

2016

Gold Ribbon Rescue

A N N U A L R E P O R T



Mission

Our mission: to find safe, loving, lifetime homes for Golden Retrievers in need, regardless of age, medical conditions or circumstances. Everything that we do as an organization supports this goal.

- Gold Ribbon Rescue provides public education on responsible dog ownership, supplying information on training, health problems and organizing local dog activities 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. We are an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) organization.

Board of Directors

Margo Biba • *President*

Emily Tuczowski • *Vice-President*

Tim Tierney • *Treasurer*

Paula Ellis

Michelle Goldberg

Kathy Simmons

Jacki Mulkey



President's Message

Gold Ribbon Rescue,

In 2016, we celebrated our eighteenth year of saving Golden Retrievers. It has been wonderful to look back at all we have accomplished including rescuing and rehoming close to 2,850 Goldens since our inception.

I believe we have continued to be a successful rescue organization, because of the following:

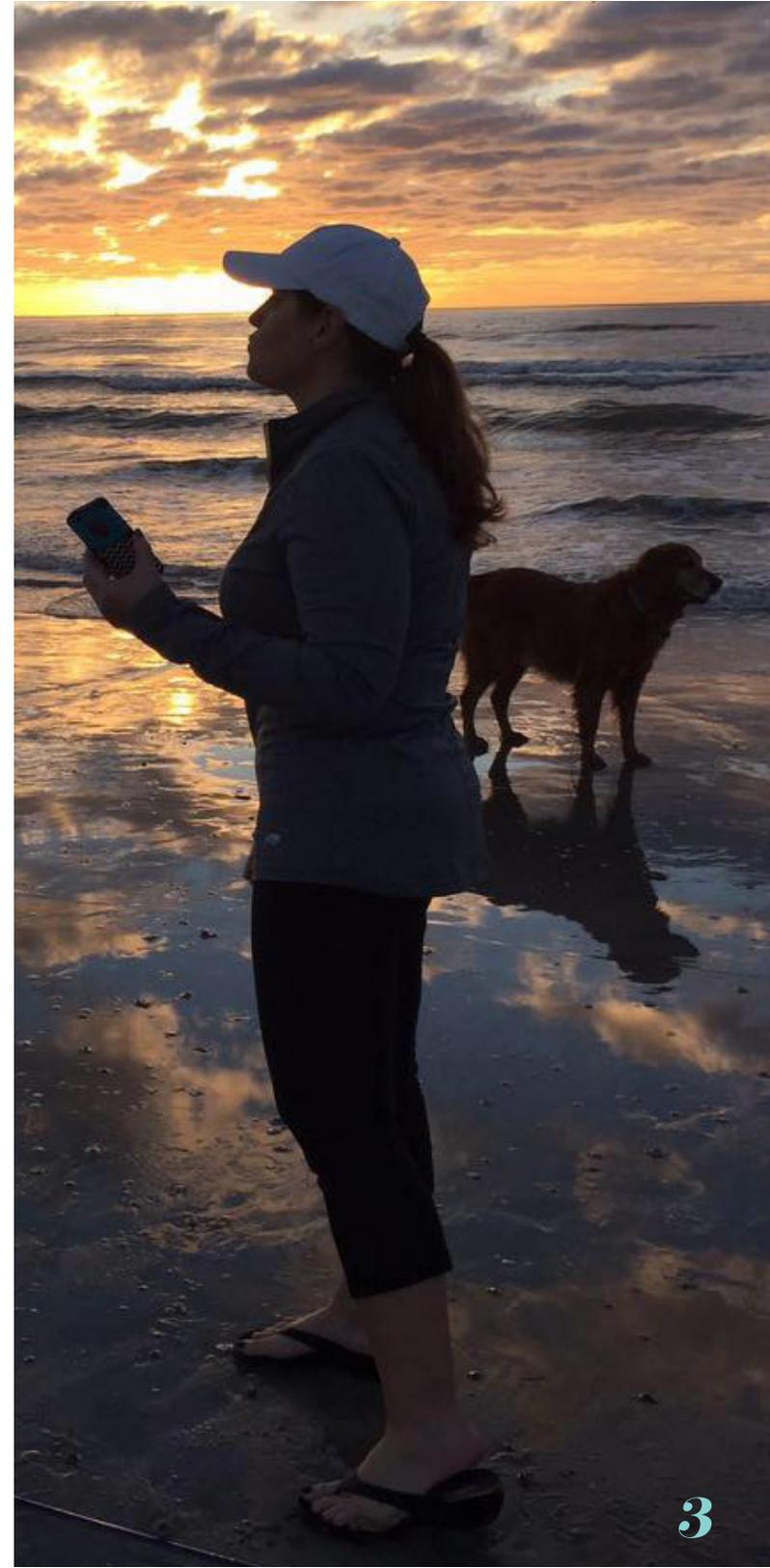
- Good fiscal management—despite seeing costs rise
- Enhanced team infrastructure with better defined processes
- Dedicated volunteers who have incredible talent, passion, and great people skills

We saw more dogs with emotional and behavioral needs in 2016 and so created a training team within GRR to assess the needs of dogs in foster care. In addition, this program works closely with local trainers. We believe this team has reduced euthanasia and dog return rates, providing dogs with the best opportunity to move forward.

Everything that Gold Ribbon Rescue does is a result of our shared commitment for animal rescue. I am proud that we were able to care for 146 Goldens in 2016. We could not have done this without the generosity of our supporters, volunteers and donors, along with our many wonderful veterinarians.

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 watch all of the Goldens we save in 2017 and beyond. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you,

Margo Biba, President
Gold Ribbon Rescue



Significant Programs

RESCUE. REHABILITATE. REHOME.

Gold Ribbon will rescue non-aggressive Golden Retrievers: the old, the sick and the injured, the young and healthy and everything in between. Each dog coming into our program receives a thorough intake assessment, medical care and a behavioral assessment, if needed, while being housed and cared for in a foster environment before being adopted to a loving, forever home.

Special Dogs Require Extraordinary Care

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, 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 Golden Retrievers, regardless of their issues. Our 2016 EGF Golden Retrievers include: Diesel, Shirley, Marley, Tundra, Hunter, Sunshine, Hamilton, Elis, Charlemagne, Mason, Zoe, Quincy, LaVerne and Sherlock.

Our Permanent Fosters

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

Your very generous donations and Golden Angel Sponsorships help us continue this important part of rescue. In 2016, GRR permanent fosters included Beau, Blanca, Collin, Duchess, Miranda, Mikayla, Paisley, Sam, Truman, Velvet and Wheeler, Magnum and Allison.

Behavioral Assessment and Training

As more Golden Retrievers come to GRR with emotional and behavioral issues, we increased our focus in 2016 on positive training and professional behavioral care. We formed an internal GRR training team who partnered with approximately 20 foster families and certified trainers in the Central Texas area to address a dog's behavioral needs. We saw good progress and believe this initiative enabled more dogs to find a forever home and consequently, also reduced the return and euthanasia rates.

Operation Close To Home: Mexico City

In the fall of 2016, 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, partnering with the Refugio Franciscano Animal Shelter in Mexico City. Three Golden Retrievers arrived in January 2017 with a promise of additional dogs throughout 2017. A key difference from the Turkish Dog rescue is that the Mexico City dogs will travel via a direct commercial flight so the travel time (and cost) is much lower. As with the Turkey dogs, the Mexico City Golden Retrievers will be fully vaccinated and meet all guidelines for bringing dogs into the US. Stay tuned to learn more about this program in 2017.



Our Supporters

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 talents, 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.

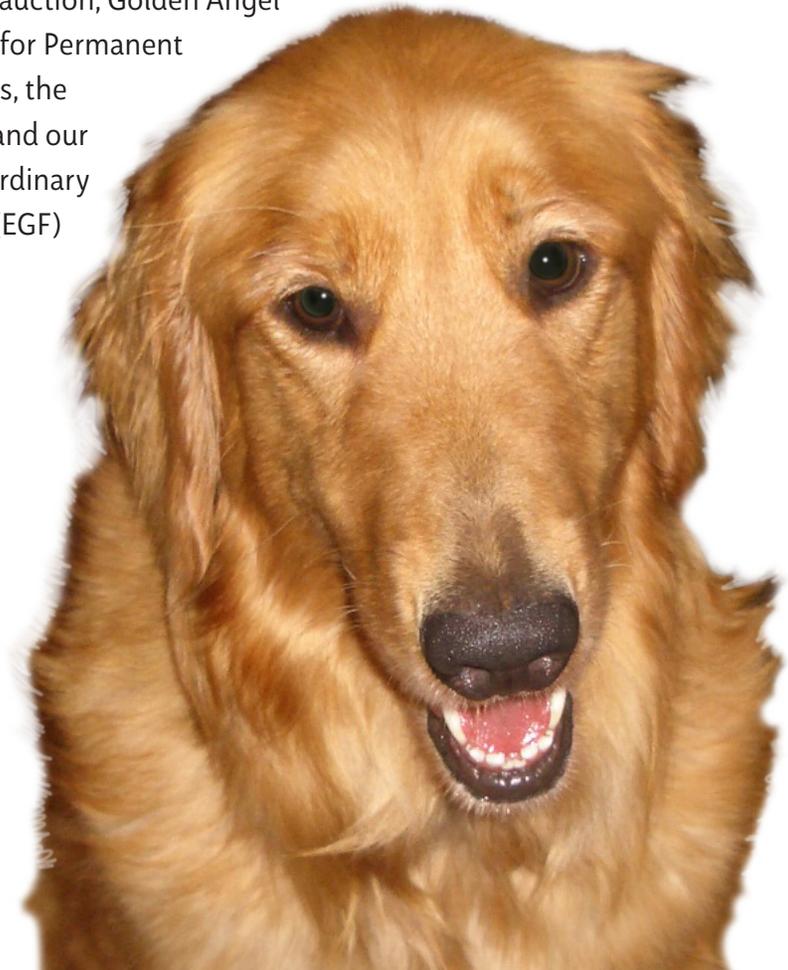
Our Members

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 GRR, it's always all about the dogs, but we also enjoyed getting together for fun activities, including Valentine's at the Zoom Room, Swimfest at the Quarries, the GRR Gala, the annual Holiday Party and the Volunteer Appreciation event. San Antonio adopters and volunteers organized a spring meet up at Two Brothers BBQ as well. We also hosted several educational seminars presented by trainers and held an art class where everyone painted a portrait of a Golden.

Major fundraising initiatives in 2016 included Amplify Austin, the GRR calendar auction, Golden Angel Sponsorships for Permanent Foster Golden Retrievers, the Tree of Hope and our annual Extraordinary Golden Fund (EGF) campaign.



Rescue Trends

In our 18 years of operation, we have helped close to 2850 dogs on their journeys home. Trends that we are seeing in Gold Ribbon Rescue are similar to what other Golden Retriever rescue groups are experiencing nationwide:

- During the height of the recession, our intake numbers soared to over 200 dogs in a single year while in 2016, that number was significantly reduced. The improved economy and, more importantly, education, has led to a gradual decline in dogs abandoned or euthanized in shelters. Craig's List is also changing how people rehome Golden Retrievers.
- Golden Retriever rescue groups are seeing medical costs increase significantly as dogs come to rescue with more serious medical needs. The good news is that with today's advanced veterinary care, more and more rescue dogs can enjoy a long, healthy, happy life.
- We also support the trend to take in a small number of Golden mixes each year, as we can and have available foster space. While these dogs may not be pure Golden Retrievers, they have Golden hearts and temperament, and are still considered at risk.
- Golden Retriever rescue groups across the United States continued to support international rescue initiatives of Golden Retrievers worldwide. One of our reasons for implementing the Mexico City rescue program is that this is an area currently under served by rescue.

"I WANT TO LOVE LIKE A DOG, WITH UNABASHED DEVOTION AND COMPLETE LACK OF CONCERN ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE DO FOR A LIVING, HOW MUCH MONEY THEY HAVE, OR HOW MUCH THEY WEIGH."

Oprah Winfrey



Etched 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 required. Here are five who were able to complete their journeys because they found their way to Gold Ribbon Rescue in 2016.



Rosebud came to GRR after a family posted her on Craig's List as available. She was living in an open field in a lean-to shelter and was eating their chickens. In her new foster home, she flew the coop and for 44 days she was missing, despite a massive search for her and a dedicated team who tried to lure her in. She was a frightened and skittish dog when GRR finally got her back into care. She now enjoys a quiet home, safe and sound, because of a strong and caring GRR community.



Zoe came from an abusive home so she carried considerable emotional baggage and was fearful of men. She was easily stressed by new situations, new people, and unfamiliar noises. After working with trainers to build confidence and trust, Zoe moved to a very patient foster home where she received more training, lots of attention, consistency and love. It took baby steps but Zoe is now adopted, happy and learning that the world is a good place.



Diesel was found discarded by the side of the road with oozing ulcers and raging mange covering most of his body, and because of this, Diesel touched our hearts. No one could believe that anyone would 'dump' a dog in this condition. Though he couldn't stand and was in pain, Diesel wagged his tail and had a smile on his face when the volunteer brought him in. After months of care, he is happy, healthy and enjoying life as a GRR dog. Diesel is an amazing transformation.



Skeeter had been used for breeding for most of her 7 years—living in a backyard was all she knew. As a result, Skeeter was not socialized and quite shy. With positive reinforcement, patience, love and being with other calm Goldens in her foster home, Skeeter has made significant progress. She will always be sensitive, timid and fearful of new situations but Skeeter continues to grow emotionally and socially and is starting to enjoy the 'good life.'



Ransom came into Gold Ribbon with a really nasty wound on his right front leg. He was only two years old. The shelter called us and said, "This boy needs help quickly." GRR picked him up and rushed him to a surgeon. Unfortunately, his leg couldn't be saved and so it was amputated. Rehabilitation took a few weeks but today, Ransom is happily running around the backyard with his GRR sibling in his forever home. We can all learn from Ransom's positive, carefree attitude as nothing keeps this boy down.

Your own personal
ray of sunshine.



Gold Ribbon
Rescue
Golden Oldies



Bitsie (16-087), 12+ years



Once someone has had the good fortune to share a true love affair with a Golden Retriever, one's life and one's outlook is never quite the same.

Betty White

How You Can Help

Only 24% of our operating expenses are covered by 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.

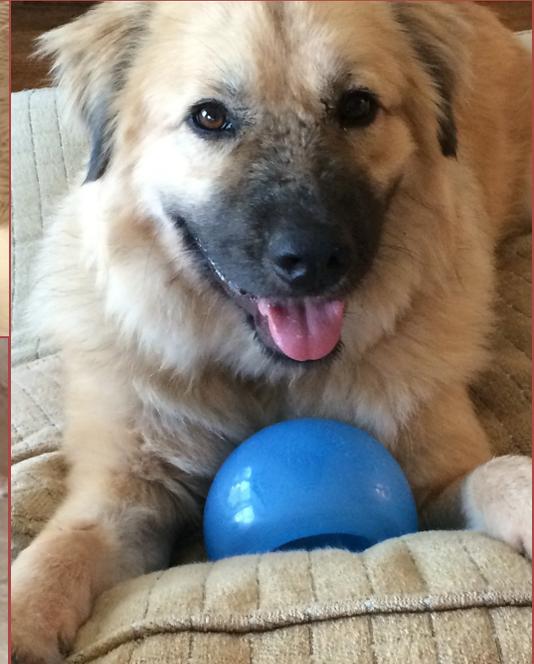
- **Financial Support** (<http://www.grr-tx.com/about/how-can-i-help>): Through General Donations and the Extraordinary Golden Fund, you are helping provide direct medical care for dogs. These donations cover routine care such as vaccinations, spay/neuter, and heartworm treatment and special care such as hip surgeries, repairing broken bones, removing tumors and behavioral needs. Our Monthly Donor program makes it easy to donate regularly. You select the amount and it is automatically deducted from your account.
- **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 here.
- **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 and 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.
- **Randalls**: The next time you're at Randalls, link your Remarkable Card to our number 8583. Randalls will pay GRR a percentage of your purchase at no cost to you.
- **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.

- **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 listed on our website.
- **Foster** (<http://www.grr-tx.com/support/foster-parent>): There is no greater gift than providing a dog in need a safe place to land before it gets adopted. All you need to supply is a loving home and quality dog food.
- **Social Media:** Become active on our social media platforms and spread the word about GRR with Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.
<https://www.facebook.com/GoldRibbonRescue/>
<https://twitter.com/grrtexas>
<https://www.instagram.com/grrtexas/>

Everyone everywhere can play a role in supporting our work. Here are few other 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 (each community is different)
- Help an elderly or ill neighbor keep their pet in their home by lending a hand
- Donate in whatever way works best for you.





Financials 2016

Condensed statement of activities for year ending December 31, 2016

Income

Adoption/Application Fees	\$ 42,626
Calendar	\$ 8,767
Donations	\$ 95,858
Events	\$ 15,532
Membership Dues	\$ 11,180
Other	\$ 3,142
Total Income	\$ 177,105

Expenses

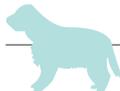
Administrative	\$21,480
Golden-Related Costs	
Supplies \$3,342	
Medication \$13,348	
Training \$10,420	
Vet/Medical \$121,175	
Total Golden Expenses	\$148,288
Fundraising	\$4,090
Education	\$1,183
Turkey Dogs	\$2,313
Other (Credit)	-\$566
Total Expenses	\$176,788
Net Profit	-\$317

2016 Rescue Demographics

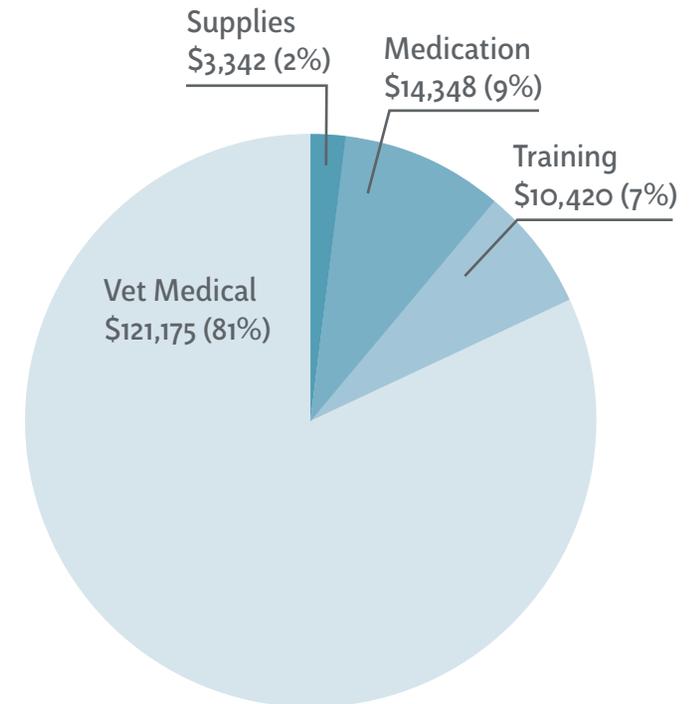
128 new dogs received

146 adopted

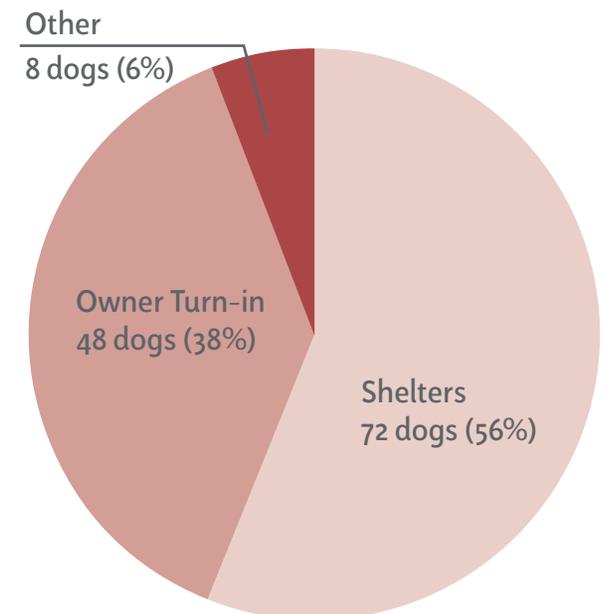
Rescue Distribution - Age

	40	0-2 years	30%
	39	3-5 years	30%
	35	6-8 years	26%
	13	9-11 years	10%
	5	12+ years	4%

Golden Expense Breakdown



Type of Intakes





Bella (16-113)

Do you want to
play with me?

