

## My Most Rewarding Job

By Judy McGriff

Soon after I retired in 2008, I lost both of my GSDs. Heartbroken and with a big emptiness in my heart, I adopted Zoey (a GSD/Husky mix). Zoey was very high energy and I soon decided that she needed a playmate. That's when I discovered GSRNC! I was assigned an amazing adoption counselor (Christy R.) and in 2010 I adopted Apex (now known as Max-a-Baby). Zoey and Max have remained my "soul" companions ever since! Through the years, I followed the GSRNC newsletters and never forgot about how impressed I was with the adoption process and all the wonderful work GSRNC is doing.



When life started to settle down for me, I decided to venture out and see whether I had any skills I could offer to GSRNC. I was greeted warmly by the GSRNC volunteers and I knew I had found a new home. I first met Suzanne P. and started assisting her with merchandise sales. Next, I started helping during the monthly Adoption Day events. I'd print out profile/bio sheets for the dogs on exhibit and lend a helping hand wherever I was needed. Sometimes it was just giving the dog handlers at the adoption days a break. Ah – it's so great to feel needed. ☺

Soon after joining Sue in merchandise sales, I heard about the GSRNC Hotline. I love helping people and this team of "Hotties" always needs volunteers who are empathetic and effective in taking calls from the public. I have to admit that my volunteer work on the Hotline has been the most gratifying. Sometimes I'm a counselor – I listen and I try to provide callers with resources and options.



Later, I heard there was a need for a transport driver to take dogs to and from the kennel to vet appointments and thought I'd try it. Through this transport work I was able to meet the newly rescued dogs as they entered the GSRNC program. So many dogs in need – some in need of medical attention and all in need of TLC.

After taking part in the Adoption Day events and seeing our many needy dogs, I decided to try my hand at being an Adoption Counselor. Another very gratifying experience – there's nothing better than seeing a happy ending to the often-tragic beginning for these great dogs. Happy dogs, happy owners – what could be better?!

Late last year, I took on another volunteer role: assisting as medical liaison. I'll never understand how Christy was able to do it all for so many years, but again – a very gratifying experience. Working with Christy, Joye H., and Christine S., I help oversee the available East Bay dogs and ensure they receive appropriate medical treatment, spay/neuter and vaccinations and that they are medically suitable for adoption. It's hard to think of anything better than seeing a dog come into our program and, given some needed medical care and lots of TLC, watching them blossom into the beautiful dogs they were meant to be. Then seeing them adopted into new, loving, furever homes.

Being a GSRNC volunteer is very rewarding. While I've had to discontinue my duties as an Adoption Counselor, I do still enjoy my work with merchandise sales, adoption day events, medical liaison, Hotline and anywhere else I'm needed. Helping these wonderful and deserving German Shepherd dogs find their best life really makes my heart happy. Becoming a [GSRNC volunteer](#) has been 'hands-down' my best job – and I've gained some wonderful new friends!