

Reaching out to you with...

The Golden Paw

Volume IX Number 1

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2016
What a
busy year
it was!



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Do you have a good command of English language grammar? Would you be willing to spend 3-4 hours on a Saturday or Sunday proofreading future issues of this newsletter? If so, please contact Deb Orwig at dorwigaz@cox.net and offer your services. Thanks!

Proofreading before publication is essential; for that daunting task, I thank Debbie Ball, Teri Guilbault, Connie McCabe, Larry Orwig and Liz Tataseo

Cover Design by Connie McCabe; dog is **11-056 Mufasa Orwig**

Masthead photo is **16-081 Stanley Arthur**

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Editor's Assistants' Notes



Dolly, Vin, Duffy and Mufasa Orwig

We all had a wonderful time during the holiday season! We had the privilege to serve as ambassadogs at the *Holiday Pet Festival*, the *Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade* and during all the gift wrapping activities at **Barnes & Noble Booksellers**. We just had the best time meeting and greeting the customers and walking around strutting our stuff in our special holiday-colors donation vests, helping to raise money for **Arizona Golden Rescue!**

Speaking of strutting our stuff... There is another opportunity for you and your dog(s) to join us in a parade: the *Parada del Sol* in Scottsdale on February 11th. The parade route is only a little over a mile long, so most dogs and their humans will be able to walk that far. If your dog cannot make it that far, we will provide a wagon like the one **Dolly** will use. She gets stubborn after about ¼ mile and will just plop down in the street and not move, so she gets to ride. If your dog is like **Dolly**, please let Christine Spiel, the parade-group organizer, know so that we can bring enough wagons for all the dogs who will need one. If you have attended with your dog in the past, please have your dog wear the heart-fabric bandanna he/she was given; if you are new to this parade, you will get a bandanna of your choice.

Another fabulously fun event that comes up every spring is **AGR's Paws At The Park**, our annual meeting/BBQ picnic/fun day, this year on March 12th. We will be trying out a new venue on the east side of the Valley: **Eldorado Park** in SE Scottsdale, technically at 2311 N. Miller Rd. However, you will want to **go north on 77th St**, which is about 1¼ miles west of Hwy 101 off McDowell Rd, as the parking lot is only about ¼ mile north of McDowell on 77th St – easy to find, plenty of parking, and not a huge distance for most of you to come. We are renting the East Ramada, but you can also bring a pop-up tent and chairs and/or a ground cover. There will be food, games for the dogs, a raffle and silent auction, **AGR** merchandise for sale, an Adoption Recognition Ceremony, a Rainbow Bridge Ceremony, and a Parade of Rescue in which any dog rescued from anywhere can participate. We hope to break our record of having 127 Golden Retrievers in attendance, so please plan to come! There is a registration form included with this newsletter.



Wags and Woofs

By Deb Orwig, President

dorwigaz@cox.net

I usually write my newsletter column before getting those from the other Board members. When I read through theirs, I am often surprised how the same thread permeates everyone's column even when we don't have a specific theme for a particular issue. This time, the emphasis is on volunteers, or lack of, as the case may be.

We need more volunteers, particularly on our Home Evaluation Team and on our Transport Team. We also need more members to attend our events with or without their dog(s). We would like to keep our reputation of having a very well-coordinated and efficient Rescue operation, but it is becoming more and more difficult to get things done in a timely manner due to so few volunteers. For example, some applicants have waited for a home visit for as long as 3-4 weeks after sending in their application and their \$25 application fee, and these are people that live in the Valley, not in outlying areas of the state. That is too long. The majority of applications come in from East Valley residents: Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, Chandler, Gilbert and Mesa. Right now, two members who live in or close to Sun Lakes are taking many of the Southeast Valley home visits; one of them works full time and has only limited hours in which to do home evaluations. Most of the Scottsdale and Paradise Valley evaluations are done by one volunteer who also works full time, lives in Rio Verde (far northeast of Scottsdale) and will be retiring in the spring and no longer willing to drive so far to do home visits. We could really use a couple new home evaluators in Scottsdale and in the Chandler/Gilbert/Mesa area.

We will train you, whether that be for doing home evaluations or for doing transports. We require that you do at least two ride-alongs with experienced members. We have a detailed home evaluation form we will give you that will guide you in looking around the inside and outside of the home to find anything that might be hazardous to a Golden. If you will consider doing transports, we have a Checklist that details everything you will need to do/bring for one of the five types of transports we have to do [i.e. shelter to vet, shelter to foster, vet to a foster or Foster-With-Intent-To-Adopt (FWITA), surrendering owner (SO) to vet, or SO to foster or FWITA.] We will provide you with an **AGR** name tag, and we encourage you to purchase a T-shirt or polo shirt with the **AGR** logo, but an **AGR** shirt is not essential or required. We will also train you how to enter the information from your home evaluation or transport into our database, so you do need to have access to a computer. Nothing is difficult – believe me, as technologically-challenged as I am, if I can do the computer work, just about anyone can! Each home evaluation takes 45 minutes to an hour; a transport could take more or less time depending on where

the dog is and where it has to go. Mileage for any **AGR** activity is tax deductible, so if you itemize deductions you will need to keep track of mileage.

Thanks to everyone who did come to help at our numerous holiday season events. All are detailed in the *Here and There* section of this newsletter starting on page 21. We saw a few new faces, but we would like to see more at future events! Students and advisors from **Apollo High School's Key Club** were especially helpful at several of the gift wrapping sessions and at the *Holiday Pet Festival*.

Do you have a passion in life? Those of us who are very active in Rescue do – Rescue! Perhaps you will develop such a passion and enrich your life if you join us for some or all of the events that are scheduled this spring. They will be fun, you will get to know some really great, enthusiastic-about-Rescue people, your dog will get socialization experience and you will help us make some money – a win-win-win-win situation!

There is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, and Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody, when actually Nobody did what Anybody could have done.
~ Anonymous



It's a Ruff Life!

By Christine Spiel,
Director of Activities

cmspiel@gmail.com

2016 was a great year for **Arizona Golden Rescue**. We rescued 84 Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes. These lucky dogs were transported with care, all medical needs taken care of, and then the dogs were placed in loving homes.

Hmmmm, let me repeat myself... ALL MEDICAL NEEDS TAKEN CARE OF... Yes, all medical needs of all 84 of these lucky rescued dogs were satisfied to the fullest, which comes with a very hefty price tag. Yes, the veterinary offices do provide **AGR** a discount on services. However, medical expenses averaged \$1,490 per rescued Golden in 2016!

Just how does **AGR** obtain all the funds to cover all these medical

expenses? Several different ways:

1. Adoption fees
2. Membership fees
3. Generous donations by **AGR** members and supporters
4. Grants
5. Donations by the public at events **AGR** attends throughout the year.

Again, let me repeat myself... DONATIONS by the public at EVENTS **AGR** ATTENDS throughout the year. I attend probably 90% of **AGR** events during the year. I attend these events because I love the camaraderie of others who frequently attend these events. I love being able to take **Nash** and **Jack** to **AGR** events, which they love attending as well. I know attending 90% of our events is totally unrealistic for many **AGR** members. But, it would be nice to see SOME NEW FACES at events. Time and time again, I see the same dedicated **AGR** members attending events. I know you have heard the saying, "the more the merrier." But, also in this instance, not only are the more **AGR** members the merrier, but the more Golden Retrievers and members we have at these events the greater are the chances to receive donations from the public. How unfair would it be to future Golden Retrievers if **AGR** would have to limit medical treatment due to lack of funds when your Golden was 100% medically treated?

Also, these events are sometimes very exhausting by the time we unpack the trailer, set up the tables and pop-up tents, unpack and display the **AGR** merchandise, talk to the public during the event, pack up the **AGR** merchandise, take down the pop-up tents and tables, and finally pack up the trailer. If only a few extra **AGR** members attended in the beginning or at the end of the events to lend a helping hand, it would be SO MUCH APPRECIATED!

- Please take the time to look at the events calendar on the **AGR** website.
- Please take the time to attend an **AGR** event.
- Please help "paw it forward" for future rescued Golden Retrievers.

I really hope to see new **AGR** member faces at the upcoming **AGR** events. If you have any questions about what these events entail, how you could be of help, need directions to these events, etc, please do not hesitate to contact me at cmspiel@gmail.com or call my cell phone: 602-881-8615.

PLAY GOLF?

We have a date for our 2017 *Fore! Paws Golf Tournament!*
Saturday, September 16, 2017
1 PM Shotgun Start, 4-Person Scramble Format
Registration information will be in the May newsletter

Upcoming Events

**Parada Del Sol and Trail's End**

DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2017

BOOTH AT TRAIL'S END: set-up at 7:30 AM; booth will be open for merchandise sales until 5 PM

PARKING: Arriving early, you should be able to find street parking. Limited parking will be available in the Scottsdale Galleria Parking Structure

STAGING: South-bound lane of Drinkwater north of 3rd Ave and south of Stetson; please arrive no later than 9:00 AM; parade starts at 10 AM

ATTIRE: Red or white shirts; dogs, heart-fabric bandannas

LINE OF MARCH: South on Scottsdale Road to 1st Street, west on 1st St to Marshall Way, south on Marshall Way to 2nd St, east on 2nd Street to Brown, north to Brown to Indian School Road

SET-UP TIME FOR ALL PACC 911 EVENTS IS 8:30 AM**PACC911 & Earnhardt Pet Adopt-A-Thon**

DATE: Saturday, February 25, 2017,
10:00 AM – 3:00PM

Earnhardt Ford, 7300 West Orchid Lane, Chandler

PACC911 & Petco Ahwatukee Pet Adopt-A-Thon

DATE: Saturday, March 11, 2017
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Ahwatukee Foothills Towne Center,
5011 East Ray Rd, Phoenix

PACC911 Paws Around the Fountain in Fountain Hills

DATE: Sunday, March 26, 2017 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
12925 North Saguaro Blvd, Fountain Hills

Petco, PetSmart and Pet Planet Meet-and-Greet dates and locations are shown on the AGR website Events Calendar



Come meet your AGR Board Members



Dunking for hot dogs is a favorite game!

Arizona Golden Rescue Annual Picnic

DATE: Sunday, March 12th, 2017

PLACE: Eldorado Park, Scottsdale – East Ramada
Northwest corner of McDowell Rd and 77th St;
Plenty of free parking

Large children's play area near East Ramada

TIME: 11am-4pm (set-up starts at 8:30 AM)

FEE: \$12 for Adults and kids over 10; \$5 for younger kids

Hamburgers or hot dogs with all the fixin's (we will also offer veggie burgers), chips, cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans, desserts, soda, water and much much more!

ACTIVITIES:

Dog games

Annual Meeting -- confirmation of Board of Directors for 2017-2018

Rainbow Bridge Ceremony -- If you want to honor a dog that has passed away since March 2016, you must send a paragraph and photo to Deb Orwig no later than March 5th (dorwigaz@cox.net)

Adoption Recognition Ceremony for all dogs adopted in 2016 and any in previous years who have not attended this event before

Parade of Rescue

Raffle and Silent Auction (bring cash, checks or credit card)

AGR Merchandise for sale

**REGISTRATION NOT LIMITED TO AGR MEMBERS
-- ANYONE MAY ATTEND**

Registration Form included with this newsletter must be received by **AGR** no later than March 5th



Parade of Rescue -- anyone with a dog rescued from anywhere can walk around the park with us

Paws Forward

By Sue Vallie, Director of Dog Care

suevallie@cox.net



With the beginning of a new year, I am compelled to examine what has remained the same and what has changed over the past year. **AGR** is an entirely volunteer organization with 100% of the funds going directly or indirectly for dogs and dog care. If you have considered donating time to us so that others can enjoy the happiness of having a new loving furry member of their household, now is a good time to start. The more volunteers, the lighter the load for each. Some assignments can be completed in a few hours while others are on-going. Below is a description of only those options directly involved with taking care of the dogs. There are other needed assignments addressed elsewhere in this issue.

It takes a lot of time and effort to accomplish what we have this past year. In 2016, 84 dogs came into our program. They ranged in age from the puppies born to a mother being fostered to a dog a family had had for 14 years. They included many apparently purebred dogs to a particularly endearing little dog, Waffles, that somehow snuck under the door. His heart may have been all that was Golden, but he had many interested in adopting him. Each dog needed to be treated differently.

Without dogs, the organization is unnecessary. The Intake Team, headed by Judy Petitto and Sharon Flores, is doing a terrific job. With changes in organization and assignments, our enthusiastic Team members have been locating dogs from new sources. We have more people walking the local shelters to locate dogs, and we are regularly checking with outlying shelters for Golden retrievers. With new people in position with time-allocation arranged, new personal connections with sources for dogs are being created and these are beginning to pay off. As always, we still get most of our dogs from owners surrendering them to us.

The next team handling a dog is Placement. Debbie Mikol continues to manage that group. Her team matches dogs with families with consistent success. Their ability to locate a suitable match, sometimes within hours of being notified of a dog, is amazing. When there isn't a sufficient applicant pool for a specific dog, Placement finds a foster to hold the dog until appropriate applicants can be identified (or sometimes we have to board the dog for a while at a vet). Fosters are also needed for dogs with complicated medical issues. Debbie continues to train and guide people through this sensitive but rewarding assignment.

During this past year, the Transport team got a new manager, Sharon McKenzie. Sharon is also our behavior specialist and has proven invaluable both in assisting new owners with behavior is-

issues and for assessing behavior of possible intakes.

This past year alone, dogs have been picked up or delivered from Tucson to Paulden (northwest of Prescott) and from Yuma to Globe. Even traversing our metropolitan area can require a trip that takes between 1½ and 2 hours, not accounting for the misnomer known as rush "hour". We have been able to coordinate more shared rides where one party goes half way and meets another transporter to complete the trip. It has also taken oversight to make certain everyone receives proper training before effecting a successful transport on their own. Sharon has ensured that transports are managed in a timely manner.

Assuring that Home Evaluations are conducted consistently and efficiently, Sheila Joyce continues to coordinate that function in her seamless way. Until an assignment is taken, she will, in the nicest way possible, keep the entire team apprised of the need for an evaluation in a certain location until someone offers. When needed, she has been able to expedite evaluations within days of an application being submitted. Liz Tataseo provides virtual home evaluations via Skype or Facetime for outlying areas of the state. Training is critical for home evaluators to assure consistency in application and comfort for the evaluator in knowing the duties. Consequently, we require potential new home evaluators to do at least two ride-alongs with experienced evaluators, plus we provide a handy detailed guide for what to observe in and around the home.

Liz Tataseo continues in the critical areas of Records Manager and Manager of the Vet Team. With staff assigned the coordination of exams at one of our participating vet clinics, we are assured that routine vet checks and follow-up on all known medical issues are addressed. We could use other participating veterinarians, particularly in the outer areas of the metropolitan area. Acute need is felt in the far southeast and southwest parts of the Valley. To add a new vet, we begin with the recommendations of people using clinics with which they are confident. Liz then contacts the clinic to ask if a working arrangement can be reached. When vets agree to work with our Rescue, we can almost guarantee them an increase in private-client business. Some vets don't want to increase the extent of their practice, but most do. So, if you take your dog(s) to a clinic other than the ones we use on a regular basis, please ask if they would be interested in working with us and let us know if they say yes.

If any of these functions sound like something you would like to do, please contact the manager of that area. Some tasks require committing availability to help for a week at a time, on a rotating basis with other team members. Others are specific tasks for a time you can arrange. Some tasks always can use more help right now, while others may require waiting until there is an opening. Some tasks can be done in the comfort of your home, while others require literally getting out and about. No one will be asked to do something they do not feel comfortable or competent to do. All functions require a training phase for both your protection

and ours. Please consider helping deserving dogs find new loving homes. That is what we are about.



The Information Highway

By Dana Haywood,
Director of Information Management

dana.haywood@arizonagoldenrescue.org

As this newsletter reaches you, we are about to celebrate our 8th anniversary as a rescue organization. Thanks to many members over the years for all their help in making us what we are today. We have streamlined almost all of the processes that we use to online processes rather than physical paper forms, and we have communications going out to members on a routine basis so that everyone is kept abreast of what is happening within **AGR**.

For a few of those eight years, we were taking in more dogs than we have in the last couple of years. The recent decrease is most likely due to the economy getting better and fewer dogs coming in because of foreclosures. As a reminder, in July 2016 we implemented a \$25 adoption application fee for all adoption applications submitted to **AGR**. The reason that this fee was instituted was to offset the fewer dogs coming into Rescue by reducing the number of applications coming in. The applications we get now tend to be from people who are seriously interested in adopting a rescued dog and are not just applying on a spur of the moment thought. So far, this approach also has reduced the number of applications. It also helps to reduce the number of home visits for which we need evaluators. All applications now, whether they be from new applicants or previous adopters, require the adoption application fee. If a dog is placed within one year, the \$25 is deducted from the adoption fee; if a family is approved and a year passes without a placement, a letter of donation will be sent to the applicant for tax purposes.

Although we are taking in fewer dogs each year, we still incur large medical bills. Owners are turning in dogs that they cannot afford to help medically and **AGR** accepts such dogs, so we still need to be proactive in our fundraising to stay viable.

Over the last 8 years, we have lost quite a few active members for matters of health, moving away from the area and other reasons. Although we have placed 768 dogs in the past eight years, the number of regular participants in our activities has diminished. We always wish and hope that a portion of the families who adopt from us will join us by participating in events to help us continue in our mission. We do understand that many members do not have the free time to join us at all events, but we thank those of you who have helped us. In hopes of encouraging additional participation, I will continue sending out e-mails during the month to let members know about upcoming events.

If you cannot help physically, please remember that there are many ways to help the organization. If you shop at any of the **Fry's Food & Drug** stores, please consider connecting your VIP card to **AGR**. Every quarter we receive a donation from **Fry's** based on the amount of purchases that have been made by the friends and members of **AGR**, and it does not cost you anything extra or devalue your fuel points.



For all of you who shop online using Amazon, you can log on to Amazon via smile.amazon.com and we will receive a percentage of your purchase as a donation from Amazon. Such a donation does not add to your purchase price. You just need to select **Arizona Golden Rescue** as the beneficiary of the donation.

Do you have a motor vehicle (operational or not) that you wish to get rid of? We have a working relationship with **CARS**. They will remove your vehicle at no charge to you, **AGR** will get a donation from the sale of the vehicle, and you will get a tax deduction for the donation.

If you walk, run or bike, consider downloading the app ResQWalk; then you can help out **AGR** with a donation made by ResQWalk. ResQWalk is a free app, available on Android and iPhone, which tracks your distance-related activities – walking, running or biking. It is easy and straightforward to use. After you download the app on your mobile device, select **Arizona Golden Rescue** as your preferred organization. Before starting your walk, run or bike ride, turn the app on and GPS will track your distance. ResQWalk will map your activity and keep track of your total distance over time. Each mile turns into \$\$ for **AGR**. For more information, go to www.resqwalk.com. Download the app for Android on Google Play Store and for iPhone on the App Store. Just search for ResQWalk.



The Human Connection

By Connie McCabe,
Human Resources Director

photocraf@aol.com

“It’s all about the dogs.”

We say that a lot because that is why we are all part of this wonderful group. You would not be reading this if it were not for your love for the dogs. But as much as that is true, it takes a lot of hard work from a lot of people to keep this organization, and therefore the dogs, alive and thriving.

Since this is the “Human Connection” column, in every issue I am going to continue to mention a few interesting facts and stories about some of the people you think you know. Hopefully, you will learn something new about them and gain more insight into how they got here. If you are interested in getting to know some of the members I have featured in this column and you have not received previous issues of this newsletter, you can download them from the Information tab on our website.



This quarter, let's meet Bert and Mary Engstrom, founding members sharing member number 43F. They were busy with work for a while but are now back and planning to be very active with **AGR** once again.

Bert and Mary Engstrom originally hail from the outskirts of Chicago. They moved to the Valley about 18 years ago and currently reside on the far western border of Litchfield Park,

near the White Tank Mountains. Their first Golden was an eight-week-old puppy named **Pal**, who became a family member when their son Chris was in kindergarten. **Pal** was the iconic perfect Golden and was the star of the neighborhood. He succumbed to an inoperable brain tumor at the age of nine. Six months later they met Deb Orwig at a **Barnes & Noble** holiday season gift wrap.

Mary was sobbing and still heartbroken over the loss of **Pal**. Deb, who was with **RAG** at the time, convinced them to fill out an application for adoption and within a month their beloved **Misty**, who was about one year old, came into their lives. **Misty** was a joy! Bert was on the Transport Team at the time and received a call to ask if they were interested in a puppy that was part of a litter. They went to see the puppies, and **Liberty** chose them!



Double the Golden love in six months! Then, one year on the way to the annual picnic, they became involved in a transport and fostering part of another litter of puppies. They ended up adopting the smallest puppy of the litter, **Marley**. **Marley** had chosen their son as his “person” and went to reside with him when he purchased his home. Along the way, five years ago after much persistence, Bert and Mary were able to rescue and domesticate a feral Australian Cattle Dog that was living in the desert, **Charlie Bear**. All of their dogs bonded beautifully. Unfortunately, all three of their dogs crossed over the Rainbow Bridge within a year's time. Hopefully **AGR** will soon be able to fill the void in the Engstrom home with another Golden. Bert is currently the Superintendent of Chemistry for **APS-Palo Verde**. Mary has retired after being a registered nurse for 35 years. She is currently on the Home Evaluation Team and has begun writing the “Magic Moments” section of *The Golden Paw*. They have one son, Chris, who resides in Goodyear. He tied the knot with Summer this past June.

You may have met Sandra Hansen, number 104, at many of our events and Meet-and-Greets. She has been a very active volunteer for many years. In Sandra's own words:



I moved to Arizona from Denmark in 1992 when I was 18 years old. I had just finished my dental assisting degree in Denmark, and had decided to take a year off before starting to work. My mother is American so her side of the family lives in Arizona. My father and sister also had moved here from Denmark a few years before, which is the main reason why I came over; 25 years later and I am still here. With much encouragement and support from my employer at the time, I went back to college and was eventually accepted into the dental hygiene program in Flagstaff, where I spent 3 long years. I graduated from hygiene school in 2001 and have been cleaning teeth ever since.

I became acquainted with Arizona Golden Rescue in 2009. I had just seen the movie “UP” and thought that the dog “Dug” was just the most adorable friendly Golden Retriever, and it started me thinking about getting a dog. A few weeks later, I went to Choice Pet Market to buy cat food. AGR was there doing a “meet-and-greet” with lots of beautiful happy Golden Retrievers. I filled out the adoption application, had my home evaluation done, and shortly thereafter got my first dog, Duke. I have adopted 5 dogs from AGR since 2009: Duke, Missy, Jasmine, Tatum and Sadie. Duke started my love of senior dogs. Duke, Missy and Tatum were all over the age of 9 when they came into Rescue. Sadie was 7, not a senior, but I took her in to foster, because she had epilepsy. I became a foster ‘failure/success’ yet again. I had Duke, Missy, Tatum, and Sadie for less than a year each, not long enough. I recently lost my girl Jasmine, whom I had the longest (6 years), and not a day goes by that I don't think of her.



Jasmine with Sandra

I am the Membership and Microchip Manager for AGR. When it's time for you to renew your membership with AGR and you get a membership renewal letter and application in the mail, I am the one sending them. Often the adoption fee you paid does not cover the medical expenses for which AGR paid and provided for your dog, so please always consider renewing your membership and thereby continuing your support of AGR. When you adopt a dog from AGR, in addition to general/senior blood work, heartworm test, valley fever test, and other medical needs attended to, your dog also gets microchipped if it isn't already. Part of my responsibility is to ensure that the vets we use have our microchips when they need them. After the dog has been microchipped, I register the dog with the microchip company. A couple years ago we took in a dog that had been a stray. The person surrendering the dog had looked for the owners and couldn't find them. Thankfully the dog

was microchipped; however, when I called the microchip company, I found that the owner information was out of date. I was able to track down the owner by calling the vet that had implanted the microchip. Please always update **AGR** with your current phone number and address. **AGR** is always the primary contact for the dog, because we are not moving or going anywhere. I enjoy volunteering with **AGR** and hope to do so for many more years. In my spare time, besides volunteering for **AGR**, I like to read and hike, and I knit/crochet for a couple of charity groups. I am currently a slave/waiter for 4 cats.



Finally, let's meet Sarah Martin, number 171, again in her own words:

*My love of dogs, especially Golden Retrievers, has been life-long since I was 5 years old. That was when **Ada** became a part of my family. She was the most patient, sweet and loving dog. She loved to play 'tug' and to snuggle and get belly rubs. Ever since her passing many moons ago, I knew that I would be looking to make another Golden a part of my family.*

*I have always been a proponent of "save, don't shop" when it comes to dogs. My first rescue is a MCACCS Heinz-57 mutt, **Molly**. When it came time to find a friend for her, I knew it was time for a Golden. I started researching rescue organizations and was blown away by the prompt and professional response from **AGR**. I soon had my home visit finished and was approved, anxiously awaiting the dog for me.*

*On Easter of 2010, I found out that **Bunny** (then **Angel**) was going to be part of my family. I couldn't wait for her to arrive, and was somewhat terrified (unnecessarily) about how she and **Molly** would get along. After a lot of sniffing and tail wagging, they decided they could be friends. **Bunny** had been accepted as one of the gang.*

*In order to help socialize **Bunny**, her former home being not so great, I started attending some Meet-and-Greet events and discovered the joy of Holiday Gift Wrapping, which is something I look forward to each Christmas season. I also became involved with the annual Fore! Paws Golf Tournament, and while being on the committee didn't work out due to my work hours, I thoroughly enjoy driving a water cart at the event to help keep the golfers hydrated.*



*Volunteering with **AGR** has been a great way for me to get out and help the dogs I love so much. A nice plus has been meeting all the other great people who share a passion for this amazing breed.*



Health and Safety

By Liz Tataseo,
Health Care Manager

e.tataseo@yahoo.com

When we are out in public collecting donations or doing major fundraising, we always say it is for the dogs! That money does go directly to vet costs to make sure each dog is as healthy as possible, so that they can be happy and healthy in their forever homes. We are able to work with several great animal hospitals that give us discounts so that we can pursue needed vetting for each dog.



Staff at Four-Legged Friends Animal Hospital with five 8-week-old puppies from January 2016 litter; Dr. Valerie Ferguson is third from left

Our veterinarians include **Four-Legged Friends Animal Hospital** in Phoenix – Dr. Valerie Ferguson has worked with us since the beginning; **Kennel Care** in Chandler, which has cared for many of our very sick dogs for almost 8 years; **Animal Medical & Surgical Center** in Scottsdale, now open

24/7, is a state-of-the-art hospital and their vets have saved many of our dogs; **Raintree Medical Center and Resort** in Scottsdale, which joined us the last two years; **Stetson Hills Animal Hospital**, which has served our Anthem adopters but has now moved closer to Glendale and north Peoria; and **Academy West Animal Hospital** in Glendale, which has given us the security of both boarding and vetting, especially with emergency intakes. We also occasionally work with vets in Flagstaff, Prescott, Sierra Vista, Tucson and Yuma. If you live in one of these outlying areas and need a recommendation for a vet, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We also have partnerships with many specialists: **Animal Health Institute – Companion Animal Clinic** at **Midwestern University**, **Arizona Dental Specialists**, **Arizona Oncology**, **Dermatology for Animals**, **EyeCare for Animals**, **VetCare Internal Medicine**, **Vet-Med** (internal medicine and emergency services) and **Veterinary Neurological Center**, to name a few.

The basic vetting we do for each dog during the initial three-week foster period is:

- health exam
- valley fever test (normally not done on a puppy under 6 months of age)
- heartworm test (normally not done on a puppy under 6 months of age); heartworm prevention medication pro-

vided for two months

- rabies and distemper/parvo vaccinations if not current
- bordatella vaccine if staying at the vet for more than an appointment or if beginning obedience training at a facility (*Partners, Master's Kennels, PetSmart, Petco*)
- spay or neuter (normally we recommend neutering and spaying at about 10 months)
- implantation of an AVID microchip
- fecal if indicated by dog's history, appearance of stool, or if dog is a puppy
- senior panel if over 8 yrs of age
- ear infections, lumps, bumps, physical issues and preexisting conditions will also be addressed during the exam

If warranted by the exam, dogs may be referred to a specialist for follow-up and treated for the condition. Financial coverage for follow-up exams and treatments needed for any ongoing illness or condition will be included for three months after finalization of the adoption.

In order to get the basic vetting done for each dog, two different avenues exist. If the dog comes from a shelter or is an emergency intake, the dog will, in the majority of those cases, go to one of our veterinarians first before being placed in their forever home. If an intake is a regular intake from a surrendering owner, the dog will most likely be placed in its new home first and the new family will take the dog to one of our veterinarians through a regular appointment, at their convenience, within the first few days the dog is in their home. **AGR** will be responsible for all vet bills until an adoption is finalized.

Each animal hospital has a dedicated **AGR** volunteer that coordinates vetting between the family and the veterinarian and is available for follow-up and any needed questions the family may have about the health of their dog. The Health Care Manager is also available to do follow-up or to answer questions regardless of the veterinarian being seen.

Health Care Manager, Liz Tataseo	
Animal Hospital	AGR Liaison for that vet
Academy West	Liz Tataseo
Animal Medical & Surgical Center (AMSC)	Chris Spiel
Four-Legged Friends Kennel Care	Amy Maynard Teri Guilbault
Raintree Pet Resort & Medical Center	Liz Tataseo
Stetson Hills	Liz Tataseo
All specialist vets or vets in outlying areas	Liz Tataseo

If you live in Arizona, please get your dog checked for valley fever at his/her annual exam.



Editor's Notes: Wendy originally wrote this column six years ago when she had a service dog named Sophie. Sophie passed away in 2015; Wendy now has Cubbie, pictured with her above. Although some of the dogs AGR has rescued have become service dogs, AGR does not provide service-dog training – that is left up to the adoptive family. If a family acquires a dog from a Rescue or another source, there is a terrific local organization that can help the family learn how to train the dog as a service dog: Happy Tails Service Dogs (<http://happytailsservedogs.com/>) Their services are free for the handler – the only thing necessary is a commitment to pursue the training until it has been completed, which may take anywhere from nine months to two years.

Getting It Straight: It's a Service Dog's Life

Imagine your puppy's ideal life, carefree with perpetual playtime, naptime, and chowtime. She gets special praise, loving, or treats when she does something that pleases you, and her life just could not get any better.

Now, throw in service dog training where, all of a sudden, her playful games have turned into commands which quickly invade her playtime. Hours each day for the next couple of years, she drills and works hard to master these commands.

Then it is time to go to work, every day, all day long, and on call 24/7. Working or not, she's never allowed to do most things other dogs get to do... no barking, no eating people food, no sniffing, and no chasing cats, birds, or other small creatures.

These are many people's sad misconceptions of the life of a service dog, so let's look at it from a different angle... **Sophie's** point of view. "Don't feel sorry for me," she'd tell you. "I've got it made. Sure, service dog training was rigorous and tough... for Wendy, but not for me. I made friends and played new games like 'brace' and 'touch' and 'pull.' And then I got to spend hours each day playing those games at home with her. She always made them fun! My life as a service dog is awesome! I meet and get fussed over by new people every time I work, and I go for more car rides and outings than any other dog I know. Sometimes my work is tedious and boring, but I get to be right at the side of the most precious person in the world to me. I walk store aisles with her, lie underneath the pew in front of her at church, and snuggle up underneath the table at restaurants. I'll admit I don't understand why she won't share her food with me, but, after we leave, she makes sure I get a high-end paycheck, like a Beggin' Strip® or half a string cheese, and that's just mighty fine with me!"

Another common misconception is that service dogs are never allowed to be regular dogs, do dog things, or enjoy a dog's life. *Au contraire* – you should see **Sophie's** toy box, the holes she has

dug in the back yard, and claw marks on the walls of the barn and the garden where she has gotten carried away chasing geckos and the occasional mouse. Her treat jars are always full, and heaven help us if we run out of string cheese or peanut butter, her ultimate treats! Oh, she's a regular dog, all right!

I believe she'd agree that her greatest treat, far surpassing any other, is the satisfaction she gets for a job well done. Looking into her eyes after she has caught me during a fall, picked up something I dropped, or walked me safely across a crowded intersection, I've seen a sparkle of pride! She'll take praise and a hug over a biscuit any day!

Follow the Lead

By Deb Orwig

With this issue, we are going to begin including a column about dog behavior and training. In the future, Sharon McKenzie, **AGR's** Behavior Consultant, will be writing the article, but since I sprung the idea on her too close to the newsletter copy deadline for her to even think about it, I am going to compose this one.

Sharon planted the seed for this article by sending me the following vignette that she found on Facebook, which I rarely visit:

In order for a dog to be stubborn he must first understand completely what is asked of him and then choose to disobey. There are very few stubborn dogs in the world. There are, however, many dogs who are untrained.

From a Facebook post by raftermcatahoulas

AGR treats behavior problems the same way we treat medical ones: we will take whatever steps necessary to help a dog become a good family member. In the *Health and Safety* article on pages 9-10, Liz Tataseo details what we do medically for a rescued dog. In this column, we will focus on behavior and training.

We have found that often it is the family that needs training, as well as the dog. Many of our adopters have never had to train a dog – either they have never had a dog, or the one(s) they had did not need much training. When confronted with some undesirable behaviors, they may not know how to handle them. Problems may include counter-surfing, chewing on things other than dog toys, jumping up on people, barking too much, wanting to bolt out the door, digging in the yard, not paying attention when a command is given, having potty accidents in the house, and not walking well on leash. All of these behaviors can be corrected if one knows how – **AGR** provides the how.

If a dog comes into Rescue with behavior problems, we contact Sharon McKenzie. She usually will call the potential adoptive family and discuss the dog's behavior issues. Sometimes, all it takes is a suggestion or two and maybe some follow-up e-mails or calls to determine if the dog is improving. Very often, however, she will actually go to the home of the foster or Foster-With-Intent-To-Adopt (FWITA) and do hands-on work directly with the dog and the family. Many times she has gone to a home more than once.

Sharon's biggest asset in my opinion is that she listens. Then, she delves into her extensive mental repertoire of training techniques and makes suggestions to the family, actually demonstrating such techniques personally. She is very patient and very competent, and **AGR** is lucky to have her do this important job for us. Teryl Hall, who preceded Sharon as our Behavior Consultant, was the same way, and we were lucky to have Teryl's services for six years.

If Sharon is not comfortable with the progress being made by the dog and the family, or if it is apparent before the dog is even placed that serious behavior modification is necessary, then we will resort to one of two things:

(1) **AGR** will pay for one series of weekly basic obedience lessons for the FWITA and dog at either **Partners Dog Training School** in Cave Creek or at **Master's Kennels University** in Gilbert; in this case, we will not finalize the adoption until the class series has been completed. If a family's work schedule or location is such that they cannot manage classes at either of these facilities, then we will hire a professional trainer who will go to the home.

(2) If the dog is totally out of control and needs direct professional one-on-one help, we will register him/her for the 3-week in-house (i.e. boarding and training) "boot camp" at **Partners**. In a couple of rare cases, the dog has had to stay at **Partners** for at least a second three-week session. One dog was there for four months! This dog, who was about 6 years old when we rescued him, had been a stray, trusted no one and had never had any training. Although he is very picky about his canine friends (i.e., he does not like most other dogs) and is still not very trusting of strangers, he is now a wonderful, well-behaved companion dog for one of our members.

In my **AGR** experience of almost 8 years, we have never had to have a dog euthanized due to unmodifiable behavior, other than for aggression of which we were unaware when the dog came into Rescue. Our Intake Team members are trained to detect aggression in a surrendering owner's statements about the dog. However, in rare instances an owner has lied, told Intake what he/she thought we wanted to hear and not been honest about the dog's aggressive tendencies (toward children or adults, or with food or toys). So, we have occasionally (but not even once a year) had to have a dog who displays aggression euthanized – liability to the organization is just too great not to do so.

The Financial Picture

By Deb Orwig

Reporting period: January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016

Total Assets as of January 15, 2017: \$221,223.23

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Adoption Application Fee	\$ 3,751.00	
Adoptions	23,342.50	
Adoption Fee Refunds	- 1,400.00	
Bank Charges (Intuit, PayPal)		574.81
Calendars – Sales & Sponsorships	4,300.00	3,201.53
Credit Card Expense		590.75
Donations ¹	35,757.80	
<i>Debbe Begley Memorial Fund</i>	5,084.14	
Honorary	15,050.01	
Memorial	8,391.50	
Cargo Trailer Fund ²	4,785.00	531.86
Dues & Subscriptions		456.35
Event Expense ³		375.00
Gift Wrap Events (Valentine's Day)	6,934.46	
Golf Tournament ⁴	34,734.53	8,662.58
Grants	15,900.00	1,000.00
Insurance		566.00
Interest	73.48	
Legal & Professional Fees		10.00
Memberships	23,250.00	
Merchandise	5,760.90	3,346.81
<i>Paws At The Park</i> 2016 ⁴	2,323.75	965.19
Office Expenses & Supplies		529.92
Postage		1,826.56
Promotional		281.34
Rent or Lease		2,475.64
Repair and Maintenance		66.53
Stationery & Printing		5,527.62
Telephone & Website		225.45
Dog-related Expenses		
Behavioral Training		776.00
Boarding		1,128.98
Microchip & Heartgard® Expenses		780.77
Miscellaneous		52.15
Veterinary Services		125,780.16
TOTAL	\$175,084.48	\$143,555.89

NET INCOME: \$31,528.59

Checking Account on 01-15-17: \$109,909.91

Savings Account on 01-15-17: \$100,172.97

Debbe Begley Memorial Fund as of 01-15-17: \$ 11,149.35

Outstanding Credit Card Balance on 01-15-17: \$ 10,793.24

¹ Donations made in support of *Paws At The Park* and the Golf Tournament before and during the event are included here

² We spent \$2,961 on the cargo trailer and license fees; the trailer became a fixed asset, so we do not count that amount among the expenses

³ Booth fee for 2017 *Phoenix Pet Expo*

⁴ Income for an event does not include merchandise sales – that income is included in Merchandise; nor does it include donations in support of the event before or during the event

Financial Notes and Explanations

As of the end of 2016, we are in excellent financial shape. The table at left details all of our sources of income and expenses for the entire year. However, I want to point out that the numbers in this table are just a snapshot as of December 31, 2016.

Our financial picture changes just about daily. For example, some of the vets we use send us invoices and charge our credit card once a month (one on or around the 10th, the other near the end of the month); others charge the card every time they see one of our rescued dogs. Our two “regular” vets that bill us once a month will be charging at least some of our December expenses in January. Consequently, when Cindy Tigges and I prepare the 2016 tax return in May the total for Veterinary Services will be higher than the amount shown in the table. Other income and expenses that were accrued after the 12th of the month when our bank statement is released will show up in our account during the following month.

For the first time, our non-specific donations were higher than our *Fore! Paws Golf Tournament* income. We have had some very generous supporters! The many who donated during the 4th quarter of 2016 are acknowledged on the last pages of this issue. During the year, it was especially gratifying to have so many donate as a result of our plea for support for the purchase of a cargo trailer, and so many others participate in our *Summer Fund Drive for Special Needs Dogs*. The monies that came in during the latter dedicated fundraiser, as well as what we earned at the *Paws & Pasta Dinner*, helped increase the funds available in the *Debbe Begley Memorial Fund*.

The *DBMF* is, of course, open for donations at any time during the year. Donations to this *Fund* help with the cost of veterinary services and medicine for the Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes that accrue extraordinary medical expenses. Several of the 84 dogs we rescued in 2016 were in terrible condition and others needed chemotherapy, surgery, or other expensive veterinary care. The *Debbe Begley Memorial Fund* is used when a dog must be treated for cancer, or if the cost of a dog's total medical bills exceeds \$5,000 – the excess is taken out of this *Fund*. Consequently, it is most important that we keep a healthy amount of cash in this *Fund*.

In general, all donors are sent thank you letters in January. For 2016 donations, I prepared 384 letters and many of those acknowledged multiple donations – I had a total of 737 line items on my Donations spreadsheet, 75 item-only donations mostly for the golf tournament, and another dozen In-Kind donations! We are obligated by law to acknowledge all donations of \$250 or more. However, if you made even one donation of as little as \$5 during the year, you got a thank you letter if I had a US mail address for you – it was just the right thing to do. Please let me know if you made a donation in 2016 and did not receive a letter, or if your letter was inaccurate, in which case I will redo it right away.

Arizona Gives Day is April 4th. Please donate to **AGR** through the Arizona Gives website: www.arizonagives.org

How much do we spend on any one dog? What is the average expense per dog over the course of a year? These are questions we need to be able to answer not infrequently. Until now, the process of getting the information has been tedious and frustrating, but that is about to change.

Debbie Ball has taken on the task of keeping track of how much money we spend on any one dog. She is a master of spreadsheet creation and manipulation and has spent a great deal of time since November 2016 putting together a spreadsheet of all vet charges for all our 2016 and some of our 2015-rescued dogs (the ones whose expenses spilled over into 2016).

The results of Debbie's efforts will help in numerous ways:

- when someone asks how much we have spent on a particular dog, we will be able to find out with one e-mail or phone call or a glance at the spreadsheet;
- the spreadsheet will be especially useful to me or whoever writes the *Diamonds In The Ruff* column for this newsletter;
- when Sue Vallie and I prepare the *Golden Retriever Club of America's National Rescue Committee's Annual Survey*, many of the statistics that report requires will be easily obtained from Debbie's spreadsheet;
- the spreadsheet will also be useful to Jolene Schlichter, our Grant Writer, when she has to present numbers in a grant proposal.

Until now and fortunately continuing, Cindy Tigges, our Organization Accountant, has tracked money spent in each expense category. Debbie Ball is now tracking expenses *per dog*. As we have found, it is often frustrating to get this information just from the vet invoices and impossible to get it from the credit card statements which just present a total charged by a vet – the charges and the invoices have to be cross-referenced and the details pulled out, which is what Debbie can now do with her spreadsheet. We appreciate her efforts so much, and Cindy's, too.

Please be advised that unless a month is very busy financially, bank deposits are made only twice a month, on or around the 15th and on the last banking day of the month. So, if you send a check that we receive between the 2nd and the 12th of the month, for example, it will not appear as cashed in your bank statement until after the 15th.

Also, thank you letters are generated at the end of the year unless requested sooner.

MAGIC MOMENTS

By Mary Engstrom

Magic Moments... when a stray Golden Retriever or Golden mix is spotted in a shelter kennel and does a happy dance when taken out; when a neglected backyard dog is surrendered by its owner to a member of our Transport Team and is delivered to a foster family that shows the dog love, comfort, toys and good-quality food for, perhaps, the first time in the dog's life; and the most magical of all... when a rescued dog meets his or her forever family and we see the dog's excitement and the sparkle in the family's eyes. As rescuers, we are privileged to share in these Magic Moments. Below are stories of Arizona Golden Rescue's Magic Moments from October 1, 2016 through January 14, 2017. All adoptions finalized after January 14th will be in the May issue.



16-032 Missy is a Golden seven years of age. Unfortunately, her owner was moving and unable to take her and her sister, **16-031 Kan Kan**, with her. When **Missy** came to **Arizona Golden Rescue**, it was observed that she had a severe limp. She was diagnosed with a torn cruciate ligament that required surgery followed by extensive rehabilitation. Liz very kindly fostered her through that 10-week period.

Missy is now enjoying her new life with Rich and Betty in Surprise. Rich and Betty wrote: *We would like you to know Missy has filled a big hole in our hearts ever since our previous Golden mix was euthanized after suffering from long-term health issues. Missy is a tremendous joy with boundless energy! Her never-ending quest to fetch and return her ball fills her waking hours – I am certain there is nothing in this world she would rather do. She provides us with friendship and dedication and seems to only ask for play sessions. Our experience with Arizona Golden Rescue was top-notch. From the initial meet-and-greet through the delivery of Missy the process was smooth and trouble free. It gives us such great comfort to know there is an organization dedicated to our canine friends. Thank you all for everything you do to support our friends. Looks like a wonderful life for Missy!*

16-047 Sedona is a 10-year-old sweetheart whose owner suddenly had to leave town and left **Sedona** with a family that could not have another dog. Luckily for **Sedona** they phoned **AGR** instead of taking her to the pound. **AGR's** transport team went into action to save **Sedona** to make sure a trip to the pound was not



in her future. **Sedona** had the usual examination at the vet and required some minimal dental work before going to her new home in Mesa with Paul. **Sedona** is probably dreaming of summer so she can start swimming in the pool!



16-053 Rowdy, now **Finnegan (Finn)**, is a six-year-old male Golden that one of the **AGR** angels sprung from the Casa Grande Shelter. This sweet boy was diagnosed with the dreaded valley fever, plus he had a couple of lumps that the **AGR** vets would resolve before he moved to his new home. The lumps turned out to be cysts, fortunately; he also required dental surgery. Now this boy was ready

to go home! Home was to be in Flagstaff with Marilyn and Mark. **Finnegan** traveled a large part of this state to reach his forever home and is very happy living in the high country!

16-056 Waffles is a five- to six-month-old Golden mix weighing in at a whopping fourteen pounds! Due to financial and medical reasons, **Waffles'** owner needed to find a new home for this diminutive cutie with a very big 'tude. Even though "Golden" may be nowhere in **Waffles'** little body, we received an unprecedentedly large number of applicants who wanted to adopt this little guy. **Waffles** is very active, as is expected of a puppy, and due to his small size, he can fit into all types of spaces. He is now bringing much joy to Cindy in Glendale who feels they are a perfect match. Good luck in your new life, **Waffles!**



16-058 Sheba is an eight-month-old Golden puppy. She was donated to an organization to be trained as a service dog, however she had other things on her mind. She preferred to be a puppy. The organization said she was too wiggly and too happy to be a service dog but would make a fantastic pet. This was good news for Antonia, Alan, their children and their **AGR**-rescued Golden

Cheeto who live in Paradise Valley. Antonia reported: **Sheba** is an adorable puppy with lots of energy and so much love! We love her to pieces and are so grateful to **AGR** for our second rescue in one year! She keeps us busy! I am thankful I have an eleven-year-old son who can keep up with her! **Sheba** is grateful she can be a puppy!

16-059 Sam is another shelter save, this time from the Eastside Shelter. This six-to-seven-year-old Golden mix boy was saved

again by the **AGR** angels. He was so happy to leave all that noise and commotion! After getting his spa day with a nice bath and groom, everything in his wellness check looked good. Next in line was to be his forever home. Peggy in Phoenix was lucky to receive this boy, as he was lucky to be welcomed by her! Don't you just love a happy ending?



16-060 Chase is a six-to-eight-year-old Golden boy whose owner surrendered him due to financial reasons. He was a large boy in need of the green bean diet and who also had some medical hurdles to cross. After being examined by one of **AGR's** great veterinary teams, it was discovered that **Chase** had a football-size tumor in his abdomen. Poor baby! Thankfully, the surgeon determined the tumor

was a benign lipoma and **Chase** would have a successful recovery. What a lucky dog. Speaking of a lucky dog... The wonderful caregivers who were by **Chase's** side throughout all of this also decided he would be a perfect fit in their family. **Chase** has now found his forever home with Cristi, Steve and their fur babies in Peoria. **Chase** really is a lucky dog!

16-061 Tucker is a fantastic 3-year-old boy who was surrendered to Rescue because his family had a new baby on the way. They felt it was best for him to be placed where he would receive all the time, attention and love he so deserved. **Tucker** found his new home in Chandler with Patty and Troy who also have an **AGR** Golden named **Valentina** and a terrier named **Princess**. Patty stated: **Tucker** is such a sweet boy who arrived in our home in September. He was immediately welcomed by **Valentina**, another Golden Retriever from **AGR** and **Princess**, a stray terrier! **Tucker** and **Valentina** became instant best friends and love to play, walk and go for a daily ride in the car for some serious rabbit chasing! He is so much fun, and we feel so lucky that we could provide him with his forever home! Sounds like **Tucker** is living the dream!



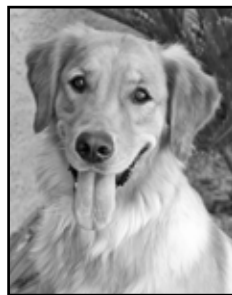
16-062 Bud is a 7-year-old male Golden mix (with questionable Golden heritage) who was living as a stray. Fortunately for **Bud**, a very kind woman took him in and tried to find his owners. However, no one came looking for poor sweet **Bud**. **AGR** answered the call to help this boy in distress and assisted in finding him a forever home. He started his journey with getting the medical

work-up. Ticks were removed, an eye allergy was resolved and he was started on Prozac to alleviate some anxiety issues – life on the streets can be tough! Now it was time to find a home that would be just right. **Bud** had a meeting with Cathy and Randall of Anthem and everything just clicked! They all knew they belonged together, and now **Bud** is safe and secure in his new home! We would like to thank Debbie Mikol, Sarah Brooks and Sharon McKenzie for taking the time to help **Bud** overcome his anxiety issues. Debbie and family fostered him; Sarah and Sharon both took him to an **AGR** Meet-and-Greet, where he did very well around the other dogs and gained some confidence in unfamiliar situations.



16-063 Roxy is a sweet senior girl at 11 years of age. Her family recently moved to an apartment from a home that previously had a back yard. Her family felt it was not fair to keep this precious girl confined to an apartment and that she deserved a home with a yard in her Golden years. **Roxy** was in good health for her age and was off to her new home in Phoenix. Dennis and Rebecca reported: *We couldn't be happier with Roxy. She is good therapy for the soul.* **Roxy** is thrilled that they have a pool to keep her in shape!

16-064 Maisy is a gorgeous 3-year-old cream-colored Golden who is full of life. Her family was very heartbroken to let her go. However, with increasing attention required by their special needs children, they felt **Maisy** was not getting the time and attention she so justly deserved. They felt finding a new home for **Maisy** was the right thing to do. **Maisy** did require spay surgery when she came into Rescue, and we gave her a health addendum to repeat valley fever and kidney function tests in the future, as she originally tested weak positive for valley fever. She loves to swim and play fetch with balls and tug on a rope toy. She is good on a leash and loves walks. Sounds like the perfect Golden girl for some very lucky family and that family is Ed, Chris and Gracie in Tempe. **Maisy** is now getting all the attention she deserves!



16-065 Barnie is a 2-year-old Golden boy who is full of life. His surrendering owner had a job transfer out of town and left **Barnie** with someone who was not used to having a bottle rocket in their home. Hence, the phone call to **AGR**. **Barnie** did well with his medical check-up and just needed the required neuter surgery. Next, **Barnie** needed to find an active family. Mora, Dan

and children of Anthem, who also have a Border Collie mix named **Timber** and an African parrot, were just the ticket for **Barnie**. Upon **AGR's** suggestion, the family registered for weekly obedience classes at **Partners Dog Training School** in Cave Creek. **Barnie** is the star of the class! He also did very well around the many dogs that were present at one of the gift wrapping events during the holidays. He is adapting well in his new home and living the happy-go-lucky puppy life!



16-066 Charlie is a one of the sweetest boys in the world. He is a Golden mix about thirteen months old. One day **Charlie** ran out the front door to meet someone and the sound of nearby air brakes frightened him. He took off running and couldn't be caught. He was gone for twenty-four hours before he was found. Both front paws were injured. The emergency vet believed he

was clipped by a car and pulled away, cutting his paws all the way through to the tendons. His owner could not continue to pay for his medical care and contacted **AGR**. The wonderful staff at **AMSC** nursed **Charlie** back to health and fell in love with his sweet, shy nature. Carrie of Chandler came to visit **Charlie** at **AMSC** and fell in love with him, also. After **Charlie** completed his healing laser therapy treatments, he was off to begin his new life with Carrie. He is adjusting well and life couldn't be any better!

16-067 Luke is a 4-year-old male with tons of energy. **Luke** came into Rescue because his owners were getting divorced – they were both moving into apartments and did not feel apartment living was appropriate for **Luke**, even though he is on the petite side at 36 pounds. **Luke** did well with vetting, but he does have some anxiety issues. He was started on anti-anxiety medication with a health addendum for three months. **Luke** now has a new family in Phoenix with Claudine, Kelly and their daughter Liddie. Happy to say life is now truly going well for **Luke**.



16-068 Harvey is a large 3-year-old Golden boy who tipped the scale at 106 pounds! He was primarily a backyard dog whose owner decided to surrender him because she was moving to an apartment. She felt he deserved a family who could provide him with the love and attention he deserved. He was also in need of a family who would put him on the green bean diet and teach

him some house manners. First, he was whisked off for vetting and brought up to date on his vaccinations. Then it was time to get settled in with his new family in Scottsdale. Anne and Jack reported: **Harvey** was warmly welcomed to our home. As a family of five with three children, they bring each other joyful play, endless smiles and plenty of exercise. **Harvey** was extremely overweight when he arrived; thanks to the green bean diet and daily exercise, has now lost a total of sixteen pounds so far! He joined **Molly**, our 5-year-old Golden Retriever, and they get along beautifully. He never hesitates to play dress-up or jump into the pool and loves doing belly flops! He constantly carries around a rubber chicken to give himself comfort and loves to supervise the kids at bath time. His energy and love for our family continue to grow every day and we are so thankful to **AGR** for giving us the opportunity to love such a wonderful dog! The children **Isabella**, **Abby** and **Patrick** agree, also! It sounds like **Harvey** has found the perfect family he has been wishing for!



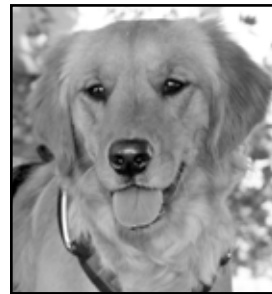
16-069 Fitz is a 2-3-year-old male who had a rough start. His journey began at the **MCACCS** shelter. A wonderful woman adopted **Fitz** in hopes of giving him a new beginning with her other canine companion. However, after a few days, things were not going well with the resident dog who did not like to share. This good-hearted person felt the only right thing to do was to give **Fitz** a chance at

a home where there would not be any turmoil. **Fitz**, now called **Duke**, was quickly accepted into the home of Scott and Sherrie of Phoenix where he is an only dog. This is working out well for **Duke**, and he is thankful for his forever home!

16-075 Willow is a gorgeous 5-year-old Golden girl. Her family found themselves becoming very busy with life and neglecting to spend time with this precious girl. She was fortunate to find her new home with Sheila in Phoenix. Sheila stated: *Beautiful Willow is a dear addition to our fur family and once again there are three Golden!* **Willow** is five and has a six-year-old sister, **Tessa**, and four-year old brother, **Charlie**! *This gorgeous gal is great around the house and has shown how much she loves other Golden, my two-year-old grandson, and everyone else! For the first time, I have furniture with no teeth marks and it looks like she is fine with that!* **Willow** has big plans for her life! She is my seventh therapy dog. My dogs go to **Royal Oaks Life Care** in Sun City every Saturday, and we



have done that for eleven years. **Willow** is now taking obedience classes because this cutie has no leash skills and does not know any commands! The first few classes we could have gotten "Worst in Class" awards, but we are on a roll now and I am excited! Friends have volunteered to practice with their dogs with her so that we can pass that big test sometime this year. **Willow** dear is 15 pounds overweight. At our first weigh-in she had lost zero pounds and then we had our next weigh-in today and found she had lost four pounds in the last days. That green bean diet is awesome! Woohoo! She used to be a counter surfer, but I don't leave any food out. The residents of **Royal Oaks** are excited about this new girl and look forward to the day she can meet with them but in the meantime, they just get "pup dates" every Saturday! Hey **Willow**! You are part of an amazing legacy: **Bear**, **Sandy**, **McKenna**, **HollyLujah**, **Tessa**, **Charlie** and now amazing **Willow**! God has big plans for you and you are about to be used in a very special way! We love you!



16-076 Emma, a healthy 15-month-old purebred female Golden now called **Samantha**, was reported to have started fighting with the other dog in the household, a Corgi mix. The dogs were living in an apartment with five children ranging in age from 6 months to 15 years of age. Although the owner said that **Emma** did well with the children, we were still careful in placing

her. Kathy and Steve in Chandler were ideal for her. They have no children and no other dogs. Steve said, *She has exceeded our greatest expectations.* They went shopping for her supplies and made her a dog tag. The only issue they witnessed is that she doesn't like to be left alone – is always by their side and wants to come in immediately when let out. Steve said they will be going to basic training once she recovers from her spay. Kathy added her two cents: *We absolutely love her! She loves running around the back yard and hasn't had an accident in the house since we got her. She doesn't like the crate but has selected three spots in the house where she likes to sleep. She has checked out everything, but doesn't chew on anything except her toys. There is a rag mouse that she carries around with her and likes to have it within eyesight while she naps. I forgot how much joy a dog can add to the household. I am so happy you helped us make the decision to adopt her! My husband and I are in puppy love with Samantha.* *She is really good about not jumping up on the furniture, but she does have her moments. I left the room for one minute and when I returned, she was snoozing away on the sofa... all she needed was the remote control. She is smart, fun and totally house trained. Loves her toys, but leaves everything else in the house alone. She understands sit, stay, no and where's your ball? We have a large backyard and she likes to run laps. She loves everyone and once she feels she has been sufficiently petted, she will curl up in her dog bed or by a window. She likes to position herself half way*

between my husband and me so she can keep her eye on both of us at the same time. There is an old saying. "Sometimes a dog enters your life and everything changes." That's our **Samantha**. Young, healthy female Golden rarely come into Rescue. The families that are chosen for such dogs truly are special. Thank you, Kathy and Steve, for loving this girl and giving her a calm environment in which to thrive.



16-077 Sammy and **16-078 Harley** are Goldendoodles that have been raised together, so we felt it was important to keep them together. **Sammy** is 6 years old and **Harley** is 4, but they are still both quite energetic and playful. They

could have presented a real challenge for our Placement Team, but we had an application submitted by Jane and Tom of Glendale that indicated a perfect potential placement. They had seen the pair on our website and had fallen in love with them. Then they saw them in person when their foster brought them to the *Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade* and that confirmed their desire to adopt the pair. So, we hustled to get their home evaluation done and realized there could not be a better place for these two adorable Golden mixes. There was so much change in their lives in such quick order that **Sammy**, especially, was a little lethargic after being taken to his new forever home. But after only one day, Tom reported that **Sammy** had perked up. The boys figured out the dog door and both fit although **Sammy**, who is quite tall, has to duck his head. Tom took them for a walk and that went well. The family had bought the boys a rope tug toy and the boys shredded that within an hour, so the family will be cautious with what type of toys they offer. Jane and Tom hosted a Girl Scout gathering with the girls and their parents, and both dogs were very good at the party – loved the attention, mingled well and didn't get into any of the food. Everything sounds very positive, and we're sure the boys have found the best home possible.



Sammy above, Harley below



16-081 Ranger, a 3-year-old blond purebred male Golden, was living in an apartment on a military base in Yuma. He was originally rescued in Okinawa, Japan, while the owners were stationed there. He was brought to the States when he was a year old. His owner decided that **Ranger** needed a yard and also a family that has more

time for a dog. Apparently, **Ranger** is pretty rambunctious and needs training. He loves people but will jump on them. He pulls on a leash and although he likes car rides, he is restless. There was an 11-month-old baby in the house, and he's so active that he was knocking the baby down. The owners were leaving him outside at night, but bringing him in depending on the weather. He was reportedly good with other dogs and loves the dog park. A Scottsdale family – Courtney and Jeremy, their two young children and an old Pug – have joyously added **Ranger**, whom they now call **Stanley**, to their household. Only two days after the transport, Courtney reported: *Ranger, now Stanley, has been such a pleasure so far. We went on a run yesterday morning and to the dog park in the afternoon. I got him a bed at Costco yesterday and he slept on it in our room all night last night. He seems to be settling in and we are working on some of his bad habits, mainly the counter surfing. But we did find out he not only knows "sit" and "high five", but "lie down" as well. He really is such a sweet boy and we are having fun with him.* Best of luck to the entire family. **Stanley**, you seem to have won the jackpot with a family that understands you and wants to help you become the best dog possible!



Diamonds in the Ruff

By Deb Orwig

Diamonds in the Ruff are dogs on whom **AGR** has had to spend at least \$1,000. In this column in the November issue of *The Golden Paw*, we featured **15-069 Shaggy**, **16-032 Missy**, **16-039 Kenna**, **16-043 Sandy**, **16-047 Sedona**, **16-052 Nala** and **16-060 Chase**. Following up on these dogs... All medical issues except for **Shaggy's** and **Sandy's** have been treated and resolved.

15-069 Shaggy continues to need **AGR's** help with medical expenses. Last year, shortly after he was returned to **AGR** by previous adopters, we discovered he had a thyroid tumor that is inoperable. The vet started **Shaggy** on chemo in September 2015 but has had to change the type of chemo drug several times, as one will work for a while to keep the tumor from growing and then loses its effectiveness. **Shaggy** has needed to have changes to his chemo not only because of tumor growth but also because he has lung lesions that have increased periodically, not enough to cause breathing issues yet, but without chemo changes they would have multiplied quickly. To see **Shaggy** swim or otherwise enjoy life, you would never know he has cancer, so our treatment has



been worth every penny. Last year through December, we spent **\$3,201**; in 2016, his treatment has cost *AGR* an additional **\$9,900**, **\$2,180** just in the fourth quarter. When we got his original diagnosis, we knew his treatment would be expensive – cancer treatment always is – which is why *AGR* chose to put **Shaggy** in our *Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption* program – he has been adopted, but *AGR* continues to pay his bills. Thanks to an anonymous donor who has sent us a significant donation every month for months because one of his own dogs passed away from cancer, we have had to take only about a quarter of **Shaggy's** expenses out of the *Debbe Begley Memorial Fund*. Even so, the amount of money in this Fund continues to decrease. Our *Special Needs Dogs Summer Fund Drive* in August bolstered up this Fund, as did the *Paws & Pasta* event in November. Please consider contributing.



16-039 Kenna, who has been adopted, was actually our most expensive rescue in 2016. Her vet bills amounted to **\$9,957**, but only \$404 of that was in the fourth quarter. She developed aspiration pneumonia, had tick fever, and had to have elbow joint debridement. She also had to have a work-up for seizure control. Now, though, the pneumonia is gone, she is walking well, and the sei-

zures are under control with medication.



16-043 Sandy's vet cost was **\$5,358** for the year 2016, **\$1,086** in the fourth quarter. We have a lengthy history with **Sandy**. She originally came to us in March of 2015 (15-024). Long story short, this lovely 8-year-old was a mess with many health issues, including horrible allergies and terrible ear infections that required our vet to do complete ear canal reconstructions. During 2015, **Sandy's** medical care

cost us over **\$8,568**; the total above is the amount we have spent on her in 2016, so altogether she has cost *AGR* **\$13,926**! We had her allergy tested, started her on a high-quality food which had none of her no-nos in it, and started her on Apoquel, a relatively new allergy-treatment medication that has been shown to be very effective with some other *AGR* dogs. **Sandy** was adopted with a contract addendum that provided for *AGR* to cover the cost of her medication for 6 months. However, in June of this year, the adopters surrendered her back to *AGR* complaining that they could no longer handle her continuing medical expenses. Unfortunately, they had not taken good care of her, perhaps because of their financial problems. When she came back into Rescue, she was severely underweight, again had bad ear infections, and was scratching incessantly from untreated allergies. She also had a UTI that required antibiotic treatment. **Sandy** was placed as a *Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption* with a wonderful family who had

adopted another one of our dogs. She will be well cared for, and *AGR* will pay for all medical bills for the remainder of her life.



16-062 Bud came into Rescue as a stray. He was loaded with ticks and had to be treated for tick fever. He also had fairly severe allergies that had affected his eyes and skin, so he needed antibiotics and allergy medication. The allergy medication of choice these days is Apoquel; it is expensive (about \$85 per month), but it works to control allergy symptoms. Additionally, **Bud** tested weak positive for

valley fever and needed retesting after 90 days. He also was put on Prozac to help with serious anxiety behavior. He could not be trusted around other dogs (got in a fight with his first foster's male Golden) and since we did not have a suitable foster available, we had to board him until the right family applied to adopt him. **Bud's** expenses for fourth quarter 2016 were **\$1,383**.

Since he has been adopted, **16-066**

Charlie's story was already presented in "Magic Moments" on page 15. Suffice it to say here that **Charlie's** legs had been severely damaged, because he most likely had been hit by a car. For ten days, he was hospitalized in the critical care area at *AMSC*. He required constant medical attention and daily cleaning of his wounds and changes of the bandages on his legs. At first, the vets were not sure the legs would heal without surgery. However, the laser treatments they used daily really helped and after a few days they realized that surgery would not be needed. Dr. Wheeler, the Medical Director at *AMSC*, predicted that **Charlie's** legs would heal and that there would be no lasting effects of the injuries. Had anyone besides a vet with lots of experience under his belt seen those wounds, they never would have believed that! Fortunately, Dr. Wheeler was correct. Although he probably has one stashed away in his office, we have a magic wand we intend to give him at some point. **Charlie's** vet costs amounted to **\$1,672**. We sincerely thank those supporters who specifically made donations to help with **Charlie's** bills (see page 37).



Despite spending a lot of money on them, we lost three of the dogs we rescued near the end of 2016, **16-074 Calvin/Tucker**, **16-080 Nick** and **16-084 Pancho**. All of these dogs were in bad shape when they came to us. **Tucker** was a 10-year-old that had been turned into the Gila County Shelter in Globe – our Placement Manager noticed him when she was reviewing dogs being advertised on PetHarbor; **Nick** was an 8-year-old rescued from the Westside *MCCACS* shelter; and Pancho was a 10-year-old surrendered by his owner due to the owner's poor financial situation.

16-074 Tucker had two large masses, one on his chest and a gross-looking and odorous tumor under his tail near his anus. The chest mass turned out to be benign, but the anal tumor was cancerous and its location rendered it inoperable. We started **Tucker** on chemotherapy, which seemed to shrink the anal tumor and reduce the odor, but within a couple weeks, the tumor had grown again and the odor had returned. The vet ultimately determined that nothing could be done to save him. When **Tucker** was sent to the Bridge, his wonderful adoptive mom, Penny, was with him. She had doted on him, cooked for him, and loved him for only five weeks, but they were probably the best weeks of his life. **Tucker's** vet cost amounted to **\$1,690**.



16-080 Nick. *AGR* received an emergency call from the Westside shelter regarding dear, sweet **Nick**. Without any hesitation, our wonderful Transport Team of Connie and Nick picked up **Nick** and took him to *Academy West Animal Hospital*. **Nick** had ticks and an infected

foot, and he was vomiting his food. He was extremely emaciated. IV fluids were started along with pain medications and diagnostic testing. The *AWAH* vet recommended that **Nick** have an ultrasound done, so we moved him to *AMSC* instead of waiting for days for the mobile ultrasound vet to come to *AWAH*. **Nick** was diagnosed with an advanced stage of megaesophagus – it was not a surprise since he could not keep any food down. Unfortunately, this condition is terminal. The vets at *AMSC* recommended sending **Nick** to the Bridge. **Nick** was not alone during his final moments. A couple of *AGR* angels were at his side, holding his paw, comforting him and telling him what a wonderful boy he was as he crossed the Rainbow Bridge. **Nick's** vet cost was **\$1,377**.



16-084 Pancho, obese at 98 lbs, was the last dog we rescued in 2016. He had loose stools, usually not a big deal. However, his owner must have suspected something bad but could not afford any kind of vet work. Connie and Nick drove from Glendale to Tucson to pick him up and delivered him to *AMSC* in north Scottsdale. **Pancho's** initial exam was promising – the vet actually thought **Pancho**

was in fairly good shape for being so overweight. However, lab work came back showing he was a little anemic with a slightly elevated white blood cell count (which might have indicated kidney

issues) as well as an elevated red blood cell count and blood in his urine. Joni and Todd in Scottsdale offered to foster **Pancho**. They observed that he had difficulty peeing and pooping and difficulty standing and walking. He was panting a lot, so the vet did a chest X-ray – it showed nodules in his lungs. The news got worse... An ultrasound revealed that **Pancho** had metastasized prostate cancer. He had never been neutered. Poor guy was just too far along for us to do anything other than send him peacefully to the Bridge. In the nine days we had him in our care, **Pancho's** vet bills amounted to **\$1,451**. Donations have already been received to help *AGR* with **Pancho's** bills (see page 37), but we will gladly accept other donations for **Pancho** or for any other specific dog at any time.



Meet-and-Greets continued from page 36



SCOTTSDALE PETSMART, 7077 E Mayo Blvd – Deb Orwig, Hostess



The only date in the fall on which we met at this location was October 8th. Joining me from 11 AM to 2 PM with **Dolly** and **Vin** were Sally and Tom Fetherston with **Molly**, **Rocki** and their daughter's new

4-month-old Goldendoodle puppy **Hope**, and Cynthia Wenström with **Bailey**. Sarah Brooks kindly went to *AMSC* and picked up **Bud** (photo at right), who was boarding there, and brought him for about an hour just to give him some exposure to new situations – he did well. We collected \$94 in donations, which was low for this location. Due to low member participation and lack of an offer from someone else to host this location monthly, we will not be holding more Meet-and-Greets here unless someone offers to host.



PET PLANET, 8912 E. Via Linda, Scottsdale

At our monthly Meet-and-Greet here on October 22nd were Gail and Dana Haywood with **Bilbo**, **Jake** and **Riley**; Sharon McKenzie with **Bud**; Dean Mortimore with **Missy**; and Deb Orwig with **Duffy** and **Vin**. Donations were \$68.49. Sorry, no room for photos – will include some in the May issue.

Joining Dana and Gail Haywood with **Bilbo**, **Jake** and **Riley** on November 26th were Dean Mortimore with **Missy**, Bill Srutwa with **Buddy**, and Scott and Stephanie Watkins with **Charles** and **Barkley**. Donations were \$105. Sorry, no room for photos – will include some in the May issue.

OVER THE RAINBOW

We honor the memory of our human and animal companions who have passed on...



Winslow Ament
(11-025)

Casey Brummer
(09-032)



Daisy Ferone
(16-040)

Tucker Ferone
(16-074)



Duke Huddleston
(11-049)

Max Immel
(15-065)



Hazel Johnston
(10-058)

Missy Sell-Lee
(11-004)



Molly Strong
(14-058)

The Rainbow Bridge

There is a bridge connecting Heaven and Earth. It is called the Rainbow Bridge because of its many colors.

Just this side of the Rainbow Bridge there is a land of meadows, hills and valleys with lush green grass.

When a beloved pet dies, the pet goes to this place. There is always food and water and warm spring weather. The old and frail animals are young again. Those who are maimed are made whole again. They play all day with each other.

There is only one thing missing. They are not with their special person who loved them on Earth.

So each day they run and play until the day comes when one suddenly stops playing and looks up! The nose twitches! The ears are up! The eyes are staring! And this one suddenly runs from the group!

You have been seen, and when you and your special friend meet, you take him or her in your arms and embrace.

Your face is kissed again and again and again, and you look once more into the eyes of your trusting pet.

Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together, never again to be separated.

Sierra Walker
(14-049)



16-080 Nick



16-084 Pancho



Rayna Harmon



Mikey Henning



Lola Wessel



HERE and THERE

Events from October 1 through December 31, 2016

Outdoor events really pick up starting in October, but the weather can be quite hot at even some of those. In fact, due to the heat the **PACC 911** Adopt-a-thon on October 29th was closed an hour earlier than **PACC 911** events usually close. Several new members joined us at some of the fall and holiday season events. We thank everyone who helped and hope to see more of you in the future!



SIR BARK A. LOT

By Deb Orwig

Sir Bark A. Lot is a program that was designed as a collaboration between Colleen Walski, founder and CEO of **Scott Foundation**, and Deb Orwig, President of **Arizona Golden Rescue**. One of **Scott Foundation's** goals is to help develop kind and caring kids by “cultivating mindfulness and bringing together the arts and education in a series of uplifting experiences in a pathway through service.” They like to refer to their goal as helping children become Selfless Superheroes. **Arizona Golden Rescue** was chosen as a role model that consistently demonstrates kindness and selfless service.

One of the things I have heard most frequently in **Scott Foundation** meetings I've attended is about their efforts to teach children to go beyond themselves – “to sit with those sitting alone, to be a friend to the lonely, to encourage others, to think about other people, to share, to look for the good – this is how they'll change the world.” **Scott Foundation** wants to help foster children learn at the emotional level, to help them learn to make good choices so they can live better, more peaceful and loving lives.

Kids in the foster care system have had difficult lives, and they need encouragement and guidance in order to see that the life they are in does not have to be the life they have forever. The purpose of the *Sir Bark A. Lot* program is to expose children from foster and group homes to examples of leadership and compassion for others. Interaction with our dogs and volunteers encouraged the children to think about what it means to be a responsible dog owner and how they might accomplish kindness to others through interaction with dogs. Why dogs? It is well known that dogs give unconditional love – no matter who you are, what color your skin is, what your life history is, what you think about the world – as long as you treat them with kindness.

Colleen did almost all the planning for the three meetings with foster kids in which we participated in the fall. The first two sessions were held at **Duck & Decanter** in Phoenix, and we thank them for



Colleen Walski from Scott Foundation giving instructions to some of the children who came on October 6th; behind Colleen are Marti Joyce and Trishia Murphy; the kids' faces are intentionally fuzzed out due to a request from their caregivers

their hospitality! The last session was held at **Pioneer Community Park** in Peoria. Our meetings were dubbed “Afternoon Tea Paw-teas”, with actual teas being donated by **China Mist**. Food was provided by **Scott Foundation** and included such delectables as *Puppy Love Pinwheels, Tail Waggin Trail Blazers, Scooby's PB&J Snacks, I Ruff You! Whoopeecakes, Go Fetch*

Cookies, A Little Bow Wow Brownies, and Paw-tato Chips. The cleverness was all Colleen's!

A side benefit of being at **Duck & Decanter** was meeting Cathy Davila, publisher of the relatively new *Phoenix Dog Magazine*. She was delivering some copies to the store. She stayed for a while to observe the activities and was intrigued enough to come to our session in Peoria and then to do a story for the January 2017 issue of the magazine. Perhaps you can find a copy in a pet supply store near you.



Duey Tigges wearing a purple feather boa and bright pink sunglasses

In addition to procuring the food, Colleen also created some art and creative writing activities for the children and provided all the supplies. She had a collection of dress-ups that the children could put on themselves and also on the dogs. The kids also had fun blowing bubbles for the dogs and just lov-



Mayter Joyce looking dashing in a black beret and red necktie

ing on them. Deb read the book “Morgan the Dog”, which is a



October 20th group: Deb Orwig, Michele Meyer with Abigail, Sheri Rodeffer with Duffy, Joyce Moser almost covered by Mufasa on her lap, Dean Mortimore with Missy, Kelley Rodeffer with Suci, Patrick Doyle and Cindy Tigges in back, Michael and Lauren Rudin with Bryxx, Karey Rodeffer with Joie and David Schemensky

story about a mixed-breed dog rescued from a shelter who then rescues his rescuer after she falls into a fast-flowing stream that was feeding into a storm drain. Thanks to a large do-



October 20th: Sheri and Joyce watching Mufasa interact with one of the kids; in back, Lauren, David and John

nation of books to **AGR** from the book's publisher in 2015, we were able to give each of the children a copy of the book to keep.

At the November 30th session, something very special happened. One boy about 8 or 9 years old arrived at the event angry at everything and everyone. He obviously did not want to be there and just sat off by himself on the ground. My friend Trishia Murphy, a recently-retired elementary school teacher, came to me and said, "That boy over there needs **Mufasa**." So, I took **Mufasa** over to the boy and told **Mufasa** to lie down, which he did, and he put his head in the boy's lap. Within a short time, the boy was petting **Mufasa**, and in just a little while longer he was smiling and got up to participate in the activities. Ah, the power of a dog's love!



Jeff Campbell with Bear and Marianne Snyder with Dakota in November



Deb Orwig with Mufasa and Joyce Moser watching Vin's reaction to bubbles

I found the entire experience heartwarming, and I thank all **AGR** members who were able to attend any of the three sessions – I hope you enjoyed them as much as I did. Those who participated on October 6th included: Marti Joyce with **Mayter**; Trishia Murphy, who helped me with **Dolly**, **Duffy**, **Mufasa** and **Vin**; and Cindy Tigges with **Koso** and **Duey**. On October 20th, my canine gang and I were joined by John Cadorette and David Schemensky with **Nala**; Patrick Doyle; Michele Meyer with **Abigail**; Marlene and Dean Mortimore with **Missy**; Joyce Moser; Karey, Kelley and Sheri Rodeffer with **Sucy** and **Joie**; Lauren and Michael Rudin with **Bryxx**; and Cindy Tigges with **Koso** and **Duey**. At our last meeting on November 30th, in addition to my four Golden Retrievers, I also had **Shelby Ball** and we enjoyed the company of Linda Atkinson with **Thunder**; Marlene Breton; Jeff Campbell and Marianne Snyder with **Bear** and **Dakota**; Patrick Doyle; Sheila Joyce with her grandson Carson Zeabel and **Charlie**; Joyce and Ron Moser; Trishia Murphy; Liz Tataseo with **Reba**; Cindy and Gary Tigges with **Casey**, **Duey** and **Koso**; and Kathi and Bob Youhas with **Krissie**.



Krissie watching Reba paw for attention

Exciting and Fun Upcoming Opportunity - A Fashion Paw-Tea!

Scott Foundation is invested in the future of Arizona foster kids, and we in **Arizona Golden Rescue** have the opportunity to make an important contribution as a partnering nonprofit to serve both of our organizations. Their master plan has detailed eight challenges, and we are part of the one they call Practice of Compassion (feeling selfless and promoting acts of kindness).

On **Saturday, July 15th from 11:30 AM to 2 PM**, we will need 40-45 **AGR** members and dogs to participate in a *Fashion Paw-Tea*. One dog per handler, so if you are dogless or do not have a dog that is good with other dogs and/or with people, you can offer to help those of us who have multiple dogs. Adult handlers only, please, although children are welcome to attend with parents.

As Colleen Walski says, "Fashion runways will never be the same!" Working together, we would like 10-15 dogs and their handlers to walk the fashion runway with the 14-17-year-olds (both female and male) who will be modeling clothes provided by **Target**; those dogs will be modeling doggie fashions. Another 10-15 dogs and handlers will be "table hosts" and an additional 10-15 will be guest-greeters. Once we decide on a color, we will be giving polo shirts with our logo to all **AGR** participants.

Colleen has contracted with a professional party-planning com-

pany called **Two Gals** to arrange the details. They are currently working on securing a venue – it will be indoors, of course, and most likely at a hotel. Lunch will be served, probably buffet style. A design theme that has been proposed brings *Alice In Wonderland* to life. Working together, our wish is to have a photo display like those you see at carnivals that have cut-outs for faces in a painted background, and we've also played with the idea of having a "Smooches from Pooches" doggie kissing booth. All creative ideas are welcome and encouraged as we look forward to making this event really unique and spectacular. Do you have any ideas we should consider?

Yes, this event will be a fundraiser, and the profits from the event will be divided 50/50 between **Scott Foundation** and **Arizona Golden Rescue**. We will need help with solicitation of items for the auction that is planned. In addition to a silent auction, a live auctioneer will be hired to work the crowd. If you received a gift during the holidays and you have no use for it, we do! Donations of gift cards of all types would also be welcome.

Watch for more information on this adorable fur-licking event as we bring together foster kids and **Arizona Golden Rescue** dogs! If you are interested in participating in any way, please contact Deb Orwig at dorwigaz@cox.net or call 623-693-0589.



DAVID ROSENFELT
at The Poisoned Pen Bookstore

By Deb Orwig

On October 20th, many of us who were in downtown Phoenix until 6 PM at the **Duck & Decanter** for *Sir Bark A. Lot* rushed over to



Sheila Joyce with Tessa and Charlie

The Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale. After struggling to find parking places, we made it in the door just in time to meet several other **AGR** members and enjoy author David Rosenfelt speak about his most recent book, *The Twelve Dogs of Christmas*. He himself said he thinks *Twelve Dogs* is the best story in his Andy Carpenter series.

During the week before, **AGR** had been invited to come and bring some of our Golden Retrievers, as Rosenfelt is a huge Golden Retriever fan. When he is on a book promotion tour, he really misses his fur kids – I think I remember him saying that he has only 15 now, but at one time he had as many as 29 (or was it 35?) and he moved 25 of them across country from San Diego, CA to where he now lives in Maine.



If you have not read his account of that move, *Dogtripping*, you should – it is laugh-out-loud hilarious, and especially hits home if you have ever encountered problems when transporting a dog.

In October, Rosenfelt's book-signing tour brought him to Scottsdale. The bookstore personnel must have spoken to him before he arrived and told him some of us would be there, so he offered to let us auction off someone's name in a future book; he has generously allowed this in past years. In addition, we were told that **The Poisoned Pen** would donate 10% of the evening's book sale revenue to **AGR**, something they have not done before.



we do. Carol and Richard Kvangnes (photo above), who live in San Tan Valley and don't have a Golden, won

It was a most enjoyable presentation – Rosenfelt has a wonderful, dry sense of humor and a cutting wit. When it came time for us to auction off the privilege of name-in-a-future-book, I first spoke for a few minutes about **AGR** and the work



Carol Kvangnes with author David Rosenfelt

the auction for their very generous bid of \$500. In addition, Susan Pricco, a California resident visiting the area, donated \$100 after hearing about **AGR**. Just before we left, the bookstore staff handed me a check for \$220! It was a very entertaining evening, and we sincerely thank David Rosenfelt and **The Poisoned Pen** owner, Barbara Peters, for inviting us and for the financial support.



PACC 911 at All Saints Church
Pet Adopt-a-thon

By Christine Spiel



Dana Haywood, Chris Spiel, Gail Haywood, Deb Orwig, and Patrick Doyle

On Saturday, October 29th, we set up our booth at a brand new location for a **PACC 911** event, the large back yard of **All Saints Episcopal Church** in central Phoenix. The venue was very spacious, but

foot traffic left something to be desired. The Church itself fronts Central Ave just south of Maryland Ave, but the large grass area where the event was set up was to the west of the Church and not visible from the main roads. Although **PACC 911** had done a TV spot, had advertised in the *AZ Republic* newspaper, and had PET ADOPTIONS TODAY signs on Central, these were not enough to draw many people into the event. It was so hot that we did not put donation vests on the dogs, and **PACC 911** closed down the event



Debbie Mikol with foster Luke



Abby, Molly, Anne and Isabella McGill

an hour early at 2 PM. It was nice to see a few new **AGR** members in attendance, though: thank you Anne McGill with daughters Isabella and Abby and golden **Molly**. Thank you to the following for also attending this event: Cassie Barnett; Patrick Doyle; Gail and Dana Haywood with **Bilbo** and **Riley**; Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson with **Shaggy** and **Teddy**; Deb Orwig with **Duffy** and **Vin**; Christine Spiel with **Nash** and **Jack**; Debbie Mikol with foster **Luke**, who is now placed in his forever home; and Karey and Kelley Rodeffer and Karey's dad,

Kim Allen, with **Sucy**. In addition, Jolene Schlichter came near the end of the event and helped us break down the booth and pack the trailer. Considering the relatively light attendance by the public, we did fairly well with merchandise sales and donations: \$468! A nice couple stopped by the booth for a while and talked about joining because they have a Golden; they just recently followed through! We welcome individuals or families to become members even if an **AGR** Golden (or any Golden) is not part of the household.



Kelley and Karey Rodefer with Sucy and Karey's dad Kim Allen



The Wexler family brought Pluto

Pluto, three of the puppies from our January 2016 litter, were able to get reacquainted. How fun it was to see the pups together again and all grown up! No, they really did not seem to recognize that they are related. Thank you for attending this event: Patrick Doyle; Dana and Gail Haywood with **Bilbo** and **Riley**; Rebecca Kemak-Cain and Bob Cain

with **Murphy**; Jodi and Jay Koblick and grandson Garrett Smith with **Shea**; Don Krause with **Stormy**; Debbie Mikol with foster **Luke**, who is now in his forever home; Deb Orwig with **Vin** and **Duffy**; Jolene Schlichter; Christine Spiel with **Nash** and **Jack**; Liz Tataseo with **Reba**; and Tara Wexler and sons Sam and Oliver with **Pluto**. Nick Dodson and Connie McCabe brought the trailer and helped unload and then came back to help pack up, but they spent the day at the emergency vet with their boy **Grizzly**, who, thankfully, has recovered from his illness. Thanks to Liz for taking photos at the event. Despite the low public turnout, we collected \$233.10 from merchandise sales and donations.



Stephen Bocknick, a member of his school's National Junior Honor Society, earned some community service hours by helping us set up and break down the booth; he also handled Duffy Orwig and some of the other dogs during the event a lot and even picked up after them

PETAPALOOZA
By Christine Spiel



Gail Haywood, Patrick Doyle, Dana Haywood, Stephanie Bocknick, Deb Orwig, Stephen Bocknick, Steve Bocknick, and Chris Spiel

Petapalooza was hosted by **Aviano Community Park** on Sunday, November 6th. **AGR** participated for the first time in this event. It was a small event located in the heart of Desert Ridge Aviano Com-

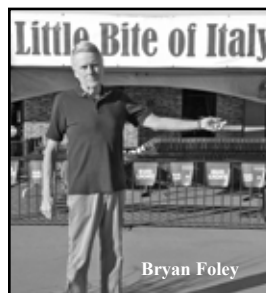
munity. The set-up was really nice and very colorful – they had red-and-white striped tents for all the vendors. Even though public attendance was low, we had a great turnout of **AGR** Members and



Pluto, **Murphy** and **Vin** only cared about the treats, not each other; of the three, **Vin** is still the smallest, **Pluto** the blondest, and **Murphy** the reddest, biggest and curliest

Goldens. A heartfelt thank you to Steve and Stephanie and son Stephen Bocknick who specially volunteered for this event from set-up to take-down and every minute in between. It was great to be able to show potential new **AGR** members just what **AGR** is all about and see how wonderful our rescued Golden are. Also, it was a puppy reunion day! **Vin**, **Murphy** and

PAWS & PASTA
By Christine Spiel



Bryan Foley

Hosted again by Brian Foley at **Little Bite of Italy** restaurant in Sun City, the 2016 *Paws and Pasta Dinner* held on Sunday, November 13th was, once again, a huge success. Thank you to all who



Chris Spiel, **AGR** Director of Activities, with Jack and Nash, does a great job soliciting for volunteer help

came out and enjoyed an excellent spaghetti dinner, salad, garlic bread and dessert. We had a tremendous turnout of **AGR** members as well as non-members. Many locals attended, but some **AGR** members came from as far away as Apache Junction, Chandler and Scottsdale. As there is a nice outdoor patio, members could bring their dogs and many



Winnie with Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson, who always help with events, among other things

did. Most of the dogs were very well-behaved and did not try to steal food from the tables (although we caught **Nash Spiel** getting “just a little taste”)! Attendees were able to participate in a great raffle of spectacular items and purchase numerous items from our **AGR** merchandise table.



This annual event is a dedicated fundraiser with monies going into the *Debbe Begley Memorial Fund*. This fund is drawn upon to pay medical expenses for dogs that come into Rescue with cancer. The fund is also used to pay non-cancer medical costs abover \$5,000 for any one dog. In 2016, the total



Jane Triplett, Liz Tataseo and Jill Prose helped with the raffle set-up and ticket sales

collected for the *DBMF* at this event was \$2,143.14. This total included revenue from meals sold, raffle ticket sales (we had both a 50/50 raffle and a regular raffle that offered 15 nice items), one silent auction item,



The smiling faces of Ruth Pulliam, Sandy Fullington and Gail Haywood greeted all our guests

and donations. An additional \$867.99 was deposited in our regular checking account from merchandise sales. We also got



Servers Penny Ferone, Nick Dodson, and Beverly Farrar-Host

a new Single Membership that day from Marlene Breton.

The owners of *Little Bite of Italy* donated the entire \$12 per meal to **AGR**! Be sure to go there sometime: 15456 N. 99th Ave, Sun City (corner of



Servers Karin Forsythe, Liz Tataseo and Michele Meyer



Servers Jill Prose, Fran Strock and Teri and Jeff Guilbault

99th Ave and Greenway). They have a very nice menu, excellent food, wonderful staff and very big hearts! Other donations included meat for the spaghetti sauce from Sandy Fullington, soda from Deb Orwig, and water from *Abrazo West Campus* hospital.

Special thanks to the many **AGR** volunteers who helped during the event:

Set-up and take-down of event: Patrick Doyle; Gail and Dana Haywood; Ellen Lagerman; Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson; Deb Orwig; Christine Spiel; and Liz Tataseo



Servers: Nick Dodson; Penny Ferone; Beverly Farrar-Host; Karin Forsythe; Teri and Jeff Guilbault; Michele Meyer; Jill Prose; Fran Strock; and Liz Tataseo



Mary Dunnill and Bella helped with raffle ticket sales

Raffle Tables: Mary Dunnill with **Bella**; Liz Tataseo with **Reba**; and Jane Triplett

Dinner Tickets: Sandy Fullington; Gail Haywood with **Bilbo** and **Riley**; and Ruth Pulliam

Photographer: Connie McCabe with **Winnie**

Merchandise Table: Deb Orwig with **Dolly**, **Duffy**, **Mufasa**, and **Vin** and **Shelby Ball**; Martha McDowell; and Trishia Murphy.



Some of our newest adoptive families attended: the entire McGill family (upper right) came from Scottsdale, although they left **AGR**'s Harvey at home; our **AGR** boy Astro (above) brought his family, Emily Deer and Jeff Vick – their youngest, Jack, is his special buddy; and Carrie Peck brought Charlie (at right), whose legs were all healed





**PACC 911 & PETCO in AVONDALE
Pet Adopt-a-thon**

By Christine Spiel



Chris "talking the Rescue talk" with an interested family

Even though *AGR* was also doing gift wrapping at the *Happy Valley Barnes & Noble*, we decided to participate in this new *PACC 911* venue just to see how it went and because we need to go to at least three *PACC 911* Adopt-a-thons to remain eligible for their Emergency Medical Fund disbursements. It was a very low-key event held in the

Petco parking lot at 10190 W McDowell Rd in Avondale on Saturday, November 19th. Public attendance was sparse, but *AGR* was still able to sell quite a few bandannas handmade by Deb Orwig and receive a handful of donations. Total revenue was \$48.15. We also got a new Single Membership from Cassie Barnett, who came and stayed with us for quite a while. Thank you for attending this event: Cassie Barnett, Patrick Doyle, Christine Spiel with *Nash* and *Jack*, and Liz Tataseo with *Reba*.



Our newest member Cassie Barnett with Nash Spiel



COLLEGE & CANINES at ASU WEST

By Liz Tataseo



AGR was invited to bring their Golden Retrievers to *ASU-West* to provide a "golden break" for the students during final exams in December. We were there from 5:30 to 7 PM on Wednesday, December 5th. Drake Tometich, Peer Leader for *Barrett, the Honors College*, said the dogs have always been a big hit and the students look forward to it every semester. A large group of students came out this



Although all the dogs got a lot of attention from the students, *Reba* and *Krissie*, two of the three non-Goldens in the group, seemed to get the most

with *Dolly*, *Duffy*, *Mufasa* and *Vin*; and Chris Spiel with *Jack* and *Nash*. Kathi Youhas was visiting from North Carolina and brought her dog *Krissie*. Kathi is a long-time member that everyone was happy to see. The dogs enjoyed chasing tennis balls and each other, with lots of petting time in between. The students were happy to have dogs sit in their laps or feed the dogs treats or just sit on the ground petting different dogs. It was almost dark when we got there and totally dark by 6 PM, so few photos were taken.



Holiday Pet Festival

By Deb Orwig

The annual *Holiday Pet Festival*, which was held on Saturday, December 3rd from 10 AM to 5 PM at *WestWorld* in Scottsdale, was a smashing success for *AGR* this year! Our double booth



Gail Haywood, Bob Youhas, Kathi Youhas, Dana Haywood and Chris Spiel

space was beautifully decorated, thanks to help from Friday's set-up crew of Nick Dodson, Patrick Doyle, Connie McCabe, Deb Orwig, Liz Tataseo, Connie Wozniak, and Kathi and Bob Youhas, as well as numerous volunteers who represented *Tranquility Trail Animal Sanctuary*, the sponsoring organization. Those of you who are not familiar with

Tranquility Trail should know that they are a local group which rescues rabbits and are, consequently, really tuned into the needs of Rescue organizations. **AGR** was invited to participate in the first *Holiday Pet Festival* six years ago, and we have done this show every year since then. The *Holiday Pet Festival* is the best-run large event we attend during the year.

On Saturday, several of us arrived early to finish setting up the booth. We had a terrific location this year: in the front row and only three booths in



Apollo High School Key Club members and advisor Krystal Claudio (far right) with Duffy, Vin, Mufasa, Shelby, Reba, Nash, Jack and Dolly; photo by Lauren Rudin

from the entrance, directly across the aisle from where Photos with Santa was set up. We were joined during the day by quite a few **AGR** members and their dogs. Seven **Apollo High School** Key Club members and their advisor, Krystal Claudio, came this year for the first time to help – they were great!



Kathi Youhas, Deb Orwig with Mufasa, Vin and Duffy, and Sandra Hansen

Sucy; Lauren Rudin; Jolene Schlichter; Chris Spiel with **Jack** and **Nash**; Liz Tataseo with **Reba**; Cindy Tigges with **Casey** (photo below); Michele Wehry and Mark Hill with **Cassie** and **NinAnnie**; Connie Wozniak; and



Connie Wozniak setting up our ornament tree



Kathi and Bob Youhas with **Krissie**. The Key Club members, who were wonderful help especially with my extra dogs, were Frida Moreno Flores, Tiffany Gessler, Alejandra Gonzalez Cruz, Anthony Hernandez, Stephanie Igboanugo, Andrea Ochoa, Lilia Padilla,

Aleli Perea, Kate Sandoval and Emily Zahroon. The kids walked the dogs around and around the big event, collecting most of the donations we got from people putting money in the dogs' donation vests. Photographers during the day included Connie McCabe, Deb Orwig, Lauren Rudin and Liz Tataseo.



Mark Hill and Michele Wehry with NinAnnie and Cassie

This year, **Tranquility Trail** did not offer Rescues the opportunity to put ornaments on Wish Trees. Instead, and to our advantage, they allowed us to display three silent auction items instead of only two as in past years. One of our items was a gorgeous quilted bed cover made by Connie Wozniak, which sold for \$150. Another was an Entertainment Package that included many items donated by Teri and Jeff Guilbault, which also sold for \$150. The third item included a Cozy Deck Dog Bed (valued at \$499) and a large basket of dog toys. This item sold for \$250, but the winner was not able to come back at the end of the event to pick it up and pay for it. By the time I managed to get hold of her to make arrangements to deliver it, she had purchased a bed somewhere else and did not want it. So, I bought the toys for \$100 and will offer the bed at another event in the future.



Our "Wheel of Golden's" was the hit of the day! At \$5 per spin, it was pricier to play than any of the other 3 or 4 Wheels that were at the event. However, we were almost the first booth people saw when they came in the front door, and our prizes were fabulous, so many



Jodi and Jay Koblick

came back to play our Wheel even after they saw the others. Every prize we offered was worth at least the \$5 it cost to play the game. We collected \$435 from people wanting to win a stuffed animal (18" dog or cat with a nice scarf crocheted by Gail Haywood or Dawn Nomakeo) or a selection of something worth \$5 from our merchandise inventory; a calendar or copy of the book



Jolene Schlichter describing the Wheel prizes as this customer reaches for her wallet



Around and around and around it goes...



A happy winner!

“Morgan the Dog” or a selection from our merchandise inventory worth \$10 or less; or a Pillow Pet (\$30 value) or Philosophy Cosmetics set valued at \$89. The few who landed on the one #3 and chose the Philosophy set were thrilled to get it! Chris Spiel, Jodi and Jay Koblick, and Jolene Schlichter were terrific Wheel hawkers, pulling in passersby to play.



Jack and Nash Spiel modeling adorable hats Chris purchased from K-9 Kool Hats at the event


In addition to Wheel income, we sold



Whenever a lure course is available at an event, Nash and Reba are sure to run it; Reba with her longer legs won this race

\$590 in merchandise, six calendars (\$60), and collected \$279 in donations. Subtracting the \$195 booth fee, our profit for the day was \$1,569, the best we have done at this event over the years!

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help! The next big event at *WestWorld* like this one is the *Phoenix Pet Expo* on April 15-16. Set-up will be on Friday, April 14. Please put it on your calendar!



**GLENDALE
HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS PARADE**
By Christine Spiel



Just like the 2015 parade, the 2016 *Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade* did not disappoint. It was a beautiful, mild, sunny



DeeDee Smith and Gage collecting donations



11-year-old Dolly rode in a wagon – thanks to Dana Haywood for pulling it!

December 10th. This year’s parade Grand Marshal was Glendale’s own Jordin Sparks, who led the procession of almost 150 entries. The streets were lined with so many happy kids who just couldn’t wait to have our *AGR* Golden come to the curb so they could pet them and very generously put donations in their vests. **Dolly** collected some donations and she never even got out of the wagon!



Chris Spiel with “reindeer” Nash and Jack



Santa Mufasa



Left to right: Courtney and Debbie Mikol with fosters Sammy and Harley; Dustin and Rebecca Mackerman with Boomer and Sadie; Shaggy with some adorable little Christmas tree girls



The *Hometown Christmas Parade* was a great way to kick off the holiday season! All of our *AGR* Golden, Golden mixes and members were dressed in their best holiday attire, from Santa hats to reindeer antlers. After the parade to close out the day in a very merry way, some of the *AGR* members enjoyed a great holiday German meal at *Haus Murphy*! Overall donations: \$412!

Thank you all who attended the parade: Patrick Doyle; Sandra Hansen; Dana and Gail Haywood with **Riley** and **Bilbo**; Rebecca and Dustin



Kelley and Karey Rodeffer with Sucey and Leia



Haus Murphy group clockwise from bottom left: Nick Dodson, Bob Youhas, Kathi Youhas, Chris Spiel, Dee Dee Smith, Sandra Hansen, Liz Tataseo, Patrick Doyle and Connie McCabe

Mackerman with **Boomer** and **Sadie**; Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson with **Shaggy**; Debbie and Courtney Mikol with fosters **Harley** and **Sammy**, who are both now placed in their forever home; Deb Orwig with **Dolly**, **Duffy**, **Mufasa** and **Vin**; Christine Spiel with **Nash** and **Jack**; Liz Tataseo with **Reba**;

DeeDee Smith with **Gage**; Karey and Kelley Rodeffer with **Sucy** and **Leia**; and Kathi and Bob Youhas with **Krissie**.

 **HOLIDAY PARTY**
By Deb Orwig

This year (2016) we were not allowed to do gift wrapping at the Tempe Marketplace **Barnes & Noble**. To try to make up for at least some of the lost revenue (last year we made over \$3,200 there in one day), I decided to host a holiday party on the date we



Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson in front of the Orwigs' beautiful Christmas tree, which was decorated with over 200 Golden Retriever and dog-related ornaments Deb has collected for many years

would have been in Tempe (December 17th) and offer a silent auction with all the artwork that has been donated to **AGR** over the last few years. On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Larry and I went to **Tim Mitchell's Christmas Trees** in north Scottsdale to pick out a tree; I had won the gift certificate they donated for the golf tournament. We got a beautiful Noble Fir. This was the first fresh-cut tree we have had in six years. Larry put it up and put on the lights and garland before he had to go back to Los Angeles the following Tuesday.

At the beginning of December, Connie Wozniak very kindly helped me clean up and organize my large 4-car garage. Then, closer to party time, Kathi and Bob Youhas helped me decorate the house and put up in the garage all the tables **AGR** owns, as well as several table-top and floor easels so we could set up the silent auction. Larry, Bob, Kathi and I actually had everything ready when party guests started arriving at 3 PM with their food contributions and bottles of wine.

I had originally planned a blind tasting of the wine, but I didn't have time to figure out how to do it, so we just opened all the wine that was brought and had little shot-glass size cups for people to



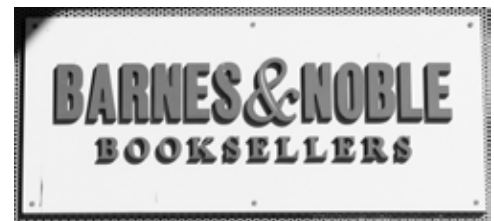
The invitation just said to bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert, and, as always, there were no two alike even though Deb was not specific about what to bring; everything was delicious!

quite well on the silent auction. The very generous **AGR** members who attended spent \$239.20 on merchandise, \$1,125 on silent auction artwork and made \$450 in outright donations for a wonderful total of \$1,814.20! Heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended. Maybe we will do it again next year, since we have a lot of artwork left!



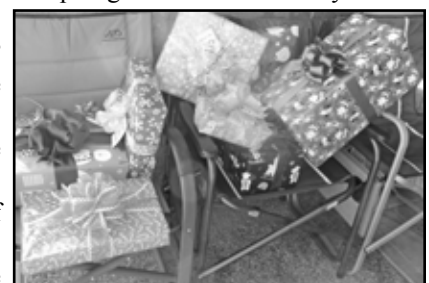
Dolly is so tall she could rest her chin on top of the table; she actually got a couple of shrimp before we watched her better!

 **HOLIDAY SEASON GIFT WRAPPING**
at **BARNES & NOBLE**
By Deb Orwig



I would like to thank everyone who helped with gift wrapping during the holiday season, and I apologize if I have left anyone out

of the following article. Because so many **AGR** members came to more than one wrapping activity and because space is limited here, I will include only one photo of each person, unless a person is with someone else for whom I have only one picture. Photos are presented more or less



It was not uncommon, especially at the end of the season, for someone to drop off a bunch of gifts to be wrapped, leave to do more shopping and bring back more gifts for us to wrap



Teddi Axne brought Watson and Palmer to Arrowhead all the way from Rio Verde

in alphabetical order and won't necessarily be within the description of the date(s) on which the person attended. I am sorry that we did not get any photos of a couple of volunteers.

As always, our holiday season gift wrapping began the weekend before Thanksgiving. This year, every one of the 10 sessions we scheduled



Debbie Ball with Shelby and Dolly; Rick Ball with Shelby



was at the Happy Valley **Barnes & Noble** except for the last one on Christmas Eve day. The Tempe Marketplace store would not let us wrap there this year – we were told they could only host education or literacy groups. Due to other holiday season commitments



Marlene Breton, who has no dogs of her own, helped with Reba and others

– the *Holiday Pet Festival* and the *Glendale Home-town Christmas Parade* – we were at the Arrowhead store only on Christmas Eve day. We had a good turnout of volunteers on most of the dates. For more than just the lost revenue, it is too bad that we were not able to do Tempe Marketplace because we missed potential contact with some of our adopters. Most East Valley and South Valley members/adopters were not willing to come all the way north to the Happy Valley or the Arrowhead location, so we did not see many of the families that have been regular volunteers at the Tempe Marketplace store in past years.



Celeste Adele Carter and Patrick Doyle

During the entire season, the weather was delightful during every session except two. One day at Happy Valley we cut short because a rain storm rolled in and there is not much cover out in front of that store. It rained again on December 24th when we were at Arrowhead, but there is a large overhang with awning extensions at that



Shelby Ball always looks perky and happy



Reba Tataseo was with us for every gift wrap session



Celeste Adele Carter with Vin

store, so we stayed all day and wrapped several hundred gifts.

The season started out slowly, as usual. On that first weekend,

November 19th and 20th, we wrapped only two gifts and they were for birthdays. Yes, we do bring a few rolls of non-seasonal wrapping paper! We also bring paper that is color- and design-suitable for Hanukkah gifts. On Saturday the 19th, we were at the Happy Valley store from 1 PM to 5 PM and collected \$190.90, which included the



Karin Forsythe and son Jacob with Mufasa

sale of nine bandannas, one calendar and one Christmas stocking. Joining us that day were Jodi Koblick and her granddaughter Ali Smith and friend Gabi Anaya; Don Krause with **Stormy**; Martha McDowell; Maddy McSweeney; and Deb Orwig with **Duffy** and **Vin**. Lynnette Carmack, advisor to **Apollo High School's** Key

Club, brought seven Key Club members to help with the dogs: Helene Hanna, Selina Hanna, Maria Riveron, Joseline Robles Rosales, Carisma Rodriguez, Jesus Santiago and Saudi Wilson. The students were wonderful. It was a slow enough day that Deb and Martha were able to teach a couple of the girls how to wrap and make bows. They learned quickly and did a good job! One true



Teri Guilbault with Rosey and Layla

kindness was done while we were there. When Maddy's dad, Dave McSweeney, saw that the scissors Martha and I were trying to use were quite dull despite being sent through a sharpener multiple times, he went



Patrick helped us set up and pack up at every session



Bert and Mary Engstrom with Vin and Duffy



Deanna Green took a wrapping/bow-tying lesson from Deb



Sandra Hansen with Mufasa



to **Walmart** and bought two pair of titanium-blade scissors and brought them back for us. They are fantastic scissors and were still as sharp on Christmas Eve day as they were when he bought them. So, thanks for the scissors, Dave!



Bilbo Nomakeo, who was adopted by the Haywoods' daughter, Dawn Nomakeo; Riley Haywood

On Sunday, November 20th, we did not wrap anything, but we still brought home \$200.31, which included the sale of one calendar and two bandannas. The rest of that revenue was from



Above: Apollo High School Key Club members and advisor Lynnette Carmack on November 19th; at left, Key Club members on Nov. 20th; below, Vin was very interested in Sally, who was brought on the 20th by AHS Key Club advisors Beth Ransom and Mike Butler



donations – the dogs are successful fundraisers every time! We were supposed to work from 10 AM to 5 PM, but we packed up early due to the rain – it had actually started around 1 PM but really started to come down around 3 PM, so we left. Volunteers who came despite the weather included Marlene Breton; Sandra Hansen; Jodi and Jay Koblick with **Shea**; Don Krause with **Stormy**; Martha McDowell; Maddy McSweeney; Debbie Mikol with **Hogan**; Deb Orwig with **Dolly, Duffy, Mufasa, Vin and Shelby Ball**; Ali, Garrett and Jamie Smith; Liz Tataseo with **Reba**; and Hillary Wilson. Beth Ransom and Mike Butler, **Apollo High School** Key Club advisors, brought their own little dog, **Sally**, and five Key Club stu-



Gail and Dana Haywood with Jake, Riley and Bilbo; next to Dana is Tony Cotner's chair, fur jacket and Dylan wearing a chartreuse donation vest like Tony's dog Daisy used to wear

dents: Helwa Ahmad, Ayanna Castillo, Alexia Hill, Miriam Nava, and Leslie Rodriguez.

Wrapping started in earnest on Black Friday, November 25th. Unlike Black Friday in previous years, this one was a very busy day.



Sheila Joyce and Charlie

Fortunately, we had a lot of **AGR** members come to help during our 8-hour stint there including: Patrick Doyle; Sandra Hansen; Gail and Dana Haywood with **Bilbo, Jake and Riley**; Sheila

Joyce with **Charlie**; Jodi Koblick; Connie McCabe with **Winnie**; Martha McDowell; Debbie and Kat Mikol with **Hogan**; Deb and Larry Orwig with **Dolly, Duffy, Mufasa, Vin and Shelby Ball**; Jill and Fred Prose with **Jasper**; Jamie and Ali Smith; Liz Tataseo with **Reba**; and Sharon, Philip, Marcus and Ilan Wieser with **Nala**.



The Koblick clan: Jodi holding Shea and Jay with their daughter Jamie Smith and her children Ali and Garrett



Jodi with Shea, one of the Koblicks' five "little white dogs"; there are no Golden retrievers in their household, but they are still very supportive members



Ali Smith's friend Gabi Anaya with Duffy Orwig

Martha and I stopped counting how many gifts we wrapped, but it was a lot! We collected a total of \$669.71, which included the sale of three bandannas.

The following Sunday, we were at the Happy Valley location from only 1 PM to 5 PM, but we collected \$345.92 with the sale of three bandannas included.



The busy wrapping days started on Black Friday, November 25th, and continued throughout the season except for Friday, December 16

This total was actually higher per hour worked than what we took in on Black Friday (\$86.48 vs \$83.71). Attending were Patrick Doyle; Karin Forsythe and son Jacob; Deanna Green; Sandra Hansen; Connie McCabe with **Teddy**; Martha McDowell with her granddaughter Sophie;

Dee Dee Smith with **Gage**; the Orwigs with their gang and **Shelby Ball**; Jill and Fred Prose with **Jasper**; Mora, Dan and Shaylee Silver with **Barnie**; Chris Spiel with **Jack** and **Nash**; Liz Tataseo with **Reba**; and Sharon, Philip and Ilan Wieser with **Nala**.

Due to other holiday commitments (Pet Festival and Parade), we did not return to do gift wrapping until Sunday, December 11th. Starting at 11 AM and going until 5 PM, we made \$520.49 (\$86.75 per hour); we sold three calendars and one bandanna. Joining us for the



Don Krause and Stormy



Krystal Claudio, advisor, with Apollo High School Key Club members on December 11th - they were all wonderful helpers with the dogs

day were Marlene Breton; Patrick Doyle; Teri Guilbault with **Rosey** and **Layla**; Gail and Dana Haywood and their grandson Dakota Nomakeo with **Bilbo**, **Caleb**, **Jake** and **Riley**; Sheila Joyce with **Charlie**; Jodi Koblick; Rebecca Mackerman; Sarah Martin; Martha McDowell; Jill and Fred Prose with **Jasper**; Deb Orwig with **Dolly**, **Duffy**, **Mufasa** and **Vin**; Liz Tataseo with **Reba**; and Kathi and Bob Youhas with **Krissie**. We also had the pleasure

of the company of Krystal Claudio and four students from the **Apollo High School** Key Club: Isabella Constantine, Alejandra Gonzalez, Dayana Gonzalez and Jocelyn Terry. They were terrific dog handlers, as usual.

Our next session at Happy Valley **Barnes & Noble** was on Friday, December 16th. Only Patrick Doyle, Sarah Martin, Martha McDowell and I were there all day, so it is a good thing we did not



"Nikko, over!"

"Nikko, walk through"

get much wrapping business. In the afternoon, Fred Prose joined us with **Jasper** and Liz Tataseo with **Reba**. Peter Wong stopped by for a while with his beautiful black German Shepherd, **Nikko**, and had her do some of the many tricks she is learning. Our total revenue for the day was \$602.01, which included the sale of four calendars and 21 bandannas.



We were at Happy Valley again on Sunday, December 18th, from 10 AM to 5 PM and collected \$754.91, which included the sale



Connie McCabe brought Sammy, Teddy or Winnie



Sammy, above left; Winnie, above right; Teddy, right



of four calendars and five bandannas. We had a good crowd of **AGR** volunteers and their dogs: Debbie and Rick Ball brought **Shelby**; Celeste Adele Carter came with Patrick Doyle; Teri Guilbault with **Rosey**; Gail and Dana Haywood with **Bilbo**, **Jake** and **Riley**; Sheila Joyce with **Charlie**; Sarah Martin; Connie McCabe with **Sammy**; Martha McDowell; Dean Mortimore with **Missy**; Deb and Larry Orwig with their four plus **Duffy's** brother **Barklay**; Fred Prose with **Jasper**; Jocelyn and Tia Raught with **Bubba**; Karey, Kelley and Sheri Rodeffer with **Sucy**; Jamie, Ali and Garrett Smith; Liz Tataseo with **Reba**; and Connie Wozniak.



Rebecca Mackerman



Sarah Martin



Amy Maynard with Bentley



Bow tie-er and wrapper extraordinaire
Martha McDowell; Martha's granddaughter Sophie



Our volunteer force on Tuesday, December 20th, was a little light, so it was a good thing we did not have much wrapping business. However, our dogs helped us collect \$717.45 during our 9 AM – 5 PM shift. Included in that total is the sale of three calendars, three bandannas

and two stockings. Those of us wrapping were fairly busy all day. Joining me and Larry and our four dogs were Debbie Ball with **Shelby**; Patrick Doyle; Karin Forsythe; Sheila Joyce with **Charlie**; Jodi and Jay Koblick; Connie McCabe with **Winnie**; Martha McDowell; Debbie Mikol with **Hogan**; Liz Tataseo with **Reba**; and Connie Wozniak. Fred Prose joined us with **Jasper** later in the day. Fred would usually come at the beginning to help us set up and then come back with **Jasper** later and stay to help pack up. He was a huge help on many occasions, as was Patrick Doyle who was with us from set-up to pack-up every session!



Maddy McSweeney with Vin

We had a three-day break before our big end-of-season push. Friday, December 23rd at Happy Valley was very busy from 9 AM to 5 PM. As usual at the end of the season, several customers came with multiple gifts they wanted wrapped. Good for us, because we took in a total of \$1,637.33!



Debbie and Kat Mikol with Hogan



Hogan Mikol

This total included the sale of twelve bandannas, six calendars and one stocking. At one point to keep up with customer wrapping requests, we had to commandeer Liz Tataseo to help wrap even though she doesn't like to do it. Keeping the customers entertained



Pat Morgan with Sunny

while wrappers – mostly Karin Forsythe, Martha McDowell and I – were busy were: Debbie Ball with **Shelby**; Patrick Doyle; Beverly Farrar-



Dean Mortimore with Missy



Missy

Host; Jacob Forsythe; Teri Guilbault; Sheila Joyce with **Charlie**; Jodi Koblick; Don Krause with **Stormy**; Amy Maynard with **Bentley**; Connie McCabe with **Sammy** and **Teddy**; Larry Orwig with **Dolly**, **Duffy**, **Mufasa** and **Vin**; Fred Prose with **Jasper**; Chris Spiel with **Jack** and **Nash**; Liz Tataseo with **Reba**; and Stephanie Watkins with **Barkley** and **Charles**.



Dolly above; Duffy and Barklay at right



Larry Orwig with Shelby Ball (a house guest for a month) and Duffy; Dolly, Mufasa and Vin are also Orwigs; also over the holiday they had Duffy's brother Barklay for a week

Teri had brought a big jar of peanut butter treats



and was instantly very popular with all the dogs.

Last day – whew! – December 24th at

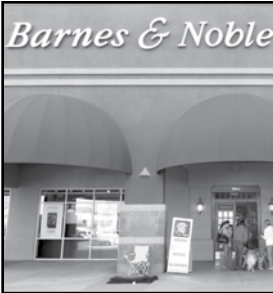


Mufasa Orwig's favorite spot other than on someone's lap is up on a chair



Vin Orwig, 11 months old

the Arrowhead **Barnes & Noble** was a miserable day weather-wise. We did have a little bit of good luck, though – it was not raining when we set up at 8:45 AM (rain started about 10:30), and the rain stopped about 4:30 PM, so it wasn't raining when we packed up at 6 PM. People who wanted gifts wrapped came in droves despite the weather. It was cold and damp working at the wrapping tables but we actually stayed fairly dry because of the large overhang and extended awnings outside the front of the



store. Also, Patrick Doyle had brought a portable heater, which really helped when we could stay by it.

We had some wonderful help from

AGR members throughout the day. Joining us were Teddi Axne with **Palmer** and **Watson**; Debbie Ball (wrapper);



Karey and Kelley Rodeffer with Sucky; Sheri Rodeffer

Marlene Breton (dog handler and wrapper); Patrick Doyle (dog handler); Mary and Bert Engstrom (set-up and dog handling); Karin (wrapper) and Jacob (dog handler) Forsythe; Teri Guilbault (wrapper); Sandra Hansen (dog handler); Gail and Dana Haywood with **Bilbo**, **Jake** and **Riley**; Sheila Joyce with **Charlie**; Sarah Martin (wrapper); Connie McCabe



Fred and Jill Prose with Jasper and Teddy



DeeDee Smith with Gage in chair and Duffy



Chris Spiel with Nash and Jack and Beverly Farrar-Host with Shelby and Sammy

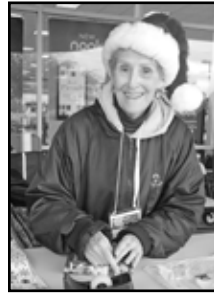


Nash and Jack Spiel

(photographer); Martha McDowell (wrapper); Debbie and Kat (wrapper) Mikol with **Hogan**; Pat Morgan with **Sunny**; Dean Mortimore with **Missy**; Deb Orwig (wrapper) and Larry Orwig with **Dolly**, **Duffy**, **Mufasa** and **Vin**; Angela Palumbo (wrapper); Jill and Fred Prose with **Jasper**; Karey and Kelley Rodeffer with **Sucky**; Fran Strock



Silver family with Barnie



Fran Strock



Liz Tataseo

(wrapper); Liz Tataseo with **Reba**; and Connie Wozniak (wrapper). As always, it was our best day of the season financially: we collected \$2,072.44, which included the sale of seven calendars and eleven bandannas. It was a great end to a busy season, but we were all tired and glad to go home. The store personnel appreciate what we do so much, they already



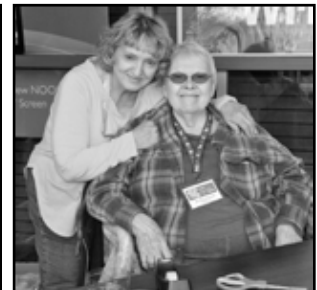
Stephanie Watkins with Barkley and Charles



Wieser family – Sharon, Marcus, Ilan and Philip – with Nala



Hillary Wilson with Duffy



Connie Wozniak and Martha McDowell

asked me to sign the contract for Christmas Eve day in 2017!

Meet-and-Greets at Petco

GILBERT PETCO

In October 2016, we started doing Meet-and-Greets at the Gilbert **Petco**, 1415 E. Warner Rd., Gilbert – Dana Haywood is the host at this store and conducts the activity on the third Saturday of each month from 11 AM to 3 PM.

On October 15th, attending our first Meet-and-Greet at



the Gilbert **Petco** were Sharon Flores; Mary Gutowski with **Sedona** and **Sadie**; Gail and Dana Haywood with **Bilbo** and **Riley**; Dean Mortimore with **Missy**; Deb and Larry Orwig with **Duffy** and **Vin**; and Karey and Kelley Rodeffer with **Sucy** and **Joie**. Jeff Sager also stopped by for a while. We collected a very nice total of \$321.95!



Jack and Rosie with Shiloh, Gail with Riley, Judy, and Mary with Sadie and Sedona

Riley, Bilbo and Jake; Jack and Rosie Mills with **Shiloh**; and Judy Petitto. Judy's sister, Gerri Fedio, also



Jeff Sager with Dakota, Sharon Flores with Riley, Cassie Barnett on floor behind daughter Lily and mother Kris

stopped by. Donations collected were \$103.

At our Meet-and-Greet



Dean Mortimore with Missy and Jeff Sager with Dakota

Greet on December 17th, Gail and I were joined by Cassie Barnett with daughter Lily and Grandmother Kris Thumith; Sharon Flores; Dean Mortimore with **Missy**; and Jeff Sager with Dakota. The dogs collected \$91 in donations. We would really like to see more East Valley people attend events at this location!



Dylan always sits in Tony Cotner's chair and gets lots of hugs from kids

GLENDALE Petco, 9980 W Northern Ave. – Liz Tataseo, Hostess



Sheila and Teri in back, Don talking with customers

We had three great Meet-and-Greets during 4th Quarter 2016, with some new dogs and members joining the regulars. On October 29th, due to conflicts with the **PACC 911** event in Phoenix, we only had four dogs and members, but we had a wonderful time and



handed out many brochures to interested people. **Petco** was hosting their annual Halloween party, and there were some really great costumes on animals there. **Reba** came as a giant pumpkin, and **Charlie** was dressed as a Ruff-er-ee! Other interesting costumes included a large lizard-type reptile dressed in a Mexican hat and serape, a boxer came as a lion, and there was a Jack Russell terrier dressed as a sheep. Joining **Reba** and me were Teri Guilbault with **Rosey**, Sheila Joyce with **Charlie** and Don Krause with **Stormy**. We collected \$46.43 in donations.



Betsy Bain and Dave Williams with Bella

In November, our Meet-and-Greet coincided with a break in our holiday gift wrapping schedule, so we had several dogs and members. Joining **Reba** and me were Patrick Doyle; Sheila Joyce with **Tessa**; Rebecca Kemack and Bob Cain



Bob Cain and Rebecca Kemack with Murphy



Jane Triplett with Roofus and Dave Williams

with **Murphy**; new-to-**Petco** DeeDee Smith with **Gage**; and David Williams with **Bella** and his daughter

Betsy, who was visiting from Florida. Stopping by to hang out for a while were Jane Triplett and her foster Greyhound **Roofus**. We were able to generate \$90.51 in donations!



Teri, Patrick, Sheila, Deb and Liz

several brochures. Our meeter-greeters included Patrick Doyle; Teri Guilbault with **Jackson**; Sheila Joyce with new adoptee **Willow**; Deb Orwig with **Dolly** and **Duffy**; Chris Spiel with **Jack** and **Nash**; and Liz with **Reba**. At the beginning **Willow** wasn't too sure, but she relaxed and did a great job meeting people and gaining donations.



Chris and Patrick with Nash, Jack and Reba

and grandson Dakota with **Bilbo**, **Caleb**, **Jake** and **Riley**. Donations amounted to \$161, which included the sale of one calendar. We always have calendars with us, as well as copies of current and past newsletters



Patty Forte with Valentina and Tucker

PEORIA, 9960 N. 91st Ave. – Connie McCabe, Hostess

What a beautiful day Sunday, October 9th was. Many thanks to Nick Dodson, who helped transport, set up and break it all down, Karen Davis with **Star** and **Caesar**, Sheila Joyce with **Charlie**, Deb Orwig with **Vin**



Jill with Jasper, Jane with Roofus, Winnie, Karen with Caesar and Star and Sheila with Charlie

and **Duffy**, Jill Prose with **Jasper**, and Jane Triplett with the "Golden-in-Disguise" **Dutch** for coming to help **Winnie** and me. Thanks, also, to lots of generous and very interested folks who donated over \$100.



CHANDLER, 2860 E Germann Rd – Dana Haywood, Host



Our Meet-and-Greets are very important as we are able to inform the public of the existence of our Rescue, so if they have the need in the future to surrender a Golden Retriever they know that we exist in the Valley to help them. At our October 9th Meet-and-Greet we had in attendance Sharon Flores; Karey and Kelley Rodeffer with **Sucy** and

Joie; Deb Orwig with **Duffy** and **Vin**; and Gail and Dana Haywood with **Bilbo**, **Jake** and **Riley**. We collected \$272.79.

On December 11th, it was a sunny but cool day, so we did not need to set up the tent. Joining us were new member Cassie Barnett; Sharon Flores; Patty Forte with **Tucker** and **Valentina**; Dean Mortimore with **Missy**; Karey and Kelley Rodeffer with **Leia** and **Sucy**; and Dana and Gail Haywood



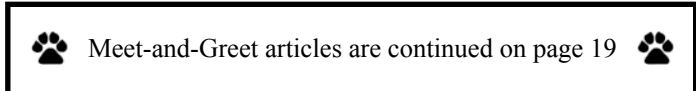
Kelley, Karey, Dean, Dakota, Gail and Sharon



Chris, Jill, Fred, Pat and Jane

November 20th was another great day. However, it got pretty rainy and windy later in the afternoon, so we had to fold up a little early. Many thanks again to Nick for transporting goods. Joining **Teddy** and me were Denise Padavano and Carolyn Blean; Fred and Jill Prose with **Jasper**; Chris Spiel with **Jack** and **Nash**; DeeDee Smith with **Kandee**; and Jane Triplett with foster Greyhound **Roofus**.

We did not do Peoria **PetsSmart** in December due to the other extensive holiday events. We are generally at this location on the second Sunday of the month from 1 PM - 4 PM, but dates may change due to other events scheduled. To be sure, always check the **AGR** website calendar to confirm any meet-and-greet event.





Golden Hearts



We are so grateful to everyone who has given us their support! All donations to **AGR** are tax deductible. The donations shown below were made between October 1 and December 31, 2016. We sincerely apologize if any donors have been omitted. PLEASE NOTE: All donors who make donations during 2017 will receive an acknowledgment letter in January 2018, unless a receipt for taxes is requested sooner.

General Donations from the Heart

Shelly Anderson	Jarrett Dunbar	Elizabeth Hitchcock	Kris Mietzner	Eric Rodriguez	Kristal Staiger
Jesus Avalos	Robert Ellegard	Mary Hurley and James Potocki	Jameson Miller	Sharon and	Theresa Theese
Anita and Bryan Bakke	Gerri Fedio	Randi Jaworski	Joyce and Ron Moser	Carlos Ronstadt	Meliss Toman
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James Dixon	Wes Harrington	Martha McDowell	Kristie Pittman	Dee Dee Smith	Marshall Wozniak
Brian Dooley	Paul Heinstein	Anne and John McGill	Lynn Ann Roberts	Eliud Sobrevilla	Michael Yanez

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and End-of-Year Donations

Teddi and Delwin Axne	Jodi and Jay Koblick	Wendy and John Nelson in honor of 16-026 Molly
Marlene Breton	Don Krause	Deb and Larry Orwig
Betsy and Fred Brown	Zach and Cody McDermott	Emily Raymer
April Crow and Rick Reid in honor of 12-024 Ciara	Anne and John McGill	Susann Siem in honor of 15-079 Tucker
Kathleen Donahue, D.O.	Barbara Merideth	Fran and Jan Strock
Carol Gora	Pat Morgan	Julie and John Tyree

Honorary Donations

<i>In Honor of my girls Maya and Chloe and former foster Astro</i> Tiffany Berry	<i>In Honor of my sister, Sharon Flores, and the work AGR does</i> Kathy Jones
<i>In Honor of Bart and Stella</i> Kelly and Jeff Gorski	<i>In Honor of Emma Gutekunst, fur-daughter of Anne and Richard Gutekunst</i> Susan Skinner
<i>In Honor of AGR and the work they do and the AGR dogs I have rescued</i> Marti Joyce	<i>In Honor of the AGR Board of Directors</i> Teri and Jeff Guilbault
<i>In Honor of Bob (14-088 Oso)</i> Carolyn and Barry Lieberman	<i>In Honor of Teryl Hall</i> Brunhilde and Dr. Albert Mass
<i>In Honor of Scooby, who is still going strong at 9+</i> Roger May	<i>In Honor of Michelle Bailey and Kay Correll</i> Shanley and Brian Ten Eyck
<i>In Honor of 16-008 Vin's first parade (Glendale Christmas)</i> Deb and Larry Orwig	<i>In Honor of Deb Orwig</i> Cindy and Gary Tigges
<i>In Honor of 11-030 Diego who is now 6, healthy and happy</i> Rosy and David Wolf	

Diamond Donors

<i>To help with medical expenses of 16-008 Vin</i> Deb and Larry Orwig	<i>To help with medical expenses of 16-066 Charlie</i> Leslie Carson Deb and Larry Orwig Carrie Peck	<i>To help with medical expenses of 16-064 Pancho</i> Patty and Tom Morris Michelle Ochoaski Deb and Larry Orwig
<i>To help with medical expenses of 16-060 Chase</i> Cristi and Steve Erickson Deb and Larry Orwig		<i>To help with medical expenses</i> Nancy and David Kimmel

Memorial Donations

In Memory of All 4th Quarter Bridge Dogs we have lost including: 09-032 Casey Brummer, 10-058 Hazel Johnston, 11-004 Missy Sell-Lee, 11-025 Winslow Ament, 11-049 Duke Huddleston, 14-049 Sierra Walker, 14-058 Molly Strong, 15-065 Max Immel, 16-040 Daisy Ferone, 16-074 Tucker Ferone, 16-080 Nick, 16-084 Pancho, Rayna Harmon, Mikey Henning and Lola Wessel

Teri and Jeff Guilbault

Deb and Larry Orwig

Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson

Liz Tataseo

In Memory of Max, Jack and Sierra -- for the cargo trailer fund
Melissa Carter

In Memory of our Pomeranian Rayna Harman
Liz and Mike Harman

In Memory of 10-058 Hazel Johnston
Joyce Johnston

In Memory of Bailey Thompson, the great friend of Mary and Leon Thompson
Judith Nodurft and April Conner

In Memory of 14-008 Gracie Prose
Jill and Fred Prose

In Memory of Benson Inocencio
Lori Reischl

In Memory of 14-049 Sierra Walker
Gail Walker

In Memory and Love of Daisy, who passed in 2012
Debbie and Tom Sidener

In Memory of 13-044 Honey Flores
Sharon Flores
Kathy Jones
Floyd A. Kackley, Jr.

In Memory of brothers Troy Orwig and Harley Bergquist, now together at the Bridge
Deb and Larry Orwig

In Memory of 16-031 Can Can whom I fostered
Marcia Burney

In Memory of Steve Russo, a good friend who loved our Golden
Greg Korycki and Carrie Foust

In Memory of Sagan Willits owned by Stephanie and Toby Willits
Michele Meyer

In Memory of Tony Cotner, Troy Orwig and 12-083 Maura Youhas
Kathi and Bob Youhas

Grants Received

Golden Rescue in Naples, Inc.

To help with Medical Expenses of Senior and Special Needs Dogs

The Golden Retriever Foundation's April Fund

To Help with Medical Expenses of 16-032 Missy, 16-050 Bertha, 16-052 Blondie, 16-047 Sedona, and 16-060 Chase

Pedigree Foundation

To help with 2016 Operation Expenses

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Fry's Grocery (Kroger)

The Mellen Foundation

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The Poisoned Pen Bookstore, Owner Barbara Peters

Memberships - New Advanced-Level Supporters
Thank You All for Your Continued Extra Support!

COPPER (\$50)

Brandi and Chuck Carter

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Paulette and Kenneth Meeks

Gail and Dana Haywood

Jeni and Chris Olsen

Roy Lewis

Mary Jean and Robert Sistik

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Amber and Mike Cargile
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Vicki and Scott Merritt
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 Sharon and Carlos Ronstadt
 Cathy and Randy Smith

TOPAZ (\$250)

Carol Gora and Don Woods
 Sandra and Bill Sell-Lee
 Mariruth Brooks Wittkamp

PEARL (\$500)

Sharla and David Jewett

Debbe Begley Memorial Fund

Mary and Bert Engstrom in memory of **Misty**
 Nancy and Al Ward in honor of **15-094 Rosie**
 Everyone who attended the *Paws & Pasta Dinner*
 Bryan Foley and Nancy Wheeler – donated all the dinner
 fees from the *Paws & Pasta Dinner*
 Patricia and Thomas Blackman
 Adam Cardinal
 Art Denny
 Carol Gora
 Jodi and Jay Koblick
 Sherry and Gary Landwehr
 Pamela and Terry Schultz

Thank You Donations

To **AGR**, thanks for our wonderful **13-106 Katie**
 Rita and Ted Guy

To **AGR**, thanks for our wonderful **15-014 Shiloh**
 Rosie and Jack Mills

To **Debbie and Rick Ball** for vacation care for **Murphy**
 Rebecca Kemak and Bob Cain

To **Sandra Hansen** for vacation care for **Rocky and Major**
 Jane and Casey Pulis

To **Gail Haywood** for a favor done for me
 Karey Rodeffer

To **Connie McCabe** for taking our family Christmas picture
 Karen and Phil Davis
 Joy and Todd Slagowski

To **Martha McDowell** for some medications for **Dolly**
 Deb Orwig

To **Deb Orwig** for the Reading to the Dog program at Desert
 Foothills Children's Library in Cave Creek
 Barbara and Bud Owings

To **Deb Orwig** for the Service Dog In Training vests
 Karey Rodeffer

To **Deb Orwig** for her holiday hospitality
 Kathi, Bob and **Krissie** Youhas

To **Deb Orwig** for vacation care for **Shelby**
 Debbie and Rick Ball

To **Deb Orwig** for vacation care for **Barklay**
 Chase Panosian

To **Deb Orwig** for caring for **Sky** while I recovered from surgery
 Betty J. Thompson

Special Thanks

To the generous clients of **Animal Medical & Surgical Center** who
 made *Holiday Angel Tree Donations* to **AGR**

Sarah DeSantis-Sullivan
 Alina Iovita
 Linda Kraft
 Susan and Dr. George Master

To **Patrick Doyle** for purchasing a gift Household Membership
 for **Celeste Adele Carter** and **Gene Carter**

To **Dr. Valerie Ferguson** of **Four-Legged Friends Animal Hospital** for
 her quarterly in-kind donation to reduce our veterinary costs

To **Barbara and James Geha** for donating some unused medications

To **Carol and Richard Kvangnes**, who made a very generous donation
 to have **Carol's** name in a future book by **David Rosenfelt**

To **Susan Pricco**, who donated at **David Rosenfelt's** Book Signing

To **Lori Sinclair** for donating a bag of *Wellness Large Breed Dog Food*

To those supporters who have set up a regular monthly
 donation either through their bank or through PayPal

Stephanie Beard
 Sean Harrish through his company **CVS Caremark**
 Stacey Harrish through her company **Ameriprise** via
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
 Lori and Anthony Prancevicus
 Judy Petitto
 Mary and Ken Richardson
 Liz Tataseo In Memory of **Gonzo**

Change of Address?

Please notify us if you move or if you change your e-mail address. We send the newsletters and other hard-copy mail by bulk rate mail, which is not forwarded. If you move and do not tell us, then the mailing goes in the post office's "round file," a waste in more ways than one! If you move within 3 months of a first-class mailing, it will be forwarded; if the move has been between 3 and 6 months before a mailing, we will get it back with the new address on it, but we have to resend it with another postage stamp; if the move has been more than 6 months before the mailing, we get it back with "Forwarding Time Expired" on it, and it's dead. Please notify us!



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