Greetings!

**Thinking About Becoming a Member?**

What are we looking for in As Good as Gold members? Simply a desire to help abandoned, mistreated, or unwanted Golden Retrievers. Your $25 membership dues are used for the care of all of the goldens we rescue, and we want to be able to continue helping every dog we can!

[Click here](#) to renew your membership online. To download a print-ready copy of the membership application [click here](#).

If you have any problems with the renewal process, please send email to [membership@asgoodasgold.org](mailto:membership@asgoodasgold.org).

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**Golden Helpers Needed**

Do you have extra time and a desire to help? Please check out the opportunities below. As a volunteer-based group, we appreciate every bit of assistance to help us care for Golden Retrievers in need.

If you have 30 minutes or a few hours, on an ad hoc or regular basis, from your computer or at an event, we could use your help! Please [e-mail](#) us to learn where you could contribute.
Would you like to make a donation to help one or more of AGaG’s rescued goldens? Please click here to make a difference!

**As Good as Gold Merchandise**

Could you help us identify products to sell through the As Good as Gold website? We are looking for help with our online merchandise: [https://shopasgoodasgold.com](https://shopasgoodasgold.com). Please contact Jim King to learn more.

**Volunteers with Goldens needed for Orvis Lombard on Saturday, March 11**

Join us at a Meet & Greet in the Orvis store in Lombard on Saturday, March 11. This is a special, well-promoted Orvis pet oriented event which promises to bring in large crowds that we can inform about fostering, membership, adoption, and more.

Orvis is located at 306 Yorktown Center in the Yorktown Mall. Volunteers with well-behaved goldens are needed for both the 11am-1pm and 1pm-3pm shifts. Contact Joe Lunn to volunteer.

**One Check-in Desk Volunteer Needed for Chicagoland Family Pet Expo**

Thanks to everyone who already volunteered to help at the March 17-19 Chicagoland Family Pet Expo at Arlington Park Racecourse!

One more volunteer without a dog is still needed to staff the check-in desk on Sunday, March 19 from 9am until noon. By staffing this desk, you will help check event volunteers in and out of the Pet Expo, as well as earn As Good as Gold discounted booth rates. Please contact Joe Lunn if you can help.

**Foster Homes Needed**

The good news is we are saving many goldens! But we need foster homes to give the pups a place to crash and provide some love while they look for their forever homes. If you are interested in serving as a foster home or a foster sitter (watching a foster pup while another foster is traveling), please e-mail us. Whether you are available now or in the future, on an ad hoc basis or consistently, we could use your help to give our pups some TLC.

Can I crash on your couch?
She was just a little ball of fur. This adorable ten week old had a heart condition that made her unsalable by the breeder. He offered Lilly to As Good as Gold knowing that the rescue would find her a good home. Without hesitation, volunteers jumped into the car and drove to pick up this precious cargo, placed her in the Back Seat and started the first leg of Lilly's long transport. Along the way, they met another volunteer and transferred Miss Lilly into her car. Lilly continued traveling north and completed the journey by taking her to meet a dog sitting foster until Foster Dad was available to begin his foster responsibilities.

Lilly loved getting acquainted with the foster pack of mentor dogs and quickly became a playful outgoing puppy. A visit to a veterinary cardiologist was arranged to obtain a decisive diagnosis of her heart condition. Her murmur is caused by a mild stenosis or a constricted valve opening which is relatively common in goldens. No medication or treatment was recommended at that time, but Lilly would need reassessment throughout her life. The cardiologist projected that if her heart's condition remained stable, she should have a long, active life.

For her adopters, it was an instant love connection which included lots of kisses given by Lilly along with sweet puppy breath. Although they realized that her heart would need yearly oversight by a cardiologist, their infatuation with Lilly overrode any concerns they had. July 12, 2013 was proclaimed Lilly's "Gotcha Day" and the Tale of a spoiled life for the little golden began. After a slight change in her heart's condition was found several years ago, Lilly was put on mild exercise restriction and medication. Fortunately, her last tests showed no adverse changes. She loves her tennis balls, which she plays with anytime and anywhere and also enjoys leisurely walks and relaxing on the patio. Her favorite "thing" in the world is her Dad. Lilly likes to observe her world by playing King Of The Mountain standing on a chair or occasionally perching on the dining room table to insure a bird's eye view. Recently, her best pal and playmate AGaG adoptee, Maya, died and left a void in Lilly's world. Her parents hope to adopt a new golden family member in the near future.

Lilly's family feels fortunate to share their home with this great dog and are
hoping to enjoy many more happy, cuddle filled years with their Lilly.

Lilly today

_Better a diamond with a flaw than a pebble without._

-Confucius-

**Golden Announcements**

_Have you heard? We have a new mailing address!_

We have a new mailing address (listed below), but don't worry because our old P.O. box is being maintained for 3 more months to ensure that everyone is notified. So if you already mailed something, we should receive it. Please know that our website is always the best resource for current contact information and you can e-mail us with any questions.

As Good as Gold, Golden Retriever Rescue  
Suite 178  
518 S. Route 31  
McHenry, IL 60050
Golden Ways to Support Golden Rescue - Joe Lunn

It's Not Too Late....Order Your 2017 AGaG Calendar Today!

We're in the home stretch of the calendar sales with just a few remaining copies! Don't be disappointed...you know you would miss seeing all of those gorgeous golden faces throughout the year.

Click here to see the online preview and place your order.

Thank you for supporting one of our most popular fundraisers; all of our rescued goldens thank you as well!!

We look forward to your entries for the 2018 edition.

Skip the Chocolate - Wine & Candles for Your Valentine!

Getting Ready to Have a Ball!

We plan to make this year's biggest fundraiser, A Golden Ball, a huge success but we need your help to make it happen! This elegant and entertaining event at the beautiful new Medinah Shrine Center features an open bar reception, while attendees bid on amazing silent auction items, followed by a delicious dinner and live auction. The evening will be topped off with live music and dancing. Before we
launch ticket sales, we need your help to donate auction items and to volunteer!

Needed Auction Donations:

- Sports tickets (World Champion Cubs, Bears, Blackhawks)
- Theater (e.g. Hamilton tickets)
- Local travel (e.g. use of condos)
- Art work and collector items
- Bicycles
- Popular jewelry items such as Pandora
- Electronics and cameras
- Household items
- Gift cards

Needed Volunteer Skills:

- to design the program book
- share artistic skills
- to help organize raffles
- solicit auction item donations
- solicit donated centerpieces for the dinner tables
- provide a temporary south side of Chicago storage point for donated silent auction items

A donation form can be found online. Please contact Joe Lunn with questions.

Amazon for more Valentine's Treats

www.smile.amazon.com/ch/90-0083192 is the link to use to order Valentine's gifts this season. Every item you buy generates a donation for As Good as Gold!

Keep Walking!

Walk to help As Good as Gold earn a donation from the Wooftrax "Walk for Your Dog" application. Download the app, select AGaG as your charity and start walking! Already a walker? Make sure you walk atleast once a week to be counted as an "active walker"

Meet & Greets - Susan Lunn

UPCOMING MEET & GREET:

1. **February 17th, 9 am to 11 am**
   - Address: 400 W 95th St, Chicago, IL 60643
   - Details: Sign up at the event or visit our website for more information.

2. **February 24th, 6 pm to 8 pm**
   - Location: 123 Main St, Naperville, IL 60563
   - Description: A night of music, food, and networking. Ticket sales will be available at the door.

3. **March 3rd, 7 pm to 9 pm**
   - Venue: 567 Elm Rd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
   - Features: A guided tour of local businesses and a chance to meet new people.

4. **March 10th, 10 am to 12 pm**
   - Site: 890 W Lake Ave, Schaumburg, IL 60173
   - Event: A day of outdoor activities and shopping. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

Please visit our website for more details and to register. We look forward to seeing you at our events!
**February 11:**

Bentley’s Pet Stuff, 7189 Kingery Hwy, Willowbrook, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Contact Alice Abraham.

PetSmart, 6405 Grand Ave, Gurnee, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Contact Denise Goff.

Petco, 60 E. Golf Rd., Schaumburg, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Contact Joe Lunn.

**March 11:**

Orvis, Yorktown Shopping Center, Lombard, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Contact Joe Lunn.

THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS WHO STAFFED MEET & GREETS IN JANUARY!

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*Island Dog Program*
In my previous home in Puerto Rico, I spent my days chained to a tree with not much attention at all. I was rescued by Love Puerto Rico Golden Retriever Rescue and then was fostered by a nice family in Puerto Rico. One day I got on an airplane and flew to Chicago and was greeted by nice people from As Good as Gold. I was suffering from arthritis in my lower spine, so As Good As Gold arranged for me to receive a couple of months of therapy including injections of a medication to reduce inflammation and increase thickness of joint fluid. I also received chiropractic treatment and cold laser therapy. I was fostered here in Chicago by Peggy and her two goldens who were my constant companions.

A few months later an As Good As Gold member came to meet me and fell in love; she became my new mom. Mom had lost her other golden to cancer just months before.

I share my home with a cat named Hazel. I try my best to get her to play with me, but for some reason she doesn't like the Chase Me game and swats me in the nose. I keep trying though and I've convinced her to sleep with me (or at least close by).

Mom does this thing called Meet and Greets for As Good As Gold, and we get to hang out in a store and talk to people. I love this job; I get so many belly rubs and meet so many nice people, while helping to raise money for more dogs like me!

I've made lots of new friends, and I'm proud when Mom tells people who ask my "story" of how I was rescued and all the great people along the way who got me here. I am very blessed to have my new family, and I'm doing my best to get used to this thing called 3 below zero weather!
If you adopted a rescue dog from Puerto Rico we would love to highlight them. Please e-mail your story and pictures to us.

More Golden Opportunities

Golden Guardians Monthly Giving Program

Golden Guardians are golden retriever lovers who make a recurring gift each month to make sure rescued goldens receive everything they need while in foster care. CLICK HERE to join this special group of donors today! Monthly giving is easy - you choose the amount automatically charged to your credit or debit card and where your gift should be used. Each month you'll receive an e-mail receipt when your donation is charged and a story and photo of a rescued dog whose life was changed by your gift.

Therapy Dogs Needed

Kindred Hospice www.kindred.com is looking for people with therapy dogs who would be interested in volunteering with hospice. They accept TDI and Pet Partner certifications. For additional information contact Cynthia Selling, Kindred Hospice Volunteer Services Manager, 708-409-3040 or cynthia.selling@gentiva.com

Thank You for Helping Us to Save Goldens in Need!
Contact Us

Adoptions, Kristin Vesely
Bandanna Fabric Donations, Dianne Schultz
Dog Sitting, Lauren St. Andre
Education, Carol Giambalvo
Fiscal/Administrative, Laurie McConahay
Fostering, Barb Beshears & Laurie Hetzel
Fundraising Events, Joe Lunn
Golden Guardians/Reoccuring Donations, Tamara Roush
Home Visits, Cyndi Raine-Dentinger
Intake/Medical, Robin Sweeney
Meet & Greet, Susan Lunn
Membership/Volunteering, Janet Harrison
PR/Marketing, Kristina Finney
Technology/Web Support, Jim King
Transport, Marlene Pedone
Success Stories, success@asgoodasgold.org