



"A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!"™

May 2026

Golden GRRROWI

A registered non-profit 501(c)(3)
charitable organization

Marney Bean and Nanny Max

by Sara J. Ingram with Dave Shultz

The knowledge and what seems like wisdom displayed by Max ensures that our much younger girl will learn the skills she needs to live her best life.

Older dogs make the best teachers

My husband Dave and I have previously adopted seniors from GRRR. Three of those have been former breeders. Each arrived with special needs, both physical and emotional, yet in the relatively short time they were with us they had months or a few years of truly thriving.

Last fall, our 13-year-old female passed away, leaving our nine-year-old Golden, Max, also a GRRR adoptee, bereft and despondent. Although we love providing the seniors with love and care in their twilight of life, we felt it would be best this time to adopt a younger companion to revitalize Max's dispirited demeanor.

I had seen a GRRR photo of sisters Lady and Rose, who looked identical with intelligent eyes – beautiful girls. When Roberta called to say they were ready for adoption, she enlightened me about GRRR's policy to adopt siblings to separate homes with an older dog in residence. She explained the importance of the older dog teaching the new one the expectations and routines for living their best life.

I was a little worried the dog we adopted would suffer separation anxiety from her littermate, along with the fact that Lady and Rose were former breeders at the young age of three.

We brought Lady home after some difficulty getting her in our minivan at GRRR. We renamed her Marney Bean. She was unbelievably sweet and affectionate, and also very smart. She bonded immediately with Max, following him everywhere, sleeping next to him, and within a few days she was responding to basic commands.

And there were TOYS! And backyard squirrels. The old couch in front of the big window where she spent a lot of time watching the squirrels running along the top of the privacy fence. Then, on her third day, I heard Max barking



frantically and rushed to the living room where Marney had uprooted the one floor plant I'd neglected to elevate. Retrieving it from her mouth and giving her a toy, I praised Max for alerting me to "the kid doing something she shouldn't." Good boy. I started referring to him as Nanny Max.

For a dog who had previously not experienced a "normal" canine world, taking Marney on walks filled us with wonder as she acclimated to *everything* that was new. Smart and curious, those early days involved frequent stops along the route – time she needed to observe what she'd never seen before. Marney never exhibited fear or anxiety, merely curiosity and time to imprint each new image, or unfamiliar scent or sound.

There were bicycles, kids on rollerblades, roofers and painters on tall ladders. The occasional car passing in our quiet neighborhood. Noisy trash trucks. Flags snapping in the strong wind. We took our time, witnessing how Marney processed so much sensory input before moving along. I will add that within one week she had mastered leash walking like a pro.

We only had a couple of small hiccups, such as her snatching two cookies cooling on the kitchen counter before we noticed. We'd never had a counter surfer dog so that was a boundary lesson. However, the next day when I was bent over the counter focused on a grocery list, I caught a peripheral glimpse of something white to my left. Turning, I saw Marney's paws were on the counter edge, and her big, beautiful face was peering at what I was doing! So darn cute.

Not as cute was loading the dishwasher, turning to discover Marney's stealth approach with front feet on the open door, her nose in overdrive pulling in old food scents, and about to step completely onto the door for that culinary adventure. Whoa! More boundaries.

As with all rescues, we learn about their prior lives through ingrained behaviors. While informative, such indicators of former neglect, abuse, poor socialization and low stimulation have been heartbreaking. Despite all the toys, walks, chasing squirrels, treats, and starting to do zoomies and play with Max, Marney Bean would occasionally start chewing on the bound edges of rugs in the house. *Was that all she'd had for stimulation in her breeding environment?* A lump in my throat as I redirected her to her favorite Lambchop toy.

There was one significant hurdle ahead. After such difficulty getting her in the minivan at the GRRR

adoption, we knew helping Marney adjust to necessary transportation was essential to preventing a Houdini escape. She had a vet appointment the following week.

I had a plan . . .

With the minivan in the garage, the side door open, we opened the door from our family room to the double garage. Always curious, Marney stood in the doorway staring at the huge, unfamiliar, yawning space, not to mention the three carpeted steps down to the garage floor.

Using a long, loosely held leash, I urged her to come down the steps toward me. My plan was to let her explore a bit while I sat in the van doorway, not encouraging her to get in on Day One of what I anticipated might take several days for her to reach a comfort level.

At the top of the three steps that morning, Marney tentatively placed one front foot on the top step – and froze. Ah, she didn't know how to navigate steps. That was new information. I moved closer with gentle encouragement. I offered a treat she ignored. We waited, letting her get her bearings. A minute passed. Then another. She remained frozen halfway down that top step.



Marney & Max with Dr. Lindsey Norberg, Goldsmith Animal Clinic.

Suddenly, Max pushed around her from behind, trotted down the steps and went directly to the open van door. He stopped, made eye contact with Marney, then jumped in the van. That was totally unprompted by us, and we figured he'd grown tired of waiting for what he anticipated was a short drive to a nearby park for a walk.

Our sweet girl still hadn't moved after several seconds and that's when Max blew us away. He hopped out of the van, again looked at Marney, and then jumped back in. That did it! Marney awkwardly fumbled down the steps and went right to the van door and jumped in! She didn't linger, just grabbed a soft toy before executing a valiant leap to the garage floor, but she'd overcome several initially paralyzing hurdles to achieve our goal for her.

Dave and I were in awe of what had just transpired! It was Max who took charge of the situation, knowing what was needed – to get Marney Bean in the van – when we humans had been unsuccessful. His confidence as teacher and guide seemed extraordinary to us. Yet, he'd had a week bonding with her in a mentoring role, aware of her smaller or more subtle successes emulating his behavior. I thought of what Roberta had said, that *older dogs are the best teachers*. Indeed, our older boy was then officially “Nanny Max.”

As Dave and I talked about what we witnessed that morning (rather humbled by our training failure), we kept returning to the surprising moment of Max exiting the van to make eye contact with Marney a second time, communicating what was expected. She trusted him.



Max & Marney

In the following days, repeating the van drill, Marney no longer hesitated on the steps (another achievement) and hopped right in. Our contribution to her comfort was keeping that soft toy IN the minivan, which she promptly grabbed like an emotional support prop.

The vet visit was the next success without human gymnastics required to keep her safe and no longer frantic to get in the van or escape. And, with Max, who *loves* our vet, Marney settled quickly in the exam room after a few minutes of anxious pacing. More imprinting of new horizons in her expanding world, with Max as mentor, guide, and trusted big brother.

The learning curve of what we've witnessed between Max and Marney Bean is, for us, to trust in the communication they share. Marney, as a former breeder, is nonverbal so far (has not barked yet, which we've noted with each breeder girl we've adopted). But that doesn't matter in the intuitive ways they communicate. The knowledge and what seems like *wisdom* displayed by Max ensures that our much younger girl will learn the skills she needs to live her best life.

Marney Bean's path to landing with us began at GRRR with what I consider the FAST members' First Responder compassion, care, love, and gentle guidance for the relinquished special needs breeders. I think that's an amazing prelude toward recovery and hope.

Then, with an older canine companion in a new home, they will thrive. May all have a Nanny Max! 💙

Recent Rescues

Hi GRRR:

Our Mattie Jo is a true Heinz 57 – she’s 19 different breeds! Our Golden Retriever is really a Great Pyrenees (36%), Australian Cattle Dog (21%), Husky (5%), Dalmation (5%), Australian Shepherd (2%), and 14 other breeds. Her personality is that of a Husky. She talks when she’s happy and grumps and pouts when she doesn’t get her way. She is only 1% Golden Retriever, so hopefully we won’t get kicked out of the Golden Retriever Club! We used Wisdom Panel for the DNA. Not sure of the accuracy, but it is fun.



Mattie Jo

Mattie is slowly losing weight and actually has a little bit of a waist now! We walk about a mile and a half each day and she is still on the diet food. Mattie and Daisy have made peace and all seems to be well. Unless you are a squirrel, Mattie Jo is kind and loving. She looks at Gary like he is her soul mate. It’s so cute!

Thanks again for giving us a great dog once again!

Mary & Gary Owens



Hi GRRR:

Parker came home with me the day after Christmas and I could not be more grateful! I grew up with two little dogs who were adopted in Parker, CO so I knew it was fate. I was nervous to adopt a senior dog (he is 8), but Parker is an absolute sweetheart who loves to cuddle and is so friendly to people. He even stays still when I brush his teeth! We are working on his leash manners and reactivity but he is such an active guy who loves long walks and staring at squirrels, bunnies, and birds.

Parker has also already learned how to “play dead” and “stay,” proof that senior dogs CAN learn new tricks! My family calls him my “work-from-home velcro dog” and I wouldn’t have it any other way.

Brandi Vu



Parker

Dear GRRR:

Today is a year anniversary when we adopted our sweet boy Buddy!

This gentleman is probably 8 or 9 years old now and he loves his new life. He is sweet, protective and funny. He has around 25 toys all over the house and he’s still acting like puppy. He loves hugs. He gave us smile and love every single day - we love him soooooo much

Beata Vernon

Buddy



Dear GRRR:

Ollie (formerly Ely) came to us from GRRR in September of 2025. It took him a couple of months and lots of patience to get him to settle into his new home, learn to go up and down stairs, and where to stash his new brother Dante's toys.

Ollie is a fully integrated member of the family. He enjoys daycare, dog parks, walks, stealing his brother's toys, cuddling, and sleeping on the bed. He's just the best boy.

Sincerely,

Patrick and Patti Wellman

Ollie



Zadie, Zeb, and Oliver

Hi GRRR,

We brought Zebulon home in January and he became one of the pack in no time. Zeb and Zadie keep each other busy with lots of chase, tug, and, much to my garden's chagrin, digging.

Big brother Oliver ran the roost, keeping them both in check until he passed away suddenly last month.

We are GRRRateful to have Zeb's joyful, go with the flow presence to brighten our lives.

Thanks

Kendra and Mike

Dear GRRR:

Otis has been with us for 9 months and has changed our lives! He gets us out and exploring more. He loves to hike and see the world! Has been killing obedience training, really took to "place," but leash skills are still a work in progress because he just loves everything and everyone that exists.

Otis has adapted well to our cat who has boundaries and brightens our day every day. We are so lucky to have found GRRR and Otis!

Mollie Maistelman and Mitchell Morgan

Otis



Recent Rescues

Hello GRRR Team,

February 8th marks Savannah's one-year "Gotcha Day." It is hard to believe it has already been a year; she has grown so much and become incredibly confident.

Savannah has formed a special bond with her sister, Gloria. They enjoy going to daycare together and have even successfully handled overnight stays, which was a milestone we weren't sure she would reach. She is very affectionate, often placing her paw on my arm for attention or bumping my arm with her head to remind me to take a break from work.

We are so grateful to the GRRR team for helping us add Savannah to our family. After losing our Golden, Charlie, at a young age, Savannah has filled our hearts with more love than we could have imagined.

Best regards,

Sandy & Brian Kibling

Savannah



Hi GRRR:

Here are some photos of Rizzo in Golden. We love this pooch and he fills our hearts with such joy.

Thanks for all you do!

Amy Chudik

Rizzo



- Dear GRRR:
- We adopted Murphy on February 5th. He's recently
- just graduated from Puppy School at Terroux Dog
- Training, and had his first day of high school today!
- He's making lots of new friends,
- and went on his first mountain
- hike last
- weekend.
- Hoping he
- could meet
- up with his
- sister again
- one day!
- Thank you
- GRRR!
- Caroline
- Olberding

Murphy



Dear GRRR:

Last week was the one-year anniversary of my wife and I adopting Lilly from GRRR. She may have been called Lillyana. She came to your facility in November with five pups. Roberta assisted us in the adoption.

Lilly is a wonderful addition to our home and very happy here as we are with her. She came to us very well trained and with some slight effort on our part, she behaves very well. She gets along with all dogs she meets, but usually wants to meet the dog's owner more. We suspect she existed in a barn for a while as she is an avid mouse hunter. Running rabbits are of great interest also.

Ray Norton



Lilly

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Dear GRRR:

We adopted Calvin, this sweet, oversized puppy at 12 weeks old, and our hearts are completely full. He's been such a joyful addition to our family, and we feel incredibly lucky to have had the chance to adopt him.

He's pure puppy in every sense... playful, loving, and soaking up every moment of life in his new home.

Welcome home Calvin!

Lana & Verlin Jacobson

Calvin



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Dear GRRR:

Here's a pupdate from my mom: "A little over a year ago Piper came home with me. Piper loves hiking, fishing, bird hunting, camping, and kayaking. One of her favorite places to go is to visit Grandma, Grandpa, Olive and Ivy. She still struggles a little with dogs she doesn't know, which made it hard to find friends patient enough to get to know her quirks, but now she's fully integrated into her pack."

Love,
Piper

Piper

Under the Desk News

with Cowboy Cooper

Howdy, friends!

My name is Cowboy Cooper, but my mom calls me Cooper for short. Unless I am being bad, then it's Cowboy... but that never happens!

I've recently joined the team at GRRR as Chief Morale Officer, Official Dog Greeter and Future Favorite Employee. (Second to the polar bear...I mean, Jezebel!) I've been told Jezebel is actually a Great Pyrenees and a GRRR alum, but I'm pretty confident she could survive in the Arctic. She's large, she's fluffy and she has very strong opinions about personal space, but I am still trying to figure out what that means.

I've also learned that Jezebel is in charge of keeping things in line around here... which honestly makes sense, considering how many dogs come through our gates. Someone has to maintain order. Someone has to be the boss! I'm too busy taking treats from the Cheese Lady, or else I would help her out.

We get a lot of visitors in the office and the Cheese Lady is one of my favorites. The humans call her Cindy and she helps Mary out a lot. I've met a lot of cool volunteers who stop by to say hi... and the best ones have treats!

In other news, it sounds like we are going on a fancy rodeo on June 6th! I keep hearing about saddles, second chances, and western attire. And with a name like Cowboy Cooper, this feels extremely on-brand for me. I've also overheard the humans say that all donations for this big event need to be brought to the office by May 17th... which I can only assume makes me Head of Donation Inspection until further notice. I have been told the donations people are bringing are not for me, which sounds like something that should be reviewed. I have not seen any official paperwork stating I am excluded, so I will be enforcing a strict sniff-and-check policy on every bag that comes through the door before the deadline.

I can't wait to share more of what I see here every day at GRRR... the stories, the smells, and all the dogs who walk through our gates on their way to better days (and hopefully unlimited snacks). I have a feeling this job is going to be a good one.

Right now I'm headed off to investigate a suspicious sound (it is probably nothing, but it could also be my big brother, Goose, getting a treat without me), then return to my very important position under the desk, where I keep watch over the Executive Director and the treat jar.

Until next time,

Spurs up. Cowboy Cooper out. 🐾



2026 GRRR Events

Yo Colorado presentation at The Golden Mill: Thursday, May 7th from 5-9pm

Spring Fling at Phoebe's Place: Sunday, May 17

Annual GRRR Gala: Saturday, June 6

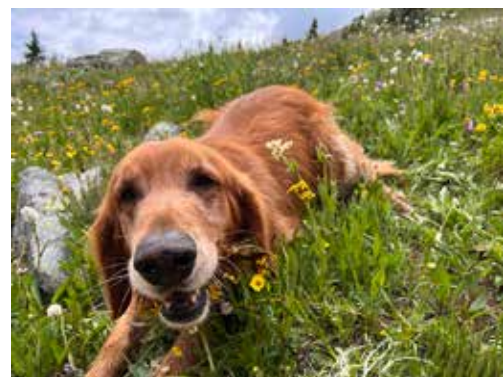
Paint and Sip: July 23rd at 6pm at 7134 W Alaska Dr, Denver, CO 80226.

Senior Play Day at Phoebe's Place: Saturday, August 22 at 10am

Rescue Reunion Picnic at Phoebe's Place: Saturday, Sept 19

Halloween Party at Phoebe's Place: Saturday, October 24

Please check goldenrescue.com more more information.



Golden Angel: Louie

by Jessica Houlihan

Welcome Home, Louie

Louie came into our lives at a time when our hearts were still breaking. We had just lost our sweet GRRR boy, Denver, and only two days after saying goodbye, we found ourselves back at GRRR—not ready to adopt, but needing to be surrounded by dogs and familiar faces. While talking with Mary and Francie, Mary suddenly smiled and said, “I’ll be right back.”

A few minutes later, she returned with a chunky little red-headed retriever named Louie.

We believe Louie is around six years old, and he was the very first dog surrendered to GRRR in the new year. His previous family could no longer care for him, and during his intake exam it was discovered that he had two very bad hips—so severe that Dr. Carpenter wasn’t sure they could be saved. As Mary shared Louie’s story, I sat on the floor petting him, quietly thinking that maybe Denver had sent him to me. Louie looked so much like Denver and had the same kind, gentle presence that had made us fall in love with Denver years before.

After spending about an hour with Louie, we decided to foster him while he prepared for surgery on one of his hips. We felt confident taking on his recovery—we had done it many times before with other dogs. So Louie came home with us that very day.

It didn’t take long for Louie to settle in. Within hours, he made himself completely at home, bonding easily with our other two dogs. He had no trouble finding the comfiest spots on the couch—or our bed. While we were still grieving Denver, Louie would quietly curl up next to me, resting his head on my chest, patiently letting me cry and tell him stories about the red-haired dog who came before him. Louie’s soul is, without question, one of the gentlest we have ever known.

About a week into his foster stay, Louie’s personality really began to shine. He is very food-motivated—though he strongly prefers cheese, meat, and tortillas. Vegetables and fruit took a little convincing. The first time he tried green beans, the look on his face clearly said, “What is this?” But after watching the other dogs happily gobble them up, Louie decided he didn’t want to be the only one missing out on extra snacks. Eventually, we learned that he loves blueberries and broccoli. And when he finally tasted popcorn, it was as if his entire world opened up.

We also discovered something surprising and pretty impressive—Louie is bilingual. Friends who are fluent in Spanish were visiting and began giving him commands in Spanish, and to everyone’s amazement, Louie followed every single one perfectly. Whether in English or Spanish, he clearly knows exactly what is being asked of him—and is more than happy to show it off.

During his foster time, Louie saw Dr. Miller at Spry Companions for further evaluation of his hips—and we received wonderful news. His hips can be saved, and he is a candidate for full hip replacements. His first surgery is scheduled for May 28th.

By then, Louie had already worked his way deep into our hearts. After only three weeks, we officially became a foster fail. We simply could not imagine letting him go—Louie had become a Houlihan.

Now, three months later, we are loving every little quirk that makes Louie Louie. He enjoys sudden zoomies around the backyard, prefers lounging on the rocks beneath the trees, and firmly believes he is the household gardener—constantly pulling up weed barriers and rearranging rocks. Most of all, he loves being a big brother to Jaxson, our newest GRRR addition. Whenever Jaxson needs to be in his crate, Louie positions himself right beside it, making sure his little brother is never alone.

Louie has brought healing, laughter, and so much love into our home. We are forever grateful GRRR brought him into our lives—and convinced us that sometimes, the dogs we lose help send us exactly the ones we need. 💙



Louie

Golden Angel Update: Millie

by Allison Robinson

Millie (formerly Sage) came into our lives when we were least expecting it, but we knew as soon as we dropped her off at the shelter for care that we wanted to adopt her. Even though we could tell she was hurting, she was still sweet, gentle, and only looking for love. While initially saddened by the news that she was going to go to GRRR instead of coming home with us after her temporary hold was up at the shelter, one conversation with Mary made us realize that she was going exactly where she needed to and would be in the best care possible while she was healing.

Millie was able to officially come home with us in February and adapted quickly to her new home. She bonded quickly with her sisters, Gracie and Zoey, and took no time to claim her spot on the couch! Since then, we have been working on building her confidence while riding in the car, rebuilding the muscles in her leg by going on walks, remembering to tell mom and dad when it's time to potty, leaving socks alone, and not stealing food or toys from her sisters. To her core, she really is just as rotten as she is sweet! She loves all toys, but can just about always be found with a tennis ball hanging out of her mouth and trying to play with Zoey.

Our vet at home says Millie's leg is healing wonderfully, and now she is finally getting to live out the puppyhood she missed out on for so long. Millie has brought so much laughter and happiness to our home, and we truly could not be more thankful for everything Mary and GRRR did for her. 💕



Millie

To help dogs like Louie and Millie, please send donations to: GRRR, 15350 W. 72nd Avenue, Arvada, CO 80007 (make check payable to GRRR with "Golden Angel Fund" in the memo) or donate at goldenrescue.com/golden-angel-fund. Thank you!

GRRR Stats

January 1 - March 31, 2026

Number of Dogs Placed:	64
\$ Spent on Medical Needs:	\$24,150

Newsletter Submissions

We need more updates! We all love reading about your Golden and we like to hear from you! If you'd like to submit a letter AND photo of your GRRR rescue, email the letter and digital photo to debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com. Deadline for the August 2026 issue is July 7, 2026. Thanks!

GRRR members and your dogs invited...

Spring Fling

Sunday, May 17, 2026

11 am - 2 pm

**Outside on the fully fenced grassy play area at Phoebe's Place
15350 W. 72nd Ave, Arvada 80007**

Merchandise! Raffle Baskets! Potluck! BBQ!

Doggie Pools & Play! Fun!

**Burgers, brats, and drinks provided.
Please bring something to share like
side dish, appetizer, salad, or dessert
(if in doubt, bring a side dish...we get
lots of desserts).**

**Last day to bring your Gala auction
donation. Thank you!**

SHY DOG AREA

**Shy dogs welcome
from noon - 1:30pm
in the fenced grassy area
behind the house
away from the fray!**

**REMINDER: Only well-behaved, well-socialized GRRR dog(s)
and/or dogs in your family, whose behavior you know, are
allowed. No small dogs, please. And remember – on or off
leash, you need to adequately control your dog(s) at all times;
you are fully responsible for your dog(s)' behavior. Thank you.**

**In case of bad weather postponement,
please check website: goldenrescue.com**



In Memory

Charlie Our Golden Angel

by Shane and Michelle Fordham (& Ellie)

Charlie came into our lives when he was about two years old, through Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies. A beginning that, at the time, felt like a gift. Looking back now, I understand it was so much more than that. It was the start of a once-in-a-lifetime bond that would span nearly eleven beautiful years and leave an imprint on our hearts that will never fade.

We didn't know then just how deeply Charlie would shape our lives. We simply knew he was special. From the moment he arrived, there was a presence about him, steady, gentle, and quietly powerful. He carried the unmistakable warmth of a Golden Retriever, but there was something more to him. Something soulful. Something rare.

Charlie was larger than life in every sense that mattered. Not because he demanded attention, but because his presence filled every space he entered. He had a calm, grounding energy that made everything feel softer, safer, and more whole. He didn't need to be the center of attention, he simply was the center.

Charlie had a way of looking at you that felt like he could see straight into your soul. It wasn't just eye contact, it was a deep connection. In those moments, everything else seemed to fall away and you were ever present in the moment with him. You felt seen in a way that is hard to explain, and even harder to forget. It was as if he carried a quiet understanding of life and of love, and he shared it freely with anyone willing to meet his gaze.

Then in his senior years, Charlie gave us one of the greatest gifts of all. We had never had a dog live long enough to reach that stage of life. We didn't know what to expect, or how profoundly it would change us. Caring for Charlie as he aged was an honor in the truest sense of the word. It was a privilege to walk alongside him in that chapter, to slow down with him, to meet him where he was, and to love him even more intentionally with each passing day.

His pace became slower, but his presence became even deeper.

Charlie taught us how to be in the moment in a way nothing else ever has. There was no rushing with him, no looking too far ahead. Just the here and now. A walk was no longer just about distance, it was about the feeling of the sun, the rhythm of each step, the quiet companionship of just being with him. Time seemed to stretch and soften in his presence, and we learned to appreciate the beauty in even the smallest moments.

There is something incredibly sacred about loving a senior dog. You become more aware of time, and how quickly time passes. We noticed him slowing down. Routines changing. Every day felt like a gift. Every moment felt like something to be held onto just a little bit tighter. Charlie showed us how to live in that space with gratitude rather than sadness.



Even as his body began to slow, his spirit never dimmed. He carried himself with a quiet dignity and grace that was inspiring to witness. We started taking him to physical therapy to help with his hip dysplasia and neuropathy. His care team said that Charlie was such a hard worker. There was no complaint, no resistance, just acceptance. And in that, he taught us how to move through life, and eventually let go, with peace.

Charlie was joy in its purest form. Not loud or fleeting just steady and constant. He had a way of filling a room without making a sound. A way of bringing comfort on the hardest days and adding warmth to the best ones. He was a gentle presence, a loyal companion, and a source of love that never wavered.

He was, without a doubt, a once-in-a-lifetime dog. The kind of dog who doesn't just come into your life, but changes it. The kind of dog who leaves you better than they found you. Because of Charlie, we see the world differently. We move through it more intentionally. We notice more. We feel more. We value presence, connection, and stillness in a way we never did before.

Our world is forever changed because of him.

And while there is a deep ache in his absence, there is also overwhelming gratitude. Gratitude for the nearly eleven years we shared. Gratitude for the trust he placed in us. Gratitude for every memory that now feels like a treasure.

It was never lost on us what a privilege it was to care for him not just in his final years, but throughout his life with us. To love him, to be chosen by him, to walk beside him through it all, there are no words that fully capture what that means.

Charlie, our Golden angel, thank you for everything you gave so freely. Thank you for your strength and presence, your wisdom, your quiet love. Thank you for teaching us how to slow down, how to be present, and how to love more deeply.

You were more than a dog. You were a soul that touched ours in a way that will stay with us forever.

We love you forever Charlie. 🐾

President's Report

by Mike DeGroot, President

It is a true honor to fill the role of President for an organization that means so much to all of us. Stepping into this role is a humbling challenge, especially following the remarkable leadership and legacy of Judi Servoss.

Having spent my career leading teams and innovation groups to develop diagnostic medical devices, I've learned that the best results come from collaboration, clear vision, and passion. I hope to continue to bring that same energy to the vital work we do here at Golden Retrieve Rescue of the Rockies.

While I am stepping into a new role, I have been hanging around Phoebe's Place for quite a while. I was first introduced to this wonderful organization by my wife, Dianne, and have been part of the GRRR family for over 10 years. I've served on the board for the last seven years—including the past four as your Vice President. During that time, I've been responsible for our strategic planning, helped anchor our annual Gala, and volunteered at countless onsite and offsite events including flipping burgers and boiling brats for many. Whether I'm behind the scenes planning our future or out in the yard walking dogs when time allows, my commitment to our mission has only grown stronger over the decade.

Looking ahead, my primary focus remains on our Strategic Plan, which is divided into two vital parts. In the short term, we are focused on ensuring our day-to-day operations remain efficient, compliant, and effective. Our goal is not to grow larger, but to do what we do better for our dogs, volunteers, staff, and members. This includes our new residence project; while it is moving slower than anticipated, we have secured necessary zoning and are moving forward with well drilling, site prep, and final designs. We are pushing hard to see shovels in the ground at Phoebe's Place very soon.

Our long-term 20-year plan presents a vision for how we grow to better serve our community. This includes exciting expansion plans for improved day kennel space, dedicated adoption areas, and much-needed foul-weather exercise spaces. It is an exciting time to be part of GRRR.



On a personal note, Dianne and I are the proud parents of two grown children and have two wonderful grandchildren. Like many of you, our home has been defined by the love of a rescue. We recently said a heartbreaking goodbye to our beloved Izzy, and while her loss is deeply felt, it serves as a powerful reminder of why our work is so important. When I'm not focused on GRRR activities, I stay active on the baseball diamond with a few local teams and squeeze in a round of golf whenever I can.

I am incredibly excited to continue this journey with you. Our success has always been built on the dedication of our supporters, and I look forward to working alongside each of you as we build a brighter future for our dogs and their forever homes. Thank you for your continued trust and for everything you do to make GRRR such a special place. 💙

Mike, Dianne & Izzy at St. Mary's Glacier



Dianne & Mike

Phoebe's Place Update

Katie Bates, Executive Director

Building Something Special, Together

When I stepped into this role, one of the things I was most excited about wasn't just the dogs (although, let's be honest... that's a huge perk). It was the people.

GRRR has always had an incredible community behind it...people who care deeply, show up consistently and believe in what we do. Lately, I've been thinking a lot about how we can continue to grow that community... not just in numbers, but in energy, connection and shared experiences.

That's really been the heart behind the events we've signed up to be a part of this year.

Over the past few months, we've had the chance to get out into the community more, meeting supporters, introducing new people to GRRR and creating spaces where our mission comes to life outside of the day-to-day at Phoebe's Place. And I have to say... it's been really fun to be a part of it.

Events like **Goldens in Golden** and the **St. Patrick's Day Celebration** in Olde Town Arvada have been a few of my favorites so far. Seeing a sea of Goldens (and their people) come together, watching new faces learn about GRRR for the first time, and feeling that shared excitement for what we do... it's hard not to walk away energized. These moments are more than just events... they're opportunities to grow our reach and remind people why this work matters. And pet lots of dogs of course!

There's something special that happens at these gatherings. Conversations turn into connections. Supporters become advocates. And more often than not, someone walks away saying, *"I had no idea how much you all do."*

That's what community awareness looks like.

But here's the part I want to be honest about. These events don't happen without you.

Volunteers are the reason these moments and events are successful. They're the ones answering questions, sharing stories, managing the chaos (there's always a little chaos) and representing GRRR in the best possible way. You are the first impression, the lasting impression and everything in between.

And right now, we have an opportunity.

As we continue to build momentum with these events, we're looking for more people who want to be part of them. Not because we need bodies to fill spots, but because this is one of the most fun, rewarding and impactful ways to get involved with GRRR.

If you've ever thought about volunteering at an event, consider this your sign.

Whether you can help for a couple of hours or want to be more involved long-term, there's a place for you here. And I promise, you'll walk away with a few good stories, a deeper connection to our mission and probably sticky hands from handing out pup cups. Contact our volunteer coordinator Laurie Nelson if interested: Laurie.Nelson@goldenrescue.com.


Thank you for continuing to show up for GRRR in so many ways. I'm really excited about where we're headed and even more excited about building it together. 💙



GRRR 2027 Calendar Photo Contest

The Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies' 22st Annual Photo Contest is now open! Your Golden could be featured in a full page photo in the 2027 calendar! The Grand Prize Winner will also have their photo on the cover.

Submission Guidelines:

- \$5 per photo entry fee. No limit to number of photos you can submit! 12 Monthly and 12 Honorable Mention winners all receive a free calendar.
- Golden Retrievers, mixes, or Goldendoodles only; doesn't have to be a GRRR or Rescue dog. No humans.
- **Horizontal shots** only, not vertical... that means more wide than tall! 
- You can submit the same photos as in previous years. Monthly and Honorable Mention winning photos excluded.
- Set your camera at the HIGHEST resolution (photos will be enlarged to 8.5"x11"). Please don't make the files smaller, send the original, largest file.
- The photo must have been taken by you or someone in your family; you can't submit photos taken by someone else.

SENDING PHOTOS:

- email contest@goldenrescue.com
 - or via WeTransfer: <https://wetransfer.com> (free and very easy) to contest@goldenrescue.com
 - or Text to 720-254-3124. Include your name and dog's name. Send original size.
- IMPORTANT: You will receive an e-mail confirmation within 48 hours; if you don't receive confirmation, assume files didn't go through and re-send.

SENDING ENTRY FORM

- Fill out the interactive PDF. **MAKE SURE THE FILE IS OPEN IN ACROBAT** (not just your web browser)! Fill out, hit the Submit button, and it will email to contest@goldenrescue.com.
- Or scan/take a pic and email contest@goldenrescue.com or text 720-254-3124
- Or print out and snail mail to address below

SENDING PAYMENT

- Pay online at www.goldenrescue.com (\$5 per entry)
- Or mail check to:
GRRR Photo Contest
Attn: Jeanie Peebles
8095 Holland Ct, Unit D
Arvada, CO 80005
Please make checks payable to GRRR.

Deadline for entry is midnight, Friday, July 17, 2026

so start snapping! Winners will be notified by August 30. Calendars will be available at all GRRR events starting with the Rescue Reunion Picnic and on our website.

Thanks and Good Luck!



You Made a Difference!

Goldens in Golden

Between Friday's Kick-off event at The Golden Mill and Saturday during the event, we raised \$12,330 from merch sales, donations, and proceeds from other Goldens in Golden fundraisers.

We are also being presented a \$4,000 check from Yo Colorado (proceeds from their sales as the official GiG merchandiser) on May 7th at The Golden Mill at 6:00pm. The event goes from 5-9 and there will be a dog caricature artist and live music. Come join us!



St Patrick's Day

St. Pat's event in Olde Town Arvada and Pups on The Patio combined raised \$1,030 in donations and merch sales. Thank you!

Golden Angel Fund

We are so grateful that we can help so many Goldens with medical needs because of your generosity. We received \$6,535 for our Angels from generous donors in the first quarter of 2026. Thank you! ❤️

King Soopers Rewards

414 households raised \$2,594.99 last quarter! Thank you...everything helps! If you're not a Community Rewards Member yet, use the QR code to sign up at no cost to you! ❤️



King Soopers Rewards



Goldens in Golden GRRR Merchandise!

Limited Edition 2026 GRRR merchandise for Goldens in Golden! You can still order all sorts of merchandise (shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and more!) from our special website! Your orders will be mailed to you about 2 weeks after you order:

<https://zamar.chippily.com/GRR>

Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies

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Arvada, CO 80007

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debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com



Spring Fling!

Sunday, May 17. Come join the fun!



“A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!”®

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies is dedicated to rescue, placement and public awareness, to ensure that Golden Retrievers are adopted by people who are able to provide a safe, loving home.

Applications to adopt a Golden are available on our website: goldenrescue.com

Please accept my Membership in GRRR (includes quarterly newsletter plus free attendance at all events and reunions)

I would like to receive my newsletter:

- via mail (black & white print) or
 via email (color PDF...save GRRR postage/printing costs!) \$50 year \$ _____

Please accept my additional tax deductible donation to help Golden where needed most:

- \$250+ Golden Champion \$100 Golden Hero \$50 Golden Star \$ _____

Interested in volunteering? Go to www.goldenrescue.com to fill out the volunteer application. Thanks!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please mail to: Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies • 15350 W. 72nd Ave. • Arvada, CO 80007

Thank you for your support!
goldenrescue.com