

Golden Endings Officers & Staff

Executive Vice President
Adoption Coordinator
CRC Liaison
Kay Hirsch
614-486-0773

Vice President
Director Eastern Division
Marsha Sines
740-859-2255

Secretary
Marlene Davies
937-644-3988

Dog Park Liaison
Jenny Kendall
614-825-4782

Event Coordinator
Connie Walker
614-459-3659

Volunteer Coordinator
Ilene Smith
614-798-9292

Fund Raising
Bill Johnston
614-488-7551

Belmont Liaison
Judy Johnson
740-676-2208

Hotline Coordinator
Rick Hardin
614-488-4966

Newsletter Editor
Don Eliot
614-486-6100

GEGRR Store
Shari Williams
614-440-1744

Trustees

Bill Johnston
614-488-7551

Judy Johnson
740-676-2208

Cathy Taylor
614-889-5030

Jenny Kendall
614-825-4782

Hotline
614-488-4966
Web Site
www.goldenendings.org

Future Golden Endings Events

We have dates for December gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble at Polaris and Lennox. Ilene Smith (614-798-9292) is scheduling volunteers

If you have questions or know of an event in which we should participate, please contact Connie Walker @ 614-459-3659

Newsletter Staff

Editor -

Don Eliot
deliot@columbus.rr.com

Photo Editing and Printing -

Bill Johnston -
johnston_printing@hotmail.com

Contributors -

Kay Hirsch, Judy Johnson,
Bill Johnston, Shari Williams
Cathy Taylor

Text Editing -

Ann Eliot-Naille

GEGRR
CELEBRATING
13 YEARS

Belmont Correctional Institute in St. Clairsville, Ohio usually houses about 12 Golden Retrievers at any given time. These Golden Retrievers have been picked up from a shelter, owner surrendered, and on occasion are ones that are found running loose.

This year seems to be particularly hard, which we feel in part is due to the job loss in this area of Southeast Ohio.

We are asking for Christmas donations for the Golden Retrievers at the prison such as treats, raw-hides, biscuits and any kind of toys with squeakers.

We want to THANK YOU in advance for your generosity at this Holiday Season.

Donations can be sent to:
Judy Johnson
439 W 45th St
Shadyside, Ohio 43947

Or Dropped off at:
Johnston's Print Shop
1975 Riverside Drive
Columbus, OH 43221 614-488-7551

Golden Offerings News Deadline

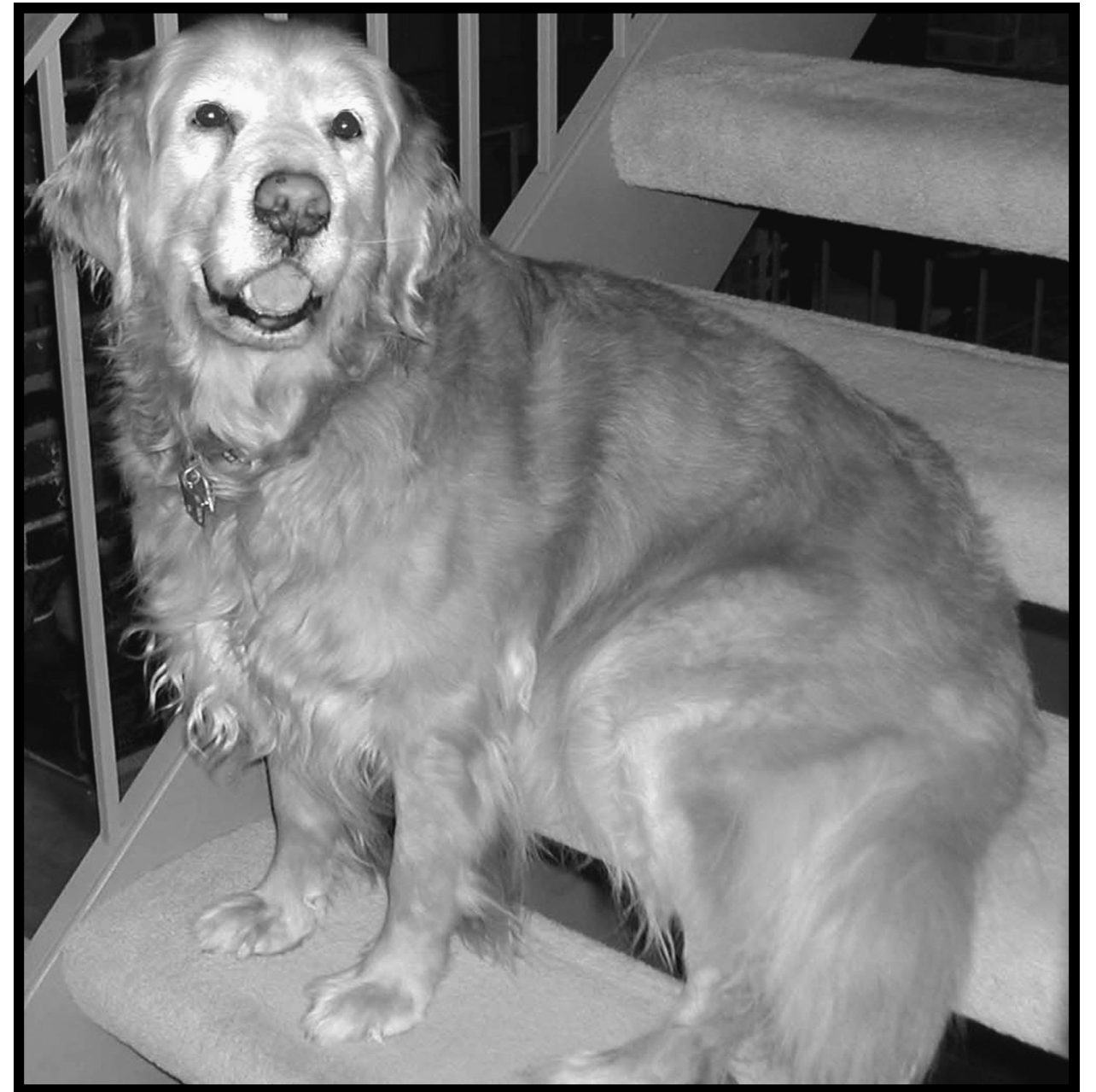
Articles, Pictures, Letters, Stories & Announcements for the Winter 2008 edition are due by Dec 6, 2008

Send to: Don Eliot, Editor
1634 West 1st Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43212
e-mail: deliot@columbus.rr.com

◇Golden Offerings◇

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Fall 2008



Sassy - A Story To Share

Cover Story on page six

Golden Endings Update

As I sit down to write this, Tim and I are ready to head off to Franklin County Animal Shelter to pick up another Golden. She'll be number 88 in 2008. In all of last year, we took in 83 Golden Retrievers, and with a month and a half left we have evidence that the trends will make for busier times ahead for our rescue efforts. You have all read and seen on the news how the economy is affecting family pets. I wrote about it in the last newsletter, and I don't want to repeat myself, but this has impacted Golden Endings. I know that we are all very concerned about financial matters, but GEGRR does depend on your donations to keep caring for the rescue Golden Retrievers. Every little bit helps, and we do appreciate all donations.



Kay and Sassy

To raise funds, we will again be wrapping Holiday presents at Barnes and Noble Book Stores at Lennox Center and Polaris. If you could volunteer a few hours to wrap books for their customers, GEGRR will receive all the donations. Please call our volunteer coordinator, Ilene Smith, at 614-798-9292 for dates and times. Or e-mail her at woofsew@yahoo.com. We have done very well in the past several years; money is raised and new members recruited. And it's fun to share our story with our neighbors.

Once again we want to thank our new adopters for giving 19 Golden Retrievers new, loving homes this fall. The best part of my volunteer work continues to be the opportunity to meet wonderful, caring families who open their hearts and homes to a Golden Endings Golden- we thank you so much!

Kay Hirsch

Treasurer's Report Summary 2008 Activities By Bill Johnston

Golden Endings Golden Retriever Rescue is approaching the end of our thirteenth year of service to Golden Retrievers in distress. During past three years we have experienced many changes in the way we conduct business as a rescue organization. We have improved our operating methods to virtually eliminate most overhead expenses by closing the Intake Center in Ostrander. New arrivals are housed with cooperating veterinarians who have provided temporary kenneling space. We place up to 15 dogs in our Prison Program (cell dogs) for training and evaluation prior to placement. There is however, a perceptible change in the needs of our surrendered Golden Friends.

Cost to provide medical services are escalating due to the increase number of surrenders with preexisting conditions, some of which are very expensive. The veterinarians are now needing increased testing that leads to discovery of many conditions that were previously overlooked. We treat Heart Worm and Tumor cases, infections and chronic conditions as well as caring for aged Golden Retrievers that cannot expect to find a new home. There are 16 Golden Retrievers in permanent fostering care due to age and infirmity. Veterinary costs are escalating due to the preexisting medical conditions worsening.

We are at a crossroads at this time that requires us to either become more selective in the quality of Golden Retrievers we can accept or we must increase our capacity for fundraising. We intend to follow the path of raise additional funds. A Golden Retriever is not responsible for the conditions under which it is expected to thrive. Next month we will conduct our annual Christmas fundraising and membership dues collection. Your response to the appeal is critical to our ability to continue meeting needs of distressed Golden Friends.

Kroger Cares Cards for the Holidays!

Does it feel like 2008 was shorter than past years? The Holiday Season is quickly approaching and it's a great time to use our Kroger Cares cards. I'm sure we're all making plans now for Holiday dinners, our gift lists are started and maybe we've even picked out our Christmas cards. Please consider reloading your card and using it for many of your holiday needs.

Here are a few ways you may have not thought of to use your Kroger Cares card. You can purchase postage stamps with your card and many stores do have holiday stamps. The gift cards are now accepted at the Kroger fuel centers as means of payment. Are gift cards on your shopping list? Kroger has a huge selection of gift cards for restaurants and stores, both local and national. You may purchase them with money reloaded onto your Kroger Cares card. (One exception—you may not purchase a Kroger gift card with it.) Golden Endings will receive 5% of every dollar you reload onto your Kroger Cares card! Think of it, one book of postage stamps will yield 42 cents back to Golden Endings!

Thank you to our Golden Endings members who have given their continued support to this valuable fund raiser. You have earned \$2244 for our Golden Retrievers in the first ten months of 2008! Unfortunately we have earned nearly \$1000 less than the first ten months of 2007. Please consider applying for your first Kroger Cares card or find your old card and resume using it. They do not expire. Each Kroger Cares card costs only \$5 to purchase (worth \$5 in groceries) and maybe purchased by filling out the attached application and mailing it with a check payable to GEGRR to Cathy. Economic times are very uncertain right now and we are all very conscious of the charitable donations we make. This is a perfect opportunity to support our Golden Retrievers without taking a cent out of your checkbook!

For more detailed information or questions, please contact Cathy Taylor at 614-889-5030 or dtaylo9@columbus.rr.com.

Kroger Cares Gift Card Application

I request ___ card(s) at \$5 each for a total of \$_____

Enclosed is a check payable to **Golden Endings** for \$_____

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Names on additional cards:

Mail to:

Cathy Taylor
2324 Woodcreek Place
Powell, Ohio 43065



Sample Gift Card

Happy 15th Birthday, Sassy *cover story*

On December 27, 2001, I was a volunteer at the Intake Center for Golden Endings which was at Ralph Nickels home in Ostrander (due west of Delaware, on the Scioto River). My job was to brush dogs and clean ears. As I worked my way around the Golden Retrievers, one pathetic old girl never left my side. Because she was so sickly, I had to know her story. Ralph had had a call from Franklin County Animal Shelter about an 8 year old puppy-mill mom who had been dropped off because she had become unproductive. Her holding period was up, and Golden Endings was her saving grace. Ralph picked her up and immediately named her Sassy because she barked all the time. She had weighed 46 pounds, her eyes were sunken back, and she had lost most of her coat. Well, of course I had to take her home- she was the worst of the whole pack in the intake- even though I had promised Tim no additions to our pack at home.



When I walked in to our kitchen with Sassy, I told Tim I was only Sassy's foster mom because I wanted her to know someone loved her- I thought she was going to die in those next few days. Our other Golden at the time was Lucy, the Queen, and she took one look at Sassy and left the room- followed by Tim! The next day she had a seizure while on her morning walk.

Fast forward seven years to November, 2008. Sassy has had lots of love and wonderful veterinary care and hasn't had a seizure since the first week she was with us (it was a thyroid condition). She regained her weight and then some, and has survived a diet prescribed to take some pressure off her joints. She is known in the neighborhood as Sassafra, "The Mouth", always critical of not getting her way while on a walk, and barking when nervous or excited, especially with visitors. She constantly carries one of her "babies" around the house, and bathes them every morning. I like to think that she still wants to be a good mother to the puppies she never got to raise. She stayed right beside Lucy in her final moments - they had become "sisters". And she long ago won over Tim, too.

Every day she thanks me for saving her and bringing her into our home. I can't imagine our home without Sassy. She's one special girl! She also has visited schools as an ambassador for Golden Endings and helped me explain why rescues are needed.

Why share her story? So that, maybe, someone else will give an older Golden a chance and not worry about how long the dog will live. The length of time doesn't matter- it's the relationship that's important.

Kay Hirsch

Oh yes, I forgot to mention what a beautiful girl Sassy became- white face, lots of fur, long, silky feathers on her legs, and a big fluffy tail. The perfect Golden Retriever!

Mia - Much Loved

Mia was surrendered to Golden Endings about two and half years ago. There was a baby on the way and Mia was not longer wanted by her family.

Mia was examined by our Vet and found to have a significant heart murmur. After a few diagnostic tests and much discussion, he felt Mia could be safely spayed. Mia went to the Belmont Correctional Institute to recover.

We knew how difficult it would be to find someone who would adopt Mia. Our Vet felt her life span could be anywhere from six months to two or three years. We decided to feature Mia in the Golden Endings newsletter.



A few days later we got a call from a family that was very interested in knowing more about Mia, and felt they could give her a forever home, even knowing that she may not live a normal life span. They were still willing to love her and take care of her.

I was contacted by Mia's family to let us know that Mia crossed over the Rainbow Bridge in October. She was very much loved and will be very much missed by her family.

Mia, lived one year and nine months after being adopted, and I want to take this time to say, THANK YOU to Mia's family for adopting her and loving her.

Judy Johnson

Isabel and her friend, Buddy

Tim and Kay,

Thank you both for the wonderful experience my family has had adopting through Golden Endings. You have huge hearts, doing all the work you do for this gorgeous breed. Thank you!

Hope you enjoy this story. Isabel, who's in the 3rd grade at RL Stevenson, wrote and typed this on her own.

Susan G

Buddy is my new friend. I play with him every day. We usually play with his tennis ball. We have lots of fun! He LOVES to lie on the couch which my mom does not allow in her house. In the morning when my mom is getting ready he comes in my room and jumps up on my bed and wakes me up. It is pretty funny. I am so glad we adopted a beautiful dog. And when we eat dinner he is so good then. Because when we sit down he lays down right next to me. And right before I go to bed I lay right beside him. I LOVE him very much. I hope you enjoyed my letter and I hope more people adopt dogs that need good homes.

Sincerely,
Isabel G



Golden Endings 2008 Fall Picnic by Kay Hirsch

October 5, 2008 was a picture perfect day for the GEGRR Fall Picnic. The sky was a beautiful blue, the temperature was 72 degrees, and the Sycamore Shelter at Blendon Woods was filled with friendly Golden Retrievers and their owners. I tried to get a head and tail count, but some got past me. I still came up with 56 people and 37 dogs.

This was the first event for our new Special Events Coordinator, Connie Walker, and she did a great job of giving us all a perfect afternoon with our Golden Retrievers. Thanks go to Cathy Taylor, our past Special Events Coordinator, for passing such complete records of each event on to Connie. And Tim Hirsch served as Grill Master.

I'm always amazed at the delicious variety of food our members bring, and this year was no exception. We held our yearly membership meeting at 2:00, and everyone in attendance seemed pleased with the continued success of Golden Endings. We auctioned off a few items which raised some money for operations. Rebecca Jeffries was the winner of the 50/50 Raffle, and she graciously donated her \$58 half back to Golden Endings! Thank you, Rebecca!

The highlight of the day for me was seeing the generosity of our membership in action. Cathy Taylor had begun the idea of members bringing donations of cat and dog food for the Meals on Wheels Program. Many of the elderly people receiving the meals were sharing their food with their pets. We collected a large amount at the picnic to pass along to the cause. It was taken to Meals on Wheels by our members Dick and Diane Calhoun. Thank you both!

Animal lovers, especially Golden Retriever lovers, are truly a very special group of people- thank you all very much!



Golden Endings: Golden Retriever Rescue Christmas 2008 Great Stocking Stuffers

#1 HO HO HO

#2 SO WHAT IF I'M SPOILED ROTTEN

#3 NICE

#4 NOTHIN' BUTT GOLDENS

#5 LET'S GO!

#6

#7 I LOVE GOLDENS

#8

Holiday Golden T-Shirts (S/M/L/XL/XXL) - \$15

#9 #10 #11 #12 #13 #14

Holiday Golden Socks - \$8/pr.

Caps \$15 ea.

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Shipping: | |
| Up to \$20 | add \$3 |
| \$20.01 - \$40.00 | add \$5 |
| \$40.01 - \$60.00 | add \$7 |
| \$60.01 - \$80.00 | add \$9 |

Make checks payable to **GEGRR**
 Mail to Shari Williams
 3918 Rosette Dr.,
 Grove City, Ohio 43123
 614-440-1744 email: sNwilliams006@yahoo.com

See our web site for colors of gift items: www.goldenendings.org