

## GRREAT

## NEWS

April - September 2016

[www.GRREAT.org](http://www.GRREAT.org)

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## My Sweet Boy, Gompers *By Amy Butler*

Fifteen years ago, I turned to GRREAT to help me adopt my first dog. At the time, I worked a second job at Dogs by Day and Night, a 24-hour doggie day care in Washington, D.C. owned by my friend Wendy Welch, aka the Doggie Diva, who helped me overcome my fear of taking on such a huge responsibility.

When I received the list of available Goldens, I looked through all the descriptions with pictures of each dog, but one of those descriptions without a photo caught my eye because the words essentially described my personality:

***Big, blonde blockhead; likes to play with tennis balls and other dogs; house-trained; knows basic commands.***

Somehow, then I knew, this was the dog for me. I set up an appointment with his foster parent to meet the dog. And Gompers came bounding into my life.

When I look back at the early years, I do not know how I handled all his energy. I had never seen anything like it. He simply lacked any interest in sitting still. As we settled into a routine, we began getting up at 6 am, walking into Rock Creek Park and playing fetch for an hour. I thought that throwing the tennis ball up a steep hill would tire him out, but it didn't.

We then would go home, I would get ready for work, then briskly walked him for 40 minutes down the hill from Mt. Pleasant to Dogs by Day and Night. I picked him up at 5pm and walked him for 40 minutes back up the hill, changed my clothes and headed back to Rock Creek, tennis ball in pocket.

Everyone kept saying, "He will settle down in a year or two, don't worry" – but he didn't. At the age of 2, I had to put him back on puppy food because I could not keep his weight up. My weight, by the way, dropped, too, and it's probably no surprise that I decided to become a certified personal trainer at that time. We both were in tip-top shape. We walked all over the city together, and even as far as Silver Spring and back.

He loved to visit his godparents, who let him break all the rules, and who lived on the Sassafras River in Maryland. He loved the river, riding on the boat, and then drying off by fetching the ball up and down a very steep hill on their property. One time we visited some friends who own a large, three-story house with hardwood floors and a pond in the backyard. He ran throughout the house, sounding like a herd of buffalo, ran outside and landed in the pond. We didn't stay long, but he did capture the hearts of these and other friends.

By the time Gompers was about eight, he finally slowed down, and showed the early signs of arthritis. To treat the limp he developed, I began taking him for acupuncture. Within a month or so of treatment, the limp was gone. I continued the acupuncture at various times over the years with Dr. Chang at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, who is awesome. In addition to his acupuncturist, Gompers had a credit card in his name, an insurance policy and an ophthalmologist.



*Continued on page 4*

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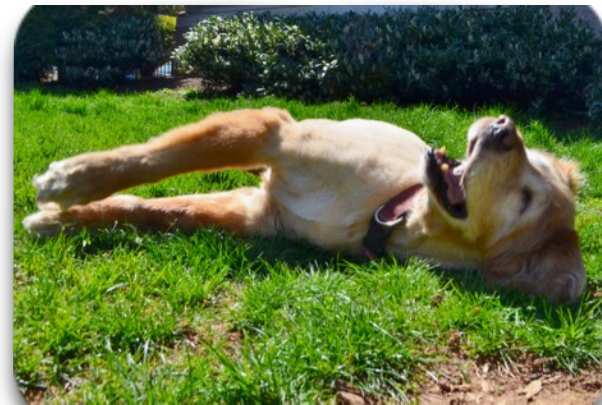
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**GRREAT, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) all-volunteer organization dedicated to the rescue, foster care, and placement of Golden Retrievers in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Delaware, and parts of Pennsylvania and West Virginia.**

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**Gompers Butler**

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GRREAT members, volunteers, and other fellow Golden lovers...I am pleased to report that the state of GRREAT is great! If you missed the Annual Meeting in January, here are some of the highlights.

Harry Sethna, our Treasurer, reported that for the second year in a row our income exceeded our expenses. Yay! However, our income was down \$64k from 2014. There are several reasons for this decline.

- Although the number of donations was up by 4, the average amount of each donation was down by \$13. The result was a decrease of \$39k in donation income.
- Our investments lost value due to a 2.2% decline in the Dow Jones.
- The number of dogs coming into GRREAT again decreased from 110 to 105. This trend has continued in most Golden rescues nationwide. Because we took in fewer dogs, we had fewer adoptions. As a result, application and adoption income decreased \$12k.
- Income from other sources (merchandise sales, events, and microchipping) was also down by \$7k.

If we had these decreases in income, how did we end up in the black for the year? Luckily our expenses decreased 20%. Bringing in fewer dogs resulted in lower veterinarian and foster home expenses. We also had one source of income that increased slightly...Golden memberships more than doubled resulting in a slight increase in membership income. We had 207 pups (or maybe a few other species) as members!

Other financial fun (?) facts include:

- Half of the give-up owners made donations ranging from \$25 to \$500 with an average of \$128.
- We had an increase (16%) in puppies coming in and adopted along with significant decreases in adults (36%) and seniors (32%). Our adoption fees are higher for younger dogs.
- Vet care accounted for 70% of our expenses. The average cost per dog was \$1,062.

Judy Bendig, Database Administrator, reported that paid (human) memberships have decreased 14%. However, the number of non-member volunteers increased 10% to 708. Judy also shared the progress on converting our databases to Salesforce. GRREAT was the recipient of a pro-bono project from Acumen Solutions, Inc. to move our data into this new format. Judy has taken over the conversion from the Acumen team. It is taking longer than anticipated due to the complexity of our data. Most organizations that use Salesforce do not have dogs to track...just people!

The GRREAT Intake Team, led by Mary Collings, conducted 131 Intake Interviews and pursued 89 Craigslist posting for “free” Golden retrievers. Eleven intakes were cancelled either because the owner changed their minds or the dog was adopted while still in a shelter. Fifteen dogs were not accepted either because of aggression histories or because they were obvious mixes that did not meet GRREAT’s requirements (looks like a Golden, acts like a Golden, no black fur). All of those not accepted were networked to other rescues! GRREAT never turns down a dog because of age or medical condition.

Where did the 105 dogs come from?

- Seven dogs were returned to GRREAT for medical or behavior issues.
- Eighteen dogs came from 15 shelters.
- Three dogs came from Cairo, Egypt, with no travel costs paid by GRREAT (Jessie, Mojo, and Miss Liberty).
- The remainder came from owner give-ups.

Of the 105 dogs accepted, 56 were male and 49 were female. Almost 70% had already been spayed or neutered!

During the year seven dogs were transferred to other rescues, two for dog aggression issues we were unable to address in our foster home system and five non-Golden mix puppies born in GRREAT. One dog became a Long Term Foster (LTF); we ended the year with five LTFs.

Mary also reported that fewer than half of our 189 approved foster homes fostered a dog during 2015. We had 25 new fosters approved. Four bonded pairs were fostered. One pregnant female was fostered. She had six puppies that survived. While we had hoped that they would be Golden retrievers, alas they were all black or merle. The dad may have been a Great Dane...the pups were huge! As mentioned above, five of them were transferred. One is being adopted by a GRREAT-approved adopter.

Lucinda Twining, our Medical Coordinator, reported that again this year, the majority of dogs coming into GRREAT required medical care beyond the basic tests, vaccinations, and spay/neuter. Less than 1/3 of the intakes required only basic care while 33 Golden retrievers had three or fewer minor medical issues that required only minor intervention (e.g., intestinal parasites, ear infections, etc.) and 41 Golden retrievers had 1 or more complex medical issues requiring significant treatment and recovery time (e.g., seizures, heartworm, orthopedic issues, etc.). The top ten medical issues were the “usual suspects:” over/underweight, tick-borne diseases, non-cancerous growths, dental disease, ear infections, skin infections/hot spots, intestinal parasites, arthritis, cancer, and hip issues. If you were not at the meeting, you missed the stories of special dogs Trina, Goldie, Emma, Mojo, Copper, and Kenna.

(Cont'd from Page 3)

GRREAT Adoption Coordinator, Jessie Pickard, shared highlights of the adoption process which continues to be robust.

- All applicants received home visits conducted by 41 regular home visit volunteers. In addition, 100% of references were checked.
- GRREAT did 23 home visits for other rescues and shared 47 GRREAT Home Visit Reports with other rescues.
- We received 27 more applications than 2014: the average rating continues to stay high.
- Of the 270 applications received, 124 were from Virginia, 115 from Maryland, and the remainder from Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC. A total of 251 were approved.
- Thirteen were rejected for keeping the dog outside, already having an intact dog, or being outside our adoption area.
- Of the 105 adoptable dogs, 99 or 94% were adopted during 2015.

GRREAT microchipped 54 of the incoming dogs. Jeff Twining, Microchip Coordinator, also reported that 37 dogs were already chipped prior to intake. During the year, three dogs passed away before being chipped and six dogs were transferred before being chipped.

In addition to the Officer and Coordinator reports, Jennifer Phillippe was re-elected as GRREAT Vice-President. Congratulations, Jennifer! Unfortunately, the nominee for Secretary withdrew her name from consideration after the deadline for nominations closed. The Board will appoint a Secretary to fill the two-year term.

That's what happened last year. What are we working on now? Our goals include fully implementing Salesforce, reaching 3,000 members of our Facebook group, initiating members-only surveys, and filling vacant positions, especially Fundraising Coordinator and Events Coordinator.

So, the state of GRREAT is great! With the help of our members, dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and participating veterinary partners, we expect that 2016 will be an even GRREATer year!

(Cont'd from Front Page)

Gompers lived every day with absolute joy and brought that joy to the lives of everyone who knew him. He lived life to the fullest. As he grew older, we developed a treatment plan along with his vet at the Takoma Park Animal Clinic to ease his joint pain, which worked for 18-months. As his sixteenth birthday approached, he began losing control of his hind legs. Eventually, it was clear that he was struggling, and it was time to let him go.

There are no words to explain what Gompers meant to me. The responsibility that I initially feared developed into one of the most amazing bonds I have ever experienced. Having him was a privilege which changed my life. The enormous gap that I am experiencing now is something that only another golden will fill. I'm not ready yet to take that step, but I have faith that I will be in due time.

Thank you to the wonderful folks at GRREAT for everything you do. You are making so much of a difference not only for the dogs, but for the people who give them their forever homes. Life is better with a golden – but don't tell my cat I said that.



## SPEND YOUR RETIREMENT ON A GOLDEN!

That's right! In addition to spending your retirement *with* a Golden, you can also spend it *on* a Golden and receive a tax break from Uncle Sam.

Here's how it works. As you know, after you turn age 70½, (in human, not doggy, years!) you must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your traditional IRA, whether you want to or not. These RMDs are taxable in the tax year they're received.

However, under a provision made permanent by the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act, if you or your spouse are age 70½ or older, you may each transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to a charity such as GRREAT without any tax consequences. In other words, while you can't claim a charitable deduction for these transfers, the payouts aren't taxable — even if they're used to satisfy your RMD.

Contact our Treasurer ([treasurer@grreat.org](mailto:treasurer@grreat.org)) for additional information. Thank you, as always, for supporting GRREAT.

Dear GRREAT,

My name is April Sun. You knew me as Kelsie. I was one of thirteen puppies that GRREAT rescued on April 3, 2002. We were living in an abandoned van with our Mom Dog. That day was especially hot. It was over 90 degrees. It was even hotter inside that van.



Fortunately for Mom and all us kids, someone called GRREAT to report a Golden Retriever living in a van. When the GRREAT representative got there, they didn't find Golden Retrievers. They found the muttiest crew ever. We were an odd looking bunch. Mom, was mostly lab. We puppies came in pairs, male and female. Two of us looked fluffy like Golden Retrievers, two like German Shepherds, two like Labradors, and so on down the line until you got to the runt. He looked like a Rottweiler. Yup, we were NOT Golden Retrievers but they couldn't leave us there to swelter in the heat. So the good people at GRREAT took us in.

We went to live on a farm. It was a wonderful place. We were fed raw diets and spent our days romping. Mom was especially shy. Maybe it was all those years she lived on the street. No way of knowing why she was fearful of people. Our foster Mom (we called her Jo BigHEART) knew that it was important that we get as much people interaction as possible. She put the word out that all were welcome to come play with us.

This is where my story gets good, at least for me anyway. You see one of the people who came to socialize with the puppies is my Forever Mom. She brought her kids along. Not only was she an adopter of a GRREAT dog, but she was a GRREAT volunteer. When we puppies were available for adoption, she decided to adopt one of us. But

which one? Each of her three children had a favorite. So she put our names in a hat, and picked. I won!

I went home with my forever family. I lived with two other Golden Retrievers and three cats. I grew especially close to the daughter. She and I were best friends. I slept in her bed. She took me to training class. She learned to groom me. She grew up to be a dog groomer, thanks to me. My little girl is a momma with five children now. I helped raise all of them.

This past Sunday, I turned fourteen years old. My Forever Mom made me a silly hat and took my picture. She tells everyone what a good dog I am.

In celebration of my fourteenth birthday, my forever Mom is sending a donation to GRREAT. She hopes it helps save other doggies. I hope it will, too. If it weren't for GRREAT coming to the rescue of my Dog-Mom and my siblings, on that hot, hot day in April, I would have never been adopted and named APRIL SUN.



# Introducing Clementine

by Denise Malczewski, *Foster Home Application Coordinator*

We want to introduce you to a little girl who recently came into GRREAT. Her name is Clementine - named by Mary Collings, our Intake/Foster Home Coordinator. Mary received a call in early June from a shelter asking GRREAT to take a four-month old puppy - and could we please come and get her right away?

I was asked to pick her up, and I only planned to be her transporter. What I saw when I arrived at the shelter was heartbreaking. Clemmie was painfully thin and lethargic. The puppy collar I had with me was much too large. She weighed 8.2 pounds, about half the weight of a normal Golden her age.

The man who had dropped her off at the shelter said she was a stray he had found. I believe he may have been a breeder who knew she was sick. In the few days she was at the shelter, the shelter employees had been able to put a little weight on by feeding her very slowly. They wanted her in safe hands since the weekend was approaching.

Since it was Saturday, keeping her at my house seemed to be the best temporary solution. Figuring she had a sensitive stomach, I gave her boiled beef and rice. She gobbled it down and then just as quickly regurgitated it. GRREAT's Medical Coordinator, Lucinda Twining, suggested giving her some plain yogurt. Clemmie ate a spoonful of the yogurt and kept it down, and then another one. That was a turning point. Slowly feeding food that could slip down her throat seemed to work. And that's when we considered the possibility that Clemmie could have a disease called megaesophagus, a condition in which the esophagus, a muscular tube from the mouth to the stomach, malfunctions.

I spent the better part of that weekend with tiny Clemmie on my lap researching this disease. (Thank you Lucinda and Dr. Google!) I slowly fed her watered-down canned dog food as I held her in an upright position. She kept the food down and gained several ounces in weight. She began to have more energy.

We were fortunate to get her into a veterinary office on that Monday morning. X-rays taken and sent out to a radiologist appear to show that Clemmie has a rare condition called Vascular Ring Anomaly. It is a condition in which some blood vessels that should have disappeared after she was born did not, and now they are constricting her esophagus causing a megaesophagus-like condition. It can be surgically repaired.



The prognosis is good for a young puppy with Vascular Ring Anomaly if the surgery is done early enough. As of this writing, Clemmie will have a surgical consultation in a few days, and GRREAT will do everything in its power to make her well. And I will be with her along the way, because somehow I went from transporter to temporary foster mom to full-time foster for this sweet girl. Watch the GRREAT website and Facebook page for updates. And remember: when you make a donation to GRREAT, this is the kind of story that you help write the final chapters for.

[A special thank you to Pam Litton who kept Clemmie for a few days while I was out of town. "Aunt Pam" came up with a better way to feed Clemmie, bought her toys and a pretty pink dress, and added 1.4 pounds to her little body.]



## ADOPTION REPORT

Name	GRREAT ID#	Age	Sex	Name	GRREAT ID#	Age	Sex
Abby	15-051	10mo	F	Jessie	15-086	7mo	F
Beauregard	15-100	3	M	Lady	15-059	4	F
Bentley	15-098	4	M	Lucy	16-010	2	F
Blaze	15-087	7	M	Maggie	15-072	7	F
Boo	16-003	10	M	Maxx	16-023	2	M
Brantley	16-008	1	M	Nile	16-018	1	M
Casey	15-083	4	M	Oliver	15-105	5	M
Charlie	15-095	1	M	Phantom	16-001	7	M
Dixie	15-099	4	F	Preston	15-089	5	M
Dolly Parton	16-020	10	F	Samson	16-002	4	M
Etu	15-085	11	M	Skeeter	15-094	8	M
Gunnar	16-006	10	M	Thunder	15-102	6mo	M
Gunner	16-004	1	M	Tucker	15-082	10	M

# Special Newsletter Dedications

## Dear GRREAT Friends,

Recently, we celebrated Cosmo's birthday, who we adopted from a GRREAT family -- one of the best and most fulfilling decisions we have made not only for ourselves, but for the life of this very special member of our family.

When Cosmo came to us, he brought incredible joy to a very sad family. We had just lost Baghdad, a famous Golden Retriever Grand Champion who died of a brain tumor at age 11. Baghdad was born on the day of the invasion into Iraq, and was intended to be a NYC Fire Department dog after 9-11, but came to us instead.

Baghdad had a sister, Biscuit, and they grew up together. When Baghdad died, Biscuit went into deep mourning and began to exhibit significant suffering. Upon Cosmo's arrival, Biscuit suddenly perked up, and in just a few short weeks, she and Cosmo and another rescue, Mr. Bentley, a drug and bomb dog, became a new family.

These days we sponsor Puppy Day Camp at our home, Stately Berlin Manor (think in terms of Batman and Robin), where two other dogs and a trainer come daily from 0900 until 1430 and where all five dogs play on 116 acres of Virginia farmland where there are pastures, streams, horses, and culverts. All of the dogs belong to people who are in the military or are direct military contractors, so we are connected in that way as well.

We wish to honor the work of GRREAT and remember Baghdad who passed from this life to the next much too soon. We celebrate our dear Cosmo, who came to us through GRREAT and hope this small contribution can be used to help other dogs and bring to others the joy and love that we have experienced because of Cosmo, Biscuit, Mr. Bentley, and of course, Baghdad.

Always,

Don and Kimberley Berlin  
Aldie, VA

## Dear Ms. Boyd,

It is with extreme sadness that I inform you of the passing of our dear, sweet Tyler (formerly Zeus 09-061).

Tyler was the most fun and the most loving dog we have ever had. He woke me every morning with his handsome head pressed onto the side of my bed. No barking. Just staring at me! We played hide-and-seek before breakfast after I rolled out of bed. He always smiled when he found me! So happy! The Golden smile! A wonderful way to start each day! With my Ty!

He never could catch a tennis ball, but he never missed catching a piece of popcorn!

He disliked hot weather. On a hot day, he much preferred to watch the world (and his Golden heat-loving brother) from the coolness of the house, behind a glass door.

He loved the snow, though! A time for crazy running and

playing! Trying to catch snow balls, carefully thrown to him by his mom and never caught.

He never showed any sign of discomfort or illness. When a tumor was found close to his spleen during a routine blood check and subsequent x-ray, it was too late to treat. We were devastated.

I've loved all of my dogs, but Tyler loved me back. We miss him every day, all of the time. His Golden brother (Harrison, also a rescue) misses playing with him and curling up with him to sleep. We know we can't replace Tyler, but we can love another dog and are beginning to look for one.

Thank you for taking such good care of Tyler when he was with GRREAT and his wonderful foster family, and for choosing us as his forever home!

Alison and Tom Gillette

## Dear Jo [Bighouse],

I made a donation to GRREAT online today. I wanted to send a letter to GRREAT from our GRREAT dog. When I looked through the contacts page for who to send it to, I saw your name under the merchandise coordinator. You were our dog's foster Mom. I remembered your name because I said you should be called "Jo Bigheart."

So, I am sending the letter to you. I hope it will bless you. GRREAT has been a huge blessing in my life that I could never ever, ever repay. I have been through some difficult times but thanks to God, I am on the other side. My husband and I are so thankful for the work that GRREAT has done and continues to do that we wanted to send a gift.

Please tell all the wonderful people at GRREAT, especially Jessie, that we are eternally grateful.

Gratefully,

Anneliese Billings and April Sun (*pictured below*)



# Annual 3K Fundraiser: Save the Date

By Carolyn Beyer, Member at Large

**GRREAT's Annual 3K Walk will be held on October 29, 2016 at Weber's Pet Supermarket in Fairfax, VA**

The 3K Walk is a major fundraiser for GRREAT as GRREAT prides itself on never turning away a Golden based on medical issues. While the number of Golden Retrievers has decreased this year, the dogs coming in with varying medical issues has increased. Liberty (Libby) and Brownie are just two examples of Golden Retrievers who have come into GRREAT with unique medical challenges. While they must overcome obstacles every day they still live happy normal lives. For more information on Libby and Brownie go to - <http://www.grreat.org/special-needs-dogs/>

Liberty 15-092 – Libby came into GRREAT with both back legs paralyzed. The x-rays did not show any evidence of trauma; the doctors believed it was a congenital condition and that her paralysis was permanent. There are no surgeries or treatments that will restore any feeling (sensation) in her rear end nor her ability to walk. The position of Libby's rear legs were out in front of her and off to the side which put tremendous strain on her back and they could not be positioned so that she can use a wheeled cart to get around. As they looked at long-term management for Libby, the specialists felt it was to her benefit to have both her rear legs and her tail amputated. The amputation was done, and she is now a happy girl getting around well in her cart.



**LIBERTY**



Brownie 16-014 – Brownie came into GRREAT walking on his knees of his back legs with his paws dragging along behind him facing upward. The specialists have been unable to determine how or why he came to walk this way; it may have been a congenital condition or due to malnutrition or long-ago trauma. What they do know is that he has been this way for quite some time. As a result, he has severe contact sores on his knees. His legs are normal in the front, but the deformity puts strain on his spine. The orthopedic specialist felt that, while surgery was possible, it would be very complex, and Brownie's recovery would be difficult. GRREAT decided to try a more conservative approach, and we have set Brownie up with a wheeled cart to keep his rear legs off the ground when he walks. We have had special wraps made to protect his rear legs from contact sores, and we are having special orthotics made that will allow him to walk in a more normal way and keep his back in the correct position.



**BROWNIE**



# Thank You for Your Donations

December 9, 2015 - June 17, 2016



*\*denotes total contribution of \$100-\$499*

*\*\*denotes total contribution of \$500-\$999*

*\*\*\*denotes total contribution of \$1000 or more*

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Marjorie Johnson*	Anita and Frank Abbruscato	

# Donations

## In Memory of...

Friend Diana Hellinger -- Jan and Phil Fenty\*

Mom - Clarice Greenwald -- Lori and Stuart Levin\*\*

"Duncan", adopted as a senior by Lynn Beall and her faithful companion for 7 yrs. -- Rachel Klickman

Elly & Donald Holzberg (O'Keefe's and Atticus' grandparents) -- Karen Holzberg-Dempsey\*

Our Ripken. He was the best dog anyone could ever ask for. We thank GRREAT for bringing him into our lives. We miss him every day. -- Donny and Kara Burks\*\*

My brother Michael's dog, Max, who came from GRREAT! -- Michael Lenowitz

Micah, Linda and Jerry Heimiller's beloved heart dog. Micah was the softest, sweetest and most loving Golden Retriever ever. He warmed many hearts and lives as a registered therapy dog. -- Mary Gregory

Logan Johnson, a rescued Golden adopted through your organization by Dennis and Sharon Johnson. -- Karen Monson\*

My sweet Goldie - Casey (RIP) -- Sheila Ramsey\*

Tucker and Maggie. Both crossed over the rainbow bridge this year. We miss them and think of them every day. We love you both very much. Love, Mom & Dad -- Amanda and Dean Blankenship\*\*\*

Nancy Rhode, with Love and Light. -- Angie and Will Hahn\*

Shannon, Bailey, Hollie (03-048), Noah (09-118), and Scout (12-047)...all great, if not GRREAT, Goldens! -- Barbara Boyd\*\*

All our sweet, furry kids - Nick, Emma, Rudy, Sophie, Lucy, Tupelo Honey and Stanley. -- Barbara Hals\*

Our two GRREAT Goldens. Dixie and Noah made our lives bright and we miss them. -- Gene and Nancy Sullivan\*

Champ DiNardo and all the love and good times you shared together. With deepest sympathy from The Loyd Family. -- Cathy and Rick Loyd

Chester Mouer-Tupper -- Jean HillStrom\*

Summit -- Amanda McDaniel

Nancy S. Rhode, She loved golden retrievers like her own. To know Nancy was to know life in the fullest! She was a breath of fresh air, and anyone who had the privilege to know her, loved her! She was beautiful inside and out. I will miss you, your friendship, and the love you gave!

Love you and miss you. -- Gaye Adams

Nancy Ruth Schellinger Rhode of Scottsville, Va from the owners of several Golden Retrievers. -- Deidra Dickens, Jim and Lynne Hodges

Rene' Sollod's dear dog Brandy. -- Anne Wilson

Our darling Molly (10-071), who died Dec. 20, 2015. We miss her so. -- Harry Merritt and Susan Zator\*

Diana Hellinger who died August 12, 2015. She and her husband, Doug, fostered and adopted Golden Retrievers for many years. -- Anne Byers and Vic Johnson\*\*

Jessie -- Wendy & Bill Thomas

Our dear, sweet Murphy (02-032). The best ball player, companion and nurse ever! -- Catherine and Richard Bertin\*

"Brinkley Gierber". A beautiful girl that will be missed greatly by her forever family. -- Lisa Yates

Donald Stafford -- The Espositos\*

Chester the Great. May you continue to play with the great squeaky toy in the sky. -- Catherine Duso\*\*

Stan Zalenski -- Gregg and Janet Andres and family

Nancy Rhode, our dear and precious friend. -- Emily and Jack Miles\*

Nancy Rhode -- Barbara Dohman

Nancy Ruth Schellinger Rhode -- Al and Mary Keywood

Pilsner Henrick -- Lauren Murray\*

"Rocky", Ken and Mary Collings dog, and our dog "Jessie." Both GRREAT dogs crossed the Rainbow Bridge within days of each other, but out of mutual heartbreaking losses, evolved a new and forever friendship. -- Olivia and Tom McDonough\*

John I. Kelly -- Helen and Winfree Irvine, Sally Jacobs

Jack Kelly -- John and Bonnie Staffier, David Ellington, William Greider\*, Dorothy McGuinness, Loretta Eby, Don Hershey,

And with great respect for Jack Kelly. -- Chet and Paula Anderson

Nancy Rhode who passed away on Dec. 19, 2015. -- Helen and Harold DeHaven\*

John (Jack) Ivers Kelly who was active in local and national golden retriever clubs as well as president of both Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club and Golden Retriever Club of America. He passed on February 20, 2016. -- Timothy Rowe\*

Gromit Slight, dachshund sibling of Mack and Mollie Slight, GRREAT alum and much loved member of the Slight family. -- Cindy Miner\*

Lucy 15-070 -- Diane Lanigan

Max & Gunner. To thank GRREAT for all you do! -- Doreen and Brad Wright\*\*

Schatzi, a special friend by another very special friend, Leslie Hoy. Leslie recognized the peril in leaving Schatzi with her former owner and gave her a loving home. Schatzi was not either of Leslie's beloved breeds, but she blossomed under Leslie's care. I will miss her dancing for me when I approached her in the crate or on her leash. I know she is playing with her best friend, Copper. Enjoy, Schatzi. -- Theresa Barnaby\*

Schatzi, beloved pet of Leslie Hoy. --York County Dog Training Club

Cooper, who was the beloved Golden of Leslie Hoy from Leymone PA, who this week just lost Copper's friend and housemate, Schatzi. -- Peter and Amelia Kutcher

Lily. -- Michael and Ruth Chamowitz

Jennifer Phillippe's Molly 10-034. -- Jeff and Lucinda Twining\*

Sarah's beloved Jake, a GRREAT adoptee. -- Dani Fein

Star, the best dog friend of Kathy Martin. Star crossed the rainbow bridge earlier this week. From Kathy's friends on development team, Paula, Sara and Elle

Copper, who was adopted my Melissa Yawn. Ed and Melissa are true friends of dogs in need. -- Bob and Sally Gartner,\*

## **In Honor of...Cont'd from page 11**

Grady (F/K/A Teddy) -- Joseph Lenczycki\*

Riley Cronin and in the spirit of Christmas! -- Erin Cronin\*

GRREAT rescues- Buddie, Marcie & Trooper. -- Clint & Sarah Yoho  
My sister Martha VanLandingham, a long-time friend of Golden. --  
Linda Eggbeer\*

Mike Lenowitz and in memory of his beloved golden retriever Max.  
-- Philip Lenowitz\*

Max (11-069) who has learned to swim at 14! -- Barbara Boyd\*

All the GRREAT foster dogs I had and in memory of my wonderful  
Golden, Amy, my best friend. -- Leslie Thornton

Casey (14-019) and in memory of our resident and foster babies  
waiting for us at the Rainbow Bridge. Thank you for all you do. --  
Tim and Linda Daniel\*\*

Our spunky Murphy (12-100) and in memory of our beloved Brady  
(02-169) & our dear Reilly (99-213) -- All GRREAT dogs whose love  
has enriched our lives immeasurably and forever: Please accept this  
donation for use where needed most. And a very special & heartfelt  
thank you to all the wonderful volunteers of GRREAT! -- Joe and  
Judy Niebauer\*\*

Carolyn Beyer's Paige -- Diane Lanigan

Heather Hayes and Brian Cole -- Doug and Marilyn Forstrom\*

Jeffrey Balenson, former foster home. -- Stanford and Cory  
Rothschild\*

Jann and Meredith's upcoming wedding and in memory of Chester. --  
John and Linda Labarge

Brady (Noble 15-093) and to thank all of the volunteers who made  
this adoption happen! -- Linda Sweeney\*

Cindy Williamson and her dogs Shaker and Flash who have given us  
our new Golden, Linus. Adoption wasn't right for our family right  
now, but we honor your great work to rescue and Cindy's to breed  
with great love, care and attention. -- Kimberly Adkinson\*

Bonita Kay, a lover of Golden Retrievers. -- James and Harriet Leech

Nancy Forest and Bob Eisenhower for the wonderful care and love  
they gave to Bear-Bear, as well as the other GRREAT dogs they have  
fostered. Such love & dedication know no bounds. -- Pamela Lewack

## **To Help With Costs...**

It is once again our sincere pleasure to contribute to the wonderful  
work done at GRREAT. It is our wish that donation goes directly for  
medical expenses or general care for the dogs in need. -- Ellen and  
Chris Courtney\*\*\*

This is to go toward Lexi's care who's coming to GRREAT from  
Egypt on February 21, 2016. -- Ibrahim Khalil\*\*

For Eloise 16-022 medical bills. -- Marion and Jeff Shields\*

This is to go toward Lexi's care who's coming to GRREAT from  
Egypt on February 21, 2016, and that way, the money will be  
earmarked just for her. -- Venus Elrayes\*

## **For Other Reasons...**

Happy Birthday, Grace! -- Elizabeth Shiker

In honor and memory of Allan Paro of Woodbridge VA -- Greg  
Scovel\*

In honor of the 50th birthday of Karen M Smith. -- Maria Veneziano  
I would like to make this donation to wish "Happy Holidays" to the  
amazing staff of doctors, assistants, and office personnel at Adams  
Mill Veterinary Hospital. They are an exceptional group of people.  
We love them. -- Judy and Steve Daner\*

I am grateful to everyone at GRREAT who brought in Rusty  
(11-067) at 11 years old and allowed us to foster and then adopt him.  
We adore this dog more than anything and are so thankful for the  
wonderful work GRREAT does. -- Diana Turk

I have a GRREAT dog who has provide me with such joy. Thanks! --  
Mary Egan\*

While I appreciate your providing care for special dogs like Polo and  
Libby, I want to make my donation so you can use the money the way  
it's most needed. -- Jim Wilmoth\*\*

On behalf of Sharon and Dennis Johnson for Logan and all our four-  
legged friends who have been a part of lives before him. :- ) --  
Margaret Raby\*

I am making this donation in lieu of a Christmas present for Bruce  
Schopp. I love you!!! -- Laurie

To the tireless efforts of Maria and Tim Brown. Merry Christmas. --  
Cathy Ebner\*

We appreciate all you do for these beautiful dogs. We lost our Harley  
this summer who we adopted through GRREAT, so use this donation  
to go toward any older dog in need in his memory. -- George and  
Nancy Metze\*

Dedicated to my handsome boy Beau, a GRREAT rescue dog who  
gave me and so many friends so much love and happiness for 15  
years! Rest in peace, sweet boy. -- Laura Catalano\*\*\*

For Camden and Hillary -- Abby Owen\*

Dedicated to Tanner, adopted from GRREAT in 2011. -- Rita  
Demma\*\*

We adopted Shadow from GRREAT via Rebecca and Art Hotop in  
December of 2002. He is the best Christmas present ever! GRREAT  
had funded two hip surgeries for him. He is a fantastic member of  
our family and has brought much joy to our lives. -- Edythe and  
Stephen Alexander\*\*\*

As a small thank you for all the joy my GRREAT Golden present  
and past have given me. -- Donna-Bea Tillman\*

On behalf of Katara, the sweetest girl in the world. -- Steve Munsey\*

In appreciation for the work of GRREAT on behalf of Golden  
Retrievers. -- Mr & Mrs. Richard Billings\*

The enclosed check is a donation toward the wonderful work you do  
and in celebration of our dear friend Elaine Gilman's birthday. Elaine  
has always had a Golden Retriever, and loves the breed. In honor of  
her 60th birthday, in lieu of a birthday gift, we are making this  
donation to you. -- Jane and Glenn Northey\*

To celebrate the marriage of Rachel Marcy and Wes Woodward.  
They are the best failed fosters ever - twice! Maggie and Winston.  
Thank you for all that you do for Golden! -- Tom and Jean Klinger\*

## **Forever Friends**

*Memorials can be seen at:*

<http://grreat.org/foreverfriends/index.htm>

Larry Herring and Paula McGourty

John Starzmann

Harry Sethna and Sarah Navia

Laura Cooper

## Corporate Giving

Combined Federal Campaign\*\*\*

United Way\*

Igive.com: Earnings through August 2015

America's Charities: Donors -- Mark Forster\*, Heather Lay\*

Goodshop: Funds earned by supporter shopping online using Goodshop from Oct. 14- Sept 15

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund: Donor -- Seele Lipe

Robinson Rams Wrestling\*

Up Country, Inc.: Donor -- Scott Daniels, the winner of an Up Country, Inc. contest.\*

IBM Employee Match\*

Network for Good: Donor -- Elizabeth McMillen

Nimrod League of Holden: On behalf of Edward J. Zukowski

Lynch Creek Farm\*

Cards for a Cause\*

Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp: Matching donation employee -- Mark Burnette\*\*

KinderGarters: Donation of a book purchase

Noah's Ark Veterinary Hospital: In memory of Ms. Bettye Kate "Katie" Jones and her dogs, Bells, Indi and Tober\*

Singing Stones Animal Wellness Centre: In memory of the recent loss of Macon owned by Kelly Edmond and Claire Castle

America's Charities: Donor -- Brenda Gage

The Snyder Foundation for Animals -- in honor of Sharon Chup\*\*\*

Maryland Charity Campaign\*

## Sponsor Me!

For Stevie, Tess, Humble, James Dean & Polo -- Trish Collier\*\*

For Libby --Lynn Huggins, Melissa Courtney\*, Linda Renner, Deborah Coleman, Joanne Patenaude\*, Rose Glasser\*, James Krist, Cindy Ely, Ann Beech\*, Eileen Bennett\*, Lynn Huggins, Carol and John Reynolds

For Libby, Polo's buddy, or any other special needs dog -- From Bailey (05-004), Maddie and Georgia Brown (Donna and Bill D'Andrea)\*

This donation is in memory of Jake as well as his adopted brother, Hunter (11-076), who were both much loved and cared for by their people parents, Judi and Greg Harrod of Fredericksburg VA.

Here's hoping another lucky pup receives the support he or she needs -- Linda Huggins\*

For Liberty 15-092 -- Jessie and Dan Pickard

For Molly 14-023 -- Sophie Davis, Jeff and Lucinda Twining, Phil and Janet Hauck\*, Wendy Dyer

In honor of Polo and Libby! My son, Scott Daniels, asked I make this donation to GRREAT in lieu of a birthday present for him. -- Matthew and Patricia West\*

For Libby's new wheels!!!! -- Kerry Lenny, Jeannie Blood,

For Libby (15-092) and Polo (13-1230) -- Michele Meeks, Ellen Katz-Neumann

For Stevie 08-120 and Libby 15-092: I know this a small amount but I would love to see something special for them that would make them either feel better or to be happier. Thanks for all you do. As I read all of their stories I weep until I cannot weep anymore. God Bless You All. -- Joan Taylor\*

For Trina ...and for Janet & Phil Hauck for all they do for GRREAT !!! -- Michael, Elizabeth and Briscoe (12-152) Damitz\*

For Molly and Polo - In memory of our gentle, loving Emma who lived 12 wonderful years. -- Patricia Potts\*\*

Use these funds to care for the "Special Needs Golden" listed on the GRREAT website including those listed as Coming Soon. I would like to apply these funds to the dog/dogs that have not received support and need it the most. -- Skeen Family Foundation\*\*\*

For Molly (14-023) and Stevie (08-208): This donation is in honor of Bailey the female Golden and Molly the Chocolate Labrador Retriever, both who served as therapy dogs providing students and clients comfort, joy, unconditional love and companionship. They were both special dogs who passed away recently. My friend's dog Bailey was taken by cancer and my dog Molly was taken at age 12 by several illnesses that caused her difficulty breathing and walking. I miss them both incredibly, Molly especially. She was my teacher, confidante and forever friend, she never gave up on any clients and taught many lessons about respect, had incredible understanding shown through warm Amber eyes. Bailey was a fun loving golden with a kind and loving heart; she was a social butterfly and provided total and unconditional love. Both dogs had a great deal of determination and willingness to do what their humans wanted. Looking after dogs in their older life is not only time consuming but expensive, it's our duty to see that they get the best we can give. I hope this small amount helps these two dogs, referred and treated by Krisi Irwin. -- Elaine Johnson

For Polo and Libby --Teresa Concordia

For Herbie 13-097: In loving memory of Stanley Zalensky of Plains. -- Lydia Tavares\*

Molly is being sponsored in memory of Nancy Rhode. -- Heidi Southcombe

For special needs dogs: To my Dad. Love, Tracy, Kim and Ernie. -- Tracy Zalenski \*

For Libby's special surgery -- Cindy Speas, Andrea Supp\*,

For special needs dogs. -- Kate Werner\*

For Libby 15-092 -- Linda Totels\*

For the care of special needs dogs! -- Sharon and Bill Coale

For Trina 15-002 -At my school, all 8th graders have their own independent project. I am also interested in participating in community service activities that support my Catholic confirmation. For my project and community service, I hope to help dog rescue efforts and improve the lives of neglected and special needs dogs. I have 2 golden retrievers, one who came from GRREAT, and I would like support GRREAT in any way I can. I want to sponsor Trina and have set up a "gofundme" page to gather donations to help -- her. I will donate to GRREAT everything pledged to <http://www.gofundme.com/sponsortrina>. -- Celina Ryan

For Libbie, Miss Liberty. I would like this contribution to aid her in her recovery process throughout the year. -- Sharon Carr\*

For Special Needs dogs in memory of Herbie (13-097), our love bug. -- Pam Del Nero\*

**GRREAT operates three funds for dogs with special needs. The Leo Fund provides surgical care, the Simile-Finale Fund provides holistic and alternative therapies (acupuncture, swim therapy, etc.), and Chief's Fund provides MRI diagnostics.**

**To support these funds, make the selection on the online donation page [www.grreat.org/donate/donorinfo.htm](http://www.grreat.org/donate/donorinfo.htm) or mention the fund in a letter with your contribution by mail. Thank you!**

### Leo's Corner

#### *Leo's Pals (up to \$99)*

Blair Semple

Patricia Slaski

Arleen Dinneen

In loving memory of Nancy Rhode. Her memory, light and love live on ... -- Kimberly Crist-Kaluger

Please use this to help with the expenses for Libby's operation to remove her legs and tail and open up the future for her :) -- Gail Turek

#### *Leo's Angels (\$100-499)*

Tony, my first GRREAT Golden Retriever and now Buddy, my second GRREAT dog. Both planted a seed in my heart and soul that's flourished! -- Eugenia Hurtado

In memory of Bear (Benjamin) and in honor of Tansy (Santana). And in honor of Diane Lanigan and Jessie and Dan Pickard, people who have Golden hearts! -- Melissa Neal

In memory of Chester, a wonderful boy who will always be dearly loved. -- Meredith Tupper

This donation is dedicated to and in memory of our 2nd GRREAT Golden, Happy, who left our side on Dec. 15, 2015 at 11 years old, but will be forever in our hearts. As stated by our Vet here in Atlanta GA (after moving here 10 months ago from VA), "Happy was truly one of the sweetest and happiest dogs that he (everyone) has ever met." She endured 3 foster homes before our lucky adoption when she was 1 1/2 years old. She developed uveitis, and despite constant and wonderful care from Dr. Adkins at the Hope Center in Vienna VA, her one eye needed to be removed. As time went on, she became blind in the other eye but she continued to use her sense of smell to find tennis balls and food, of course! We kept a detailed daily chart on the refrigerator for years to keep up with her 6 eye drops given multiple times a day in order to keep her other eye from increased pressure and pain and possible removal. In the end, it was cancer of the spleen that took the light of our lives from us. Thank you for giving us years of joy and happiness with both Hope and Happy. -- Sherry and Michael Abrasion

Kim Rogers

Judith Eyler

Jo and Yvonne Kinkaid

I wish to provide this donation in memory of Jessie (04-155) and with thanks to David and Carol Yates! They provided us with Yunnan Baiyao to help make our Bailey 05-226 well, again! -- Rosalind Severt

#### *Leo's Heroes (\$500+)*

In loving memory of Fergie, Dickens, and Bronte. Love ya. Love ya. Love ya. -- Harry Sethna and Sarah Navia

In loving memory of Carolyn Beyer's Paige. -- Harry Sethna and Sarah Navia

### Chief's Fund

Blair Semple

Chuck and Sandra Johnson\*\*\*

In the name of Nancy Ruth Rhode. Nancy passed away last month. She and her husband, Bill rescued labs and gave them a safe, loving, and warm home. Nancy would be happy to know that a donation was made on her behalf. JP was the dogs' care taker when the Rhodes traveled, he suggested this donation be made. -- The Gaffney's

In memory of Anna -- Mary Prisbrey\*

### Simile-Finale Fund

Blair Semple

For the dogs we love past and present. -- Kelly Lowry

It has been 5 long years since Sherman left us and despite the new Golden in our lives we still think about Sherm and miss him daily. June 2000 - November 2010 -- Melvin Ambrose\*

In memory of 'Jake Foote' a GRREAT alum. Jake lived happily with his Foote Family, Bill, Sarah, Connor, Logan and Noah for 14 years. He was a fabulous family member and gave his love every day. He will be missed greatly! -- Kenneth and Kathy Thomas  
Kenneth and Kathy Thomas\*

In memory of Copper and Schatze. In Honor of Leslie Hoy. -- Elizabeth Tauser

## BOARD OF DIRECTOR NEWS

The GRREAT Board of Directors met on May 21, 2016 with Barbara Bertsch Boyd presiding.

Agenda items included discussion of GRREAT's involvement in the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) National Rescue Parade in September 2017, efforts to develop a closer relationship between GRREAT and Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club (PVGRC), and the implementation of Salesforce for GRREAT's tracking and reporting efforts.

Fundraising was a topic of discussion, including potential grant money available through The April Fund, and preliminary planning of GRREAT's annual October 3K walk. Treasurer Harry Sethna did a walk-thru and discussion of the 2015 audit and taxes.

Medical Coordinator Lucinda Twining discussed vet concerns regarding bringing dogs in from other countries and ensuring we don't put local dogs at risk with unknown parasites or illnesses uncommon in the US.

## HERE'S A DONATION

- I'd like to make a donation to GRREAT for \_\_\_\_\_

- In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

- In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

- To thank \_\_\_\_\_

All donations are tax deductible and are gratefully acknowledged in *GRREAT News*.

### Checks should be made payable to GRREAT.

Please mail forms with your contribution to:  
GRREAT, P.O. Box 190, Merrifield, VA 22116

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

- New Member       Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

- Mark here if this is an address or name change

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mark as many as applicable:

- I am enclosing \$40 for my 2016 membership dues.
- I am enclosing a tax-deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- I am interested in becoming a GRREAT Volunteer.  
(Please fill out and return Volunteer form as well).
- I am enclosing \$10 (each) for a 2016 Golden Membership(s). Please write name of dog(s).  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I am interested in donating the following services or supplies to GRREAT:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please complete this form to volunteer. Return to:

**GRREAT**  
**Attention: Volunteer Coordinator**  
**P.O. Box 190, Merrifield, VA 22116**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

OK to call at work?     Yes     No

### Please indicate any area of interest.

The appropriate GRREAT Coordinator will contact you for more information.

\_\_\_\_ Become a foster home for GRREAT dogs

\_\_\_\_ Help at Adoption Events, Education Events, Fundraising & Micro-chipping Clinics

\_\_\_\_ Transport GRREAT dogs (to/from vet, animal shelter, etc.)

\_\_\_\_ Perform home visits for potential adopters prior to adoption

\_\_\_\_ Additional Information or Comments:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This form can be filled out online at  
<http://www.grreat.org/how-to-help/volunteer-form/>



## GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

P.O. Box 190  
Merrifield, VA 22116

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MERRIFIELD, VA  
PERMIT NO. 2773



**Berkley 15-090**

## GRREAT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

There is a rescue for Golden Retrievers? This is a commonly asked question at the numerous events in which GRREAT participates. When people discover that GRREAT takes in about 100 dogs every year, you can see the shock and amazement on their faces and you can hear it in their voices. People know that Golden Retrievers are such good dogs, so they can't help but wonder "Why would anyone give up a Golden?" It is because of comments such as these that GRREAT attends events to help educate the public on the need for rescue and the Golden Retriever breed. GRREAT is always looking for and in need of committed volunteers who wish to give some of their time to attend events. For a list of upcoming events go to <http://www.grreat.org/events/>. For more information on any event, please e-mail [events@grreat.org](mailto:events@grreat.org) and if you wish to volunteer at any event, please e-mail [volunteer@grreat.org](mailto:volunteer@grreat.org).

**Instead of monthly Adoption Days, GRREAT will be holding ad hoc events.  
Please check our website and Facebook page for the most up to date information on upcoming events at the  
Berryville and Sykesville Farmers Markets, Dewey Beach Golden Jubilee, and the Annual 3K.  
Stay Tuned!**