

Golden Moments

February 2011



Phoebe's Story

By Wyllyn Doherty

Last April we were contacted by a family that wanted to release their dog to GRRCC. The dog was eight years old and had lived outside all her life with very little veterinary care; her story really upset me. I made arrangements to meet the owner in the parking lot of a nearby pet store. I was shocked to find that the dog had been transported in the very back of a mini-van (behind the third row of seats) on a plastic tarp, as though she were some sort of trash. When the owner opened the back of the van, the smell is the first thing that hit me. The dog was one of the dirtiest, smelliest animals I had ever seen. She was also tremendously overweight. But "Phoebe" (her new name) just smiled at me as if she were ready for the next adventure, whatever that might be.

I took Phoebe to my house and somehow managed to maneuver her onto my grooming table. She was covered with fist-sized mats that had to be shaved out. The mats behind her ears were the worst, followed closely by the mats all over her hindquarters. By the time I got the mats out, she looked as though she had been "groomed" with a lawn mower. But she smiled the whole time I worked on her. Getting her into the tub was no small feat, but I managed. She promptly sat down and let me bathe her four times, until the water ran (mostly) clear. Then it was off to the vet's office, where I was stunned to discover that Phoebe weighed 118.6 pounds. The vet declared her "morbidly obese," but she was thankfully heartworm negative and otherwise fairly healthy.

Though I had arranged for Phoebe to be fostered in another home, she got along very well with my dogs and cats, so I decided to foster her myself. I was committed to seeing that she lose her excess weight, and I felt that having a large fenced yard to play in and other dogs to help entertain her would be helpful. However, the vet was very explicit in warning me that Phoebe's exercise should be carefully monitored because of her size and the fact that we were heading into the heat of summer. I realized then that Phoebe's weight loss would have to be slow and steady – a marathon, not a sprint.

The first night that we had Phoebe, we decided to put her in our kitchen to sleep since we were unsure about her house training. We used a baby gate and several other items to form a barricade of sorts and told her good night. About five minutes later, we heard a crash and then the "huff, puff" of Phoebe coming up the stairs to our room. She was telling us that she was no longer going to be ignored – she was part of a family now. So she joined the rest of the gang in our bedroom and promptly went to sleep. That's when we discovered that she snored like a lumberjack!

It took about a week for my husband, Mike, to decide that Phoebe was meant to be a Doherty dog (and our third GRRCC dog). I suppose I should have taken my first hint when he decided to change her name to Phoebe, which means "bright moon." Phoebe came into our lives as if she had always been with us. Though she had never been inside a house before, she acclimated beautifully (no doubt grateful for air conditioning!). She "discovered" toys and dog beds within a short time, and began to really enjoy being part of our pack. We had never adopted a dog as old as Phoebe, but let me just say that we are "hooked" now on adopting senior dogs!

In December, when Phoebe’s weight was no longer a danger to her, we had several huge lipomas (benign fatty tumors) removed from Phoebe’s neck and chest area. One of the lipomas was literally the size of a small grapefruit. Now when Phoebe lies down, she can comfortably rest her head on the floor, rather than being “jacked up” by the lipoma. She recovered beautifully from the surgery and can now wear her pretty, flowered, “girly-girl” collar with pride.



At her last weigh in, which was several weeks ago, Phoebe weighed 82 pounds, so she has lost over 36 pounds. The “green bean diet” has been very successful, and Phoebe is truly a different dog now. Her energy level has improved exponentially, as has her “zest for life.” She is always ready for anything that comes along – a game of fetch, a walk around the neighborhood, a ride in the car, etc. She has charmed the staff at the vet clinic, and each time she goes in for a weight check, they cheer her on and celebrate her success. The vet would like to see Phoebe lose about five more pounds, so we continue to work on that. In the meantime, we enjoy having Phoebe with us every single day. She is a joy and a blessing to us, and she reminds us that the past is not what’s important – it’s the present that counts.

Congratulations to Our Adopted Dogs and Their Forever Families!

Ali	11/3/10	Dave & Sara DuMond
Sammie	11/5/10	Bob & Dean Hocken
Chloe	11/9/10	John Gehrsitz & Maryann Kavanaugh
Brandy (now Mandy)	12/4/01	Steve & Maxine Horowitz
Katie	11/26/10	Scott & Charmaine Sweeney
MacAdden	12/1/10	Beverly Waldrup
Maya	12/3/10	Devin Battiston
Mia	12/10/10	David & Kimberly Porter
Lily2	12/11/10	Robin Tanner
Calypso (now Missy)	12/28/10	Leigh Ann Combs
Duke	12/30/10	Thomas O'Keefe
Bowie (now Lilly)	1/3/11	Bill & Mary Klenz
Buddy K	1/5/11	Trina Blankenship
Reilley	1/16/11	Kevin & Vickie Watson
Ricco	2/1/11	Chuck & Jennifer Hanss

At the Rainbow Bridge

Condolences to our GRRCC families and friends, whose beloved companions live on in our hearts.

Oscar Thorp, Morgan Purnell

From the President:

2010 has come and gone and I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas/Holiday season. While our intake numbers were the lowest in more than 5 years, we had a jam-packed year filled with various events and a lot of hours volunteered by so many of you in the Club.

2011 started with a bang with our annual meeting. The attendance was the best we have had in many years and 12 new members were elected to the board; we now have 20 members on the board which is our current limitation per by-laws. In addition, we have several very active volunteer coordinators who are not board members but put in many hours each and every week for club activities. I am so grateful to all of the volunteers, board members and club members for all your contributions, whether in time, talent or money donations. Several Golden rescue clubs across the country have dissolved in the past year (Cape Fear in Wilmington, NC was closest) but we remain operational because of your support.

I do wish to recognize the Board members who helped last year and thank them publicly, again: Janis Alsop, Wyllyn Doherty, Gwyn Fincher, Ellen Langford, Michelle Nugent, Dottie Purnell, Meg Roach, Jill Santuccio and Christy Tomes. I also want to thank our Adoption coordinator, Bodee Corby.

At this time, I wish to welcome our new members to the board: Jim Adler, Paula Barr, Beth Charles (returning to the board after a 1-year absence), Kim Christenbury, Linda Franklin, Cindi Holland, Golin Kosowitz, Karen Knudtsen, Suzanne Landini, Valerie Sancibrian, Katie Skaats and Melissa Winter. Tom Kiernan has stepped up to be transportation coordinator.

We will be losing Janis Alsop, Wyllyn Doherty and Ellen Langford as board members. While Wyllyn and Janis will still be active in the Club, Ellen had relocated to Virginia over two years ago but was a commuting board member that whole time. She also edited our quarterly newsletter and will be missed as all the outgoing board members will be.

We also welcome Tara Smith as the Editor of our newsletter. Tara has several years experience writing for a local paper and we are pleased she has taken on this task from Ellen.

44 people participated in the gift-wrapping fundraiser and \$1,791.00 was raised for GRRCC!

Our Annual Have a Heart Party for new adoptive "parents" was held on February 5th.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information about our participation in the annual Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Parade and our Annual "Golfing for Goldens" tournament. The golf tournament continues to grow and we look forward to seeing many of you at these events. Further details are in the respective articles.

A reminder to all: If you have not sent in your dues for 2011, look for the form in this newsletter which you can copy, complete with all your pertinent information, and send in your check, or you can go online and renew your membership through Paypal. The club relies upon dues, donations and fund-raising to continue its operations. We realize the financial climate is still a little weak, but our beloved Goldens still cannot speak for themselves; that is why I continue to ask you to make a small sacrifice for them.

I look forward to seeing you at the St. Patrick's Day parade, the golf tournament, and/or any of our other upcoming functions.

Gene
"It's all about the Dogs!"

One Family's Unexpected Blessing

By Susan Anderson

Shadow came into my family's lives after a difficult year. We lost our first beloved Goldadore, Abby, of 14 1/2 years. We also lost Casey, our rescued Golden who died suddenly from an undetected heart condition six months after adoption. No one in my household was interested in searching for another dog. However, Shadow saw differently.

I began to apply online to various rescue groups and went through the interview processes. One day, while looking on GRRCC's website, I noticed Shadow's picture on it.



Susan Anderson's dad and Shadow.

My family fell instantly in love with Shadow and asked to meet him. When Shadow arrived at our home, he immediately entered and went straight to my dad. Of course, Shadow greeted everyone else but he was drawn to my dad, and they became instant friends! Since my dad was older, he had lost interest in owning his own dog even though plenty of people had tried to change his mind.

When we decided to adopt Shadow, Dad said "I want to pay a third of his adoption fee; that way I can say I own a dog and everyone will leave me alone about it!" So, my father became "part owner" in Shadow. From then on, Dad and Shadow were inseparable whenever my father frequently visited. My father loved Shadow and played with him, walked him in the afternoons, and just sat with Shadow on the couch.

Shortly after Shadow came to us, my father became very ill and was hospitalized. My dad kept asking if Shadow could come and see him. I made arrangements to have Shadow come to Dad's room on a Saturday. Even at that visit, no one thought this would be Dad's last time seeing Shadow. Overnight, my father's condition grew grim.

On Sunday, mid-morning, my family and I were standing around Dad's bed. He was no long speaking and had his eyes

Susan and De celebrating Shadow's adoption.



closed. In one brief moment, Dad gently snapped his fingers and patted his leg while calling out, "Shadow! Shadow!" He then began to stroke the air. My sister quickly extended her arm and Dad petted her arm just as if Shadow were there. Shortly thereafter, Dad passed away. The words "Shadow, Shadow!" were the last words my father spoke. Although my family's hearts were broken in losing Dad so quickly, we are so thankful for Shadow. No one will ever forget the gift he gave to us on that Sunday morning. As my dad went to Heaven, he went with the love of his family and his dog surrounding him. We are forever grateful to God and to GRRCC for that unexpected blessing.

February 2011

Join the Pack at the St. Patrick's Day Parade!



Cead Mile Failte (100,000 Welcomes)!

GRRCC will march in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown/uptown Charlotte on Saturday, **March 19, 2011**. The parade begins at 11:00 a.m. and we will step off from Tryon and 9th Street (close to the old Carolina Theater). We will travel south on Tryon to 3rd Street, where an all-day festival will be held. The route is approximately one mile. We will group up on College Street & Phifer (between 9th and 10th Street) from 10 to 10:30 a.m. so we will be ready to step off as close to 11 a.m. as we can. There is a grassy area where our dogs can socialize before the parade begins. St. Patrick's Day Parade T-shirts will be available. More information on the shirts will be posted on our website and also sent via email. The shirts will be distributed at the parade. If you won't be attending the parade, but do want one or more shirts, we can ship them to you. We look forward to a fun event . Questions?? Email genefitzusmc@aol.com or call Gene at 704-953-5955.



Golfing for Goldens

Come play, enjoy the BBQ and help the Goldens!

GRRCC will host its 9th Annual Golfing for Goldens charity golf tournament on Saturday, **May 21, 2011** at Stonebridge Golf Club in Waxhaw, North Carolina beginning at 1:30 p.m. The tournament format is a four-person Captain's Choice with a shotgun start. Registration is only \$80 per player and includes golf, range balls and cash prizes (\$400 per team) for low gross and low net. The 2nd and 3rd place low gross and low net will win rounds of golf. There will be a prize for closest to the pin hole and closest to the line. There will also be special rates on practice rounds the week prior to the tournament. Mulligans will be available for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Rounding out the event will be a raffle and silent auction for a number of valuable items and a wonderful BBQ dinner. Deadline for player registration is Monday, May 16, 2011. There will be a 120 player maximum, so register early. We need sponsors for the tournament, so if you know of someone who might like to be a sponsor, please let us know. We are also seeking donations for the silent auction and raffle prizes. More information on the tournament and levels of sponsorship will be available at www.grrcc.com.

Contacts: Gene Fitzpatrick at 704-541-7122 or 704-953-5955 or genefitzusmc@aol.com
Dick Griffin at 704-541-9314 or 704-940-2297 or dickgriffin@bellsouth.net.

Easy Ways to Support GRRCC



Shop online through iGive. Register at www.iGive.com

Selling on eBay? Register at www.missionfish.org



2011 GRRCC Board

President	Gene Fitzpatrick	Gene@grrcc.com
Vice President	Jill Santuccio	Jill@grrcc.com
Treasurer	Gwyn Fincher	Gwyn@grrcc.com
Non -Rescue Volunteer Coordinator	Meg Roach	Meg@grrcc.com
Communications/Merchandise	Dottie Purnell	Dottie@grrcc.com
Website	Michelle Nugent	Michellen@grrcc.com
Calendar/Social Media	Christy Tomes	Christy@grrcc.com
Adoption Coordinator – Ex-Officio	Bodee Corby	
Intake Coordinator – Ex-Officio	Wylyn Doherty	

Newly-elected Board Members:

Jim Adler	Suzanne Landini
Paula Barr	Valerie Sancibrian
Beth Charles	Katie Skaats
Kimberly Christenbury	Melissa Winter
Linda Franklin	
Cindi Holland	
Karen Knudtsen	
Golin Kosowitz	

Thank You to Our Donors!

Preston Aldridge	In memory of Lucy Klenz	Tom & Carol Kiernan	For the senior care fund
Natalie Armstrong		Larry & Ann Lease	In honor of Samm & Jazz Armstrong
Clint & Jolinda Babcock	In honor of their golden, Jake	Ronald & Patricia Lorenzen	In honor of Kim, Jake, & Sophie
Stan & Sandy Babinski	In memory Niki & Trapper	Jim & Linda Mahoney	
Suzanne Bachman	In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Doug Person	Gregory Mallow	In memory of Carol Mallow
Will & Maria Baim		Kathleen Marcello	To thank everyone for their great work
Speight & Mary Bird		Shari Martin	In memory of Millie
Patricia Blackwell	In memory of Rachel Rasso	McClure	
Jill Blanchar		Jenny McElhane	In honor of Ginger
Susan Boyer		Ginger Missert	In memory of Duncan Frey
Mike Byrne	In appreciation for Kathy Byrne	Charles & Ann Myers	In honor of Dianne Myers
Cathy Caddy	In honor of Lilly	Deb Myers	In memory of Cleo
Beth Charles		Linda Nexsen	
David Collier		Judith Ott	For Ricco
Melinda Covington	In memory of Megan	Tommy & Susan Outen	In memory of Hunter and in honor of Jasper
Greg & Donna Cox		Greg & Anne Page	In memory of Max
Charlie Cutts		Gene Pasquale III	In memory of Remington Bishop
Lessie Davis	In celebration of Xanthe	Terry Pulido	
Pamela Dunn		Gary Rhinesmith	In honor of Wylyn's family
Gwyn & Rick Fincher		Barry Roach	
Anny Fink	To thank Wylyn Doherty	Barbara Ritchie	In memory of Salem Price
Gene Fitzpatrick	For Ricco	Round 5, Inc.	In memory of Kix
Greg & Susan Fossett		Valerie & Norman Sancibrian	In memory of Riley and Ginger
Sally Frazier		Jim & Susan Sandberg	For Ricco
Randy Furr		Michele Schultze	
Terry Gaar	In honor of Sam & Rambo Danbeck	Dale & Barbara Shelton	In memory of Brandy
Kurt & Sarah Gauger		Angie & Scott Sizemore	For Ricco
Dan & Judy Girvan	To thank Fred & Carol Thorp	Fred & Carol Thorp	In memory of Oscar Thorp
Dorothy Goode	In honor of Joe Neal	Betty Troutman	
Lisa Griffith	In memory of Shelby	Jim & Christine Weaving	
Bethany Hagan	Christmas gift for sister, Melinda Covington	Roger & Diann Wiggins	In memory of Biscuit
Bob & Joan Hassett	Christmas gift for daughter, P.J., who adopted Omaha	Ian & Diane Wilkins	In honor of Rusty and to thank Wylyn
Mark Hassett	Christmas gift for sister, Pamela Jo Hassett	Jerry & Deborah Williams	In memory of Bimm
Crystal Hefner		Donna Witman	In memory of Amber Witman
Steve & Maxine Horowitz	For Ricco	John & Rhonda Yoder	In memory of Lisa & Lola
Francis & Dana Iannielli		Robert & Nancy Zampieri	Denver's Fund
Brian & Linda Johnson	In memory of Jake, Rosie, and Katie		
Joni Juba			

Volunteer and Membership Form

___ New Member ___ Renewal ___ Address Change

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Alt Phone _____
Email Address _____
Alt Email Address _____

I have adopted a GRRCC dog(s) __ yes __ no
GRRCC Dogs' name(s) _____
Other dogs' name(s) _____

I am enclosing
___ \$20 for my individual or
___ \$35 for my family
membership dues.

If you would like to send a donation to GRRCC, please see the choices below. Remember, all donations are tax deductible.

A donation to GRRCC for _____
In Memory of _____
In Honor of _____
To Thank _____

Volunteer Form

If you would like to volunteer your time to the rescue of these special Golden Retrievers, please let us know by choosing one or more of the following:

___ Foster Home ___ Fundraising ___ Transportation
___ Other specify

All checks should be made payable to GRRCC and mailed to:

The **Golden Retriever Rescue Club of Charlotte** would like to thank the following very special businesses for the care and support they have given to our organization:

- Belk
- C. DeWitt Foard & Company
- Carolina Veterinary Specialists
- Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Care & Control
- Continental Boarding - David Grindstaff
- Dogs Day Out Grooming
- LakeCross Veterinary Hospital
- Mint Hill Animal Clinic
- One Lucky Pup
- Pet Essentials - Paul & Karen Rowan
- Q2U BBQ - Brian Rich
- Queen City K-9
- Ted Vande Woude

Thanks to Our Volunteers!!!

Calendar

Susan Boyer
Wanda Burton
Kate Cameron
Christy Tomes

Michele Emmrich
Michelle Klingenberg
Erin Mistry
Linda Nexsen
Amy Virkler

Foster Homes

Frank & Dana Ianielli
Fred & Carol Thorp
Beth Charles
Gene Fitzpatrick
Michelle Klingenberg
Beverly Waldrup
Leigh Ann Combs & Ellie St. James
Bodee Corby
Alan & Mimi Davis
Susan Sandberg
Sandi Hardin
Trina Blankenship
Erin Mistry
Tom & Carol Kiernan
Jackie Levin
Sarah Black and Justin Potter
Kim Lorenzen and Chris Cicak
Randy and Shellie Miner
Jill Santuccio
Laurie Schultz
Tom and Dottie Purnell
Gary Rhinesmith

Gift-Wrapping Volunteers

Barbara Ritchie
Bobbie Otto
Larry Marraccini
Carol Thorp
Cathy Lees
Chris Beloni
Chris Bennett
Howard Bennett
Danielle Hebdon
Hannah Hebdon
Gene Fitzpatrick
Heather Ballard
Heidi Krauss
Hollie Nelson
Howard Jacobs
Jan Warren-Findlow
Jean Wiegand
Jill Blanchar
Karen Byrne
Kathy Byrne
Krista Byrne
Katie Skaats
Kim Galofero
Sophia Galofero
Lisa Scheve
Mary Lee Wicklum
Maxine Horowitz
Meg Roach
Ben Roach
Melinda Covington
Melissa Winter
Mike Rowe
Norma Rowe
Nancy Zampieri
Paul Kimball
Sarah Gauger
Sharon Ghiz
Alexander Ghiz
Shellie Miner
Susan Spencer
Susie Klein
Terri Williams
Valerie Scancibrian
Whitney Pelton

Foster to Adopt

Larry & Sue Breckenridge
Adam DiCaprio
Cathy Jordan
Cassandra Sarantis

General GRRCC Administration

Michelle Middleton

Graphic Design Services

Judy Adamski from KDG Studio
Kyle Donaghy from John Street Graphics

Home Visits

Sarah Black & Justin Potter
Beth Charles
Bodee Corby
Leigh Ann Combs
Wylyn Doherty
Sarah Dowless
Dan Girvan & Judy Fry
Michelle Klingenberg
Jackie Levin
Lynnea Pulver
Cassandra Sarantis
Kevin & Lesa Babb
Mandy James
Lisa Durant

Phone Volunteers

Leigh Ann Combs
Wylyn Doherty
Nancy Doody
Sarah Dowless

Transportation

Lesa and Kevin Babb
Susan Boyer
Bodee Corby
Leigh Ann Combs
Wylyn Doherty
Sarah Dowless
Mandy Jame
Lynnea Pulver
Tom Kiernan
Jackie Levin
Michelle Klingenberg
Fred Thorp
Tom Purnell
Gary Rhinesmith



Non-Profit Organiza-
tion
U.S. Postage Paid

P.O Box 471931
Charlotte, NC 28247
704-348-1573
www.grrcc.com

The Golden Retriever Rescue Club of Charlotte (GRRCC) is a volunteer-staffed, non-profit organization that rescues, and places for adoption, unwanted, abused, neglected, or abandoned Golden Retrievers in the Charlotte, NC area.

Golden Moments is printed by Metro Mailing and Printing, 109 Winona St.,
Charlotte, NC 28203

Get Your GRRCC 2011 Calendar!



The GRRCC 2011 Rescue Calendar is available for purchase! Our 8 ½ by 11 inch, 2011 calendar features twelve beautiful, full-page color photos and heartwarming stories of each Golden's journey from hopeless to happy. Lots of health and safety tips and information about GRRCC make our calendar a great buy for you or as a gift. Large boxes allow lots of room for noting appointments, birthdays, etc.

For questions regarding shipping, etc., please contact Susan Boyer at skboyer@windstream.net

Order online at www.grrcc.com

GRRCC Events

March 19	11:00 a.m.	St. Patrick's Day Parade	Tryon & 9th
May 21	1:30 p.m.	Golf Tournament	Stonebridge Golf Club Waxhaw, NC