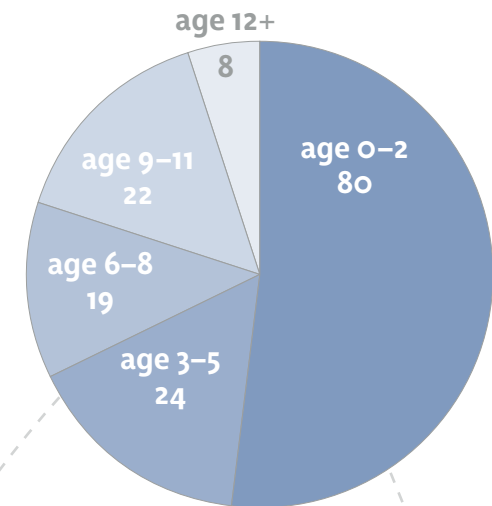
Dogs received: 149

Dogs adopted: 109



Age Distribution

Number of dogs by age



Intake types

55 from Owner turn-ins, 37%

59 from Shelters, 40%

35 from Other, 23%



*All his life he tried to be a
good person. Many times,
however, he failed. For after
all, he was only human.
He wasn't a dog.*

—Charles M. Schultz



Rescuing, Rehabilitating, and Rehoming
Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

