



Gold Ribbon Rescue

Helping Golden Retrievers and Their Owners in Central Texas

DECEMBER 2013

GRR's Tree of Hope: A Magical Experience



GRR's 2nd annual *Tree of Hope* launched on Thanksgiving Day this year.

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

Those who wish to participate in the *Tree of Hope* purchase decorations for the virtual holiday tree located on GRR's *Tree of Hope* website. The *Tree of*

Hope has different levels of monetary donations, which allow a donor to decorate the virtual tree along with other donors. In addition, each donor may attach a unique message in honor of that special someone. Each decoration has various prices attached to it; for example, to hang an ornament on the tree, a donor would donate \$10 while a donor wanting to place a gift *underneath* the tree would donate \$50 or more.

As each donor logs onto the website and donates, the tree begins to grow with holiday decorations from all those who participate.

Last year, through your generosity, our 2012 *Tree of Hope* donations amounted to \$15,000, all of which went towards our Extraordinary Golden Fund. For those of you who followed Brady, the severely neglected golden, some of those donations went towards his medical care. And Timmy, the young puppy in need of two hip replacements, is another beautiful dog who continues to benefit from your *Tree of Hope* donations.

Because of your *Tree of Hope* donations, there have been many, many other dogs in between who have also benefited from this fundraiser. Please consider donating through the *Tree of Hope* again as we continue serving golden retrievers in need in the Central Texas area.

To participate, click the following [link](#) to be directed to GRR's 2013 [Tree of Hope](#).

2013 Holiday Party and Champagne Brunch

Mark your calendar for Gold Ribbon Rescue's 13th Annual Holiday Party and Champagne Brunch held on *Sunday, December 22 from 11 am – 1 pm at 9419 Westminster Glen Ave., Austin, Texas*. This will be a great time to share some laughter and good memories—and a little champagne and wine, of course.

We hope you can join us for our Annual Holiday Brunch—delicious food, wonderful friends, many laughs, and great memories.

Tickets are \$25 a person. This is an event for the adult 2-leggers only. A silent auction will be held at the event as well to raise funds for Gold Ribbon Rescue. All proceeds go towards meeting the needs of Central Texas goldens.

Be sure to [RSVP](#) to the event. GRR extends a big thank you to Sandy Nordstrom and Bob Ashenbrenner who will be hosting the party at their home.

Upcoming Events

Nov 28 – Dec 31-
Tree of Hope

Dec 22 – [Holiday Brunch](#)

Volunteer Training:
January 11, 2014 –
[Austin Animal Center](#)
from 1-4 pm

February 8, 2014 –
San Antonio @ TBD
from 1-4 pm

For more information
about GRR events,
email Gail March at
gail_march@hotmail.com

[Click to learn more.](#)



Just in Time for a Holiday Blessing



Lola with her foster family.

In the chaotic months of the holiday season, as we struggle to maintain our sanity while preparing delicious meals, wrapping gifts, decorating the house, and attending parties, let's not forget to hug our golden retrievers *and* especially the people who make Gold Ribbon Rescue what it is today: an organization we are all proud to be a part of.

We often forget that in a way, by saving one golden, we are forever saving the adopter as well. And Lola is the perfect example of how dogs may not be our whole life, but they sure do make our lives whole.

Just recently adopted, when Lola initially came to our rescue group, her front leg had already been amputated, an injury stemming from being tethered to a rope while she rode in the back of her dad's pick-up truck. While riding down the road, she leaped out—and found herself hanging, one of her front legs tightly and hopelessly twisted and tangled in the rope. Her owner managed to free her—but not before the leg was damaged so badly that amputation was the only option.

Despite suffering a terrible tragedy, Lola's golden spirit could not be muted. Her previous foster mom said, "If I could pick the perfect home for Lola, I would place her with a child who was struggling with a bully at school or a family that had a rough life like hers. She seems to just know how to make everything better when my kids are sad."

Though she may have moved on to her forever home, Lola's presence will remain eternally with her foster family. While there are tears shed for the loss of a gentle and loving companion, they are the good kind: "Lola has taught my kids so much. It's amazing to see your kids love an animal like that."

And when Lola's forever family came to get her, the family's 15 month old gave Lola a big ol' drooly kiss which Lola reciprocated with a big ol' lick to the face. And as you can tell from the picture above, Lola has settled in as one of the family. Another meaningful life change for both human and dog—courtesy of Gold Ribbon Rescue.



Lola at her forever home.

We give thanks.

Volunteer Spotlight: Becky La Brum

How long have you been volunteering with GRR?

I've been volunteering since August of 2001, so about 12 ½ years now.



What made you want to volunteer with GRR?

Our first dog, Lulu, was a golden who came from a breeder. She was the best dog ever and made me want to do something to help golden retrievers who, unlike her, were not born with a silver spoon in their mouths! I started out just donating money, and then working Hotline, and then fostering, and then I got pulled down into the rescue vortex! We thought for sure our second dog would be a rescue golden and instead he turned out to be a gangly black Lab, but we got him through GRR, and he was one in a million. We have adopted seven GRR dogs in all.

What volunteer position do you hold?

Ha! I don't think my position really has a name. In my time I have done just about everything (intake direction, Hotline direction, foster coordinating, fostering, interviewing, home visits, lots of writing for the website), but now I mostly keep track of all our numbers. And I still work Hotline and do some writing.

Support GRR

Shop at [Randall's](#) and donate to GRR with no cost to you.

[Let us show you how!](#)

Support us by shopping at [Amazon](#) and help raise funds with no extra cost to you. Use this [link](#)

Purchase [Synflex for Humans](#) and [Synflex for Pets](#): a product to effectively manage osteoarthritis, aid in rehabilitating damaged cartilage, promote healthy joints, and reduce inflammation.

Purchase [Flint River Ranch Premium Pet Food](#): [One of the best rated dog & cat foods on the market](#). Delivered to your home (use ID: 2hw2).

Need to Renew Your GRR Membership?

Or Become a Member for the First Time?

Click the link below to access the GRR Membership page.

<http://www.grr-tx.com/membership.htm>

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

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

I keep track of intakes & adoptions weekly, monthly & yearly as well as the dogs' ages, reasons for surrender, where they came from, etc. I send out a weekly update letting everyone know who came in, who got adopted, who's in the pipeline waiting, and so on. If someone e-mails asking how to surrender his or her dog, I am usually the one who responds.

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

I spend at least 7 hours a week. Sometimes more.

What is your favorite part about volunteering in this position?

As for keeping track of the numbers, it is pretty great to watch the list of intakes and adoptions growing throughout the year and imagine all those dogs together. That's a lot of goldens getting brand new lives! It's also interesting to see how the trends change year to year. For instance, we used to always bring in about 50% owner surrenders, 50% shelter dogs. In the past couple of years, the numbers are much more skewed towards shelter dogs. And I still love working Hotline. You get to know people who later become very active in the group, and there's always something new going on.

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

Well, you can't really come up with a funny story about keeping track of numbers. But living with dogs there's always something amusing going on. Our Lulu always performed panty raids in the laundry hamper (later I learned this is a golden trait!) and once presented a brand new bra to the plumber. Yikes! And I vividly remember letting my very first foster dog out to potty at 6 AM on a cold winter morning, still dark, and watching him take off like a shot towards the back of the yard after a squirrel. He could jump like a gazelle, and I was sure he was going to go right over the cyclone fence. So there I was in my undies, barefoot, racing across the freezing grass, pursuing a dog who had met me literally the day before, thinking "Oh no! I'm going to get fired as a foster family for sure!" Luckily I caught him in time and learned my lesson, namely close supervision at all times for new fosters.

(I'll tell you one other funny thing, I never did like dogs for much of my adult life & my husband had to twist my arm for ages to get me to agree to getting puppy Lulu. Now look at me.)

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

For volunteers serving in any position in rescue, every little bit helps. Never underestimate what just one loving heart can do. And prepare to learn a lot from the goldens you help. I am constantly amazed at their resilience and positive attitude. It's pretty incredible.

What is one word that describes your experience while volunteering for GRR?

Oh... inspiring, rewarding, heartwarming, heartbreaking at times. Also addictive. (: Our rescue dogs really do amaze me. And there is just nothing like the feeling of taking in a shelter dog or stray or lonely backyard pup and having him fall asleep with his head in your lap, so trusting, or watching him snoozing on a nice soft bed, surrounded by toys, when it's icy cold or boiling hot outside, and knowing he will never have to worry about anything again.

Need a Last Minute Holiday Gift: GRR Calendars on Sale

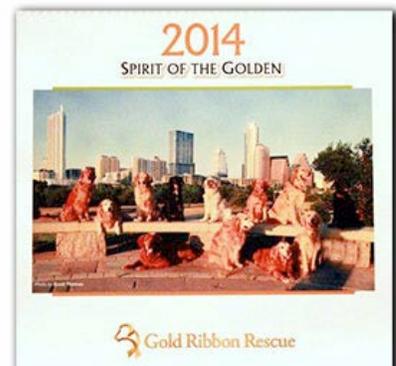
Don't forget the 2014-2015 Gold Ribbon Rescue Calendars are now on sale. Calendars are \$23.95 and include shipping and handling. All proceeds go towards supporting goldens currently in our care.

To purchase a calendar for yourself or for a loved one (it would make a great stocking stuffer!), visit GRR's [boutique page](#).

Where Are They Now?

Written by 13 1/2 year old Elle Hansen, GRR Volunteer

Hello! I am Elle Hansen, and our family rescued "Magoo" a few months ago. We now call him



How Can You Help a Golden?

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

Become a [monthly donor](#) and we'll automatically charge your credit card

[Volunteer](#) – lots of exciting opportunities

[Foster](#) – helping a golden is rewarding

Contact Sheila at Sheila@grr-tx.com



Winchester. After the loss of our last golden, Oakley, we went into this adoption nervous but also thrilled. We saw Winchester on the website and really thought he was a beautiful dog. We met him and fell in love. He sure had an interesting story, since he had lived in shelters and homes all over south Texas. And what an interesting time we have had settling into our home together.

As soon as he came home with us, Win fit in just perfectly. However, in the first couple days of coming into our home, he wouldn't let us leave the house without him. Whenever the door opened, he would run out into the garage and refuse to come back inside the house. Our matchmaker, Carol, taught us some tricks to use to get out of the house without Win coming with us. After we taught him those tricks, he learned to stay and lay down, and he would not move a muscle until we returned! Then he discovered he could watch from the front window. Now he waits patiently, watching the driveway for us to pull up.

Also, in the first couple days, I asked my dad if he could stop Winchester from waking me up every night. My dad didn't understand what I meant at first, but soon, he realized that Winchester goes up to check on me in the middle of the night—just to make sure I am ok.

Winchester is a very social dog, although he is still leash reactive. We have taken him to training at the Canine Center, and he is doing much better. He has become best friends with my grandmother's dog Buster, who is also a rescue dog. Surprisingly enough, he also loves my guinea pig, Olive. We were a little afraid his hunting instincts were too strong, and he would only see her as lunch, but they are friends now. In fact, they actually look a lot alike since they are both red with white patches on their foreheads.

Winchester is one of the funniest dogs you will ever meet. About a month and a half after we rescued him, we noticed a new funny behavior. One night, we were planning on having soup and some artesian bread. We left the artesian bread on the counter, and then we left the house. When we returned, the bread was nowhere to be found! We were so scared he ate the whole package, so we kept looking until we found it. To our surprise, it was perfectly placed under the cushion of the couch. And it was untouched! As the days went by, we noticed more and more things were hidden throughout the house, but remained completely untouched. My dad says that he is a "prepper," making sure we have supplies in case of disaster.



Winchester has become a very playful dog since he arrived. When we first adopted him, he had just completed his heartworm treatment, so we weren't sure how playful he would be. He didn't play a lot right away, but soon after... Oh my gosh! We started him off with a few toys, and now he can't get enough playtime! He has many toys now, and he grabs a toy and just runs around with it and even plays by himself. What a silly boy he is!

Winchester is also attentive and protective. In fact, if he sees a hawk fly outside, he will start to bark. He is very vocal and my dad is trying to teach him to say "I love you."

Winchester is the most adorable and loving dog. He is such a wonderful addition to our family. I don't know what we would do without him. Our family always says, "A home without a dog is just a house," and having Winchester completes us.

If you would like to have your dog featured in the "Where Are They Now" column, write up a brief story like Winchester's and send to newsletter@grr-tx.com.

Homemade Holiday Treats: Banana Bites Recipe

from Animal Planet.com <http://animal.discovery.com/pets/5-dog-treats-recipes.htm>

Why should we limit holiday gifts to just our two-legged friends? To show your beloved golden you care, gather your kids in the kitchen to bake these canine *and* kid friendly holiday treats.

Start by gathering all the necessary ingredients:

- 3 cups oatmeal
- 1-1/4 cup of flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup oil
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 mashed bananas

Mix all the wet ingredients together first (oil, honey, milk, and bananas), and then add the flour and oatmeal until you have a smooth batter. Put older kids in charge of measuring and younger ones in charge of mixing. Everyone can help pour the batter onto a lightly greased cookie sheet, and then bake at 325 degrees (160 degrees Celsius) for 25 minutes. Once your banana bites are cool to the touch, use a knife or pizza cutter to slice them into small, bite-sized squares.



Dogs really go bananas for these yummy snacks, but don't let your pet eat too many, as they can be fattening. Particularly if your dog is prone to pudginess, be sure to limit him to just a few treats per day. Banana bites can also be used as incentive to exercise or do tricks. Keep them in the refrigerator until your dog does something treat-worthy.

Shop Amazon.com and Help a Golden

Did you know that by shopping at Amazon.com, you can support GRR as well?

Simply go to the GRR [website](#), and scroll down to the bottom of the home page. Look for the Amazon icon. Then click on the "Shop Amazon with this special link."



When you click on those words, you'll be directed to Amazon and to your account, but Gold Ribbon Rescue will receive a donation each time you shop.

It's as easy as pecan pie!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from GRR



Gold Ribbon Rescue

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