



DVGRR
DELAWARE VALLEY
GOLDEN RETRIEVER
RESCUE, INC.

Because of You



The responsibilities of my position are many and sometimes daunting. Juggling needs against financial resources is a lottery. What repair need must be delayed because donations have dropped and medical needs must come first? What if the next dog in requires so much in veterinary care that it will drive the Cody Fund further in the red and require us to borrow more money? An extended temperature drop or increase means more fuel or electricity needed. A price increase of a heavily used drug brings deep financial concern... or we have no extra funds to buy fish oil or glucosamine. One caregiver calling in sick may drive another into overtime hours. The challenges seem endless.

Yet, here we are, some 28 years later (counting the years before DVGRR was incorporated) and we're still going. And each and every one of us knows that almost 3,500 dogs rescued is because of you.

I've always been a firm believer that our triumphs and troubles need to be disclosed. You work hard to earn your money, and you should know how your donated dollars are used. We have this incredible property and buildings, and the impression is that "they're loaded." But every single thing that is "owned" by DVGRR is because of you, our donors and family. From the incredible Buddy's Animal Rescue Clinic to The Lynne Glennon Sanctuary for Senior Goldens and Puppy Mill Survivors to securely fenced play yards - all because YOU believe in what we are doing every day to help dogs in need.

We are now facing a crossroad, with baby boomers "aging out" of being able to donate and millennials not yet able to give. It is a frightening challenge, and there is no history to draw upon to help map our path. The overall trend for shelters is a slowly declining euthanasia rate and an increasing adoption rate. Yet every shelter still struggles with new and different ways to raise funds without causing the ever-present doom of "donor fatigue." I think about it with every ED Message I send, but if we don't keep asking, we can't keep doing this work.

People tell us they could NEVER do this work (rescuing abused/neglected/discarded dogs) and that we are very special. I agree that the team at Golden Gateway is exceptional and special. We

try hard to pay them a fair wage with benefits close to what is available in the "for profit" world, and their work ethic is enviable. They don't groan when asked to work weekends for a fundraising event and often miss their kids' sporting events. They work long hours without complaint leading up to monthly Meet and Greet and then work the balance of that weekend to match dogs with homes. They train dog after dog in numbing cold, a downpour, deep snow or high heat. If we have a sick dog, Marie is back and forth from home, checking on vitals. While we pull the covers over our heads during a thunderstorm at 2:00 a.m., Heather is here working with the dogs to alleviate and redirect their fears. Then, she still reports to work the next morning at 7:00 a.m.

Management team members keep the cellphone next to the bed and check it one last time before sleep and grab it first thing upon waking. With up to 60 "kids" in our care, anything can happen at any time. We can come in at 7:00 a.m. and find a dog coughing and know despite our careful procedures, a "new" dog likely brought in kennel cough. There is plenty of comic relief however, such as arriving to find that a dog or dogs have opened their kennel doors and are having a grand time running around the housing area.

Keeping good people costs less than constantly hiring and training new people, and the dogs react positively to the same people day in and day out. It enhances the dogs' life here by allowing them to trust quickly.

But if you think about what makes us "special" it is because of you - our donors. We can come to work each day knowing that our dogs were safe and warm the night before. They had plenty of great food, lots of exercise, tons of interaction with humans including touch, clean kennels, fresh blankets and toys. (There are shelters that house dogs that have to simply open a guillotine door, let them out to potty, and bring them back in. That is all that dog gets day after day.) You make all the great care we offer possible, and when these loving creatures go to their final home, they have a solid foundation for that new life.

We wanted to send out holiday cards of thanks this year, but finances simply will not allow the extra cost. However, we want you to know what your sacrifices mean to us, so the staff has shared their "most memorable dogs and moments" of 2014.

Thank you for your commitment to our dogs. YOU are our true heroes because your gifts allow us to do this work without having to ask the question we never want to ask, "If we help him, will we have the money to help the next dog?"

Best wishes from all of us for a wonderful holiday season and a new year filled with time with wonderful family and friends. We hope you will share this message, so others can see what YOU have done for the dogs of DVGRR.

Monty (12-125)



Monty, originally relinquished in '12, was a hard-to-place,

Amazon (14-134)



There are so many dogs I think of often; however, Amazon will

Kimmmie (14-032)



Kimmmie was in a puppy mill for 7 years. At DVGRR, she quickly

reactive, and very anxious boy. He was finally adopted by a wonderful couple, willing to manage his quirks and work diligently with his issues. They attended my training class and he made such great strides. Much to my dismay, due to sad circumstances for his adoptive family, he was returned this year. It was heart wrenching that Monty was back in our care, and I felt sorry for him losing his family. His anxiety was also back. It took a long time, hard work, patience and training, but he was finally adopted again, and his new family tells me he's doing great. I'm so happy... so happy that I had the opportunity to work with him and play with him and also because he deserved another chance and found it. All the dogs that pass through our doors need second (and third) chances. Because of you, we are able to provide them.



Dennis Stauffer

Dennis Stauffer,
Kennel Mgr.,
ABCDT, APDT,
Certified
Trainer, ABCDT
Mentor

always be the one that got away. Amazon came to us from Puerto Rico. Used as a breeder, she was then dumped on the streets. She was pretty rough looking when she first came to Golden Gateway and had to have many procedures performed. She had mammary masses, a toe, and teeth removed plus exploratory surgery for a tree hook in her belly and a pellet in her neck. That was followed by spay and hip FAO surgery. During all of her recovery, she let us care for her without a fight and completely trusted us. She was feeling better, and the most memorable transformation was when her inner beauty really started to shine. Amazon soaked up all the love and TLC and became unrecognizable to those who hadn't seen her in a while. Who was this beautiful, silly, loving girl? Adopted by a wonderful family, Amazon taught me to see the best in people and that there is always hope.



Tara Schappell

Tara Schappell
Caregiver

became one of my favorites. Kimmie started out knowing nothing about how great life could be... aloof and didn't always enjoy the company of other dogs.

Kimmie was one of the first residents of the Sanctuary. She flourished as staff and PHL volunteers gave her a safe place to become "a real dog." She began to run and play freely with other dogs and showed she was a real goofball and expertly maneuvered hide-the-treat games. I loved hearing her raspy bark in the morning, knowing she was excited to begin her day of fun. More than anything, it thrilled my heart when she began seeking attention and enjoying affection from people instead of pacing and panting in our presence.

Kimmie became part of a BFF threesome with Bettie and Lassie. You can imagine our excitement when a family came and adopted ALL THREE TOGETHER!

Dogs like Kimmie teach me there is always a diamond to be found in the rough. I'm thrilled to choose Kimmie as my most memorable dog of 2014!



Heather Hatt

Heather Hatt,
PHL/LGSS
Director

April 5, 2014



As the Staff Support and Facilities/Operations Manager, my interaction with the dogs is limited, but I have a most memorable day: April 5th, the day The Lynne Glennon Sanctuary for Golden Retrievers and Puppy Mill Survivors officially opened. As the renovation project of the building consumed the majority of my time for over three months, it was wonderful to finally have the end result seen by so many of our donors and supporters... who made it possible.

I wish you and yours a very joyous holiday season and thank you for your belief in us and our mission.

We are truly grateful.



**John Plummer,
Staff Support
and Facilities &
Operations
Manager**

**Teddy (14-201) & Freddy
(14-202)**



I was present the day Teddy and Freddy arrived, and my heart broke when I looked into their sad eyes. They couldn't even bend their legs to go potty because of the knots and matted fur.

I helped shave them in BARK and was so relieved to see beautiful skin under all that mess. They turned out to be beautiful Doodles with such loving hearts. They have now been adopted by a close member of the DVGRR family and loving life!



**Inza Adams,
Events Manager**

Bandit (14-212)



Bandit is a gentle giant. Sweet and eager to please, he wants nothing more than to be with people. Watching him interact with the children in his adoptive home filled my heart with joy. He understood that each child wanted to interact in their own way, and Bandit adjusted his behavior accordingly.

I'm so grateful for families that open their hearts and homes to rescue dogs and our family that makes our mission possible through donations and support.



**Sara Bright
Director of
Adoption &
Education,
CCDT Certified
Trainer**

Gordon #3 (14-238)



Gordon was born with a partial eye and a split nose. Even though he looks a little different and is blind in one eye, it hasn't stopped him from being a normal puppy. The breeder was going to euthanize him because Gordon was "different" due to his looks. Even though a dog looks different or has a handicap doesn't mean they can't love and be loved. He touched my heart because he is special and deserves a loving home. Thanks to our donors who make it possible for us to find those homes.



**Amy Good,
Intake and
Transportation
Coordinator**

Buddy #81 (14-181)



I wasn't sure how social the dogs would be coming from Puerto Rico, but after experiencing Buddy, I knew they would be full of love. Buddy is a total lap dog and will sit with you for hours. When we heard he went missing, a few co-workers and I went to search. After hours of tripping, thorns, and the occasional skunk, we had no luck, but thankfully a wonderful volunteer found him a few days later and he's happy and safe again. We're grateful to our donors and supporters who are allowing us to rescue every dog we can.



**Angela Donato,
Caregiver**

Angela (14-064)



Despite her past, Angela conquered having a leg amputated, and this girl picked me to adopt. She tried climbing over half doors and out windows to go home with me. Now, six months after her adoption, she has learned to trust not only me but my husband as well. Being part of our pack of five dogs is what she loves best. I would not trade her for the world!



**Marie Redcay
Veterinary
Assistant**

Leroy (14-055)



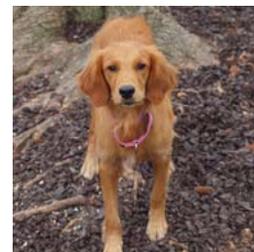
Leroy came from a puppy mill, and when he came in, he was totally shut down. I couldn't sleep at night worrying about this puppy... so I took him home as a foster.

Gracie #5 (14-183)



So many special dogs come to us, and I feel very blessed to work with them, but one special little girl touched our hearts. Little Gracie came to us with a shattered front leg that had to be amputated... only six weeks old, but full of life.

Canela #2 (14-089)



Canela #2 was a little red girl we got from Puerto Rico. She was the sweetest dog that just loved people and cuddling. Canela got along with every person, dog, cat, and critter she met.

He was scared of everything. He also has a horrible heart (he has sub-aortic stenosis, grade 4 and usually fatal), but he stole my family's heart. We don't know how long we will have with him, but we will spoil and love him for that time. Thanks to our supporters, we can always say "yes" to dogs like Leroy.



**Cindy Morgan,
Caregiver**

family, I took her home as a foster. She quickly made herself at home with my three - wrestling, running, and snuggling. We were sad to see her go but happy for her and her new family. Glad we had the pleasure of knowing her for even a short time.



**Nicola Strause,
Caregiver**

I had a special bond with Canela because I took her through Dennis's obedience course and spent a lot of time outside of my shift hours with her, so it was hard not to fall in love with this little sweetheart.



**Zack Morgan
Assistant
Kennel
Manager, ABC
Certified Trainer**

Max #49 (14-185)



I always loved Max's huge paws. He loved to rough house, give kisses and hugs, and cuddle with everyone. He is just a big ball of fun and cuteness! I also loved how much he loved squeaky stuffies. This guy would just make so much noise... and just have so much fun!

Thanks to our donors we can rescue dogs like Max, so they can have the fun and loving homes they all deserve.



**Alyssa Evans
Caregiver**

Thank You!

2014 has been equal parts exciting and challenging. We were named Shelter of the Year and expanded our reach to help greater numbers of dogs, setting a record with over 300 dogs coming into our program. Because of you, all of these dogs have loving homes and their adoptive families have wonderful new canine family members. Thanks to your ongoing and generous support, we can look forward to rescuing even more dogs in the coming year.

Sincerely,

DVGRR
Delaware Valley Golden
Retriever Rescue