

## VOLUNTEERING AND FOSTERING FOR GSRNC!

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of GSRNC? Surely, the dogs. Those magnificent, lucky dogs coming from a bad situation and going to their fur-ever home. Is there a second thing you think of? Maybe... all the work that it takes to make that happen.

GSRNC is an all-volunteer organization. What does that mean? Everything – **EVERYTHING** – is done by *volunteers*. You know about a lot of the stuff. All those adoption days with a dozen people handling dogs, chatting with people, staffing the merchandise table, and processing adoptions. Lots of fun!

But what about this? Someone arranges to store all the equipment – chairs, x-pens, rugs, water bowls and tables – and bring it to the AD. Someone researches which dogs will be at the event, then prints up the bios to hang in front of each dog (making sure there are plastic sleeves & binder clips to attach them.)

Of course, it also requires people who store and bring the merchandise to the event, then take it home. It takes volunteers who track what's sold, and order more of each item when it gets low. And others who think about what other items might appeal to potential buyers.

What about processing those adoptions? Some folks store the computers and bring them to the adoption day. Another person makes sure the PCs are using the latest software and have all the peripherals needed to connect to the internet. Other people make sure all the adoption paperwork is entered into the database and the paper files stored.

Maybe you see yourself as more of a matchmaker. We call those folks "Adoption Counselors" (ACs). The AC meets with prospective adopters and helps them find their new four-legged family member!

"All volunteer" takes on a new meaning, doesn't it? Is there a role you can play? Think about it and see if you can't put some hidden skill to work! The first step is to fill out our online [volunteer questionnaire](#).

One of the most important volunteer roles is **fostering**. Without foster homes, we can't pull any dogs from shelters. And without dogs, we don't have any of those fun adoption days.

Fostering isn't the easiest job, but it is the most rewarding. Taking an unknown dog into your home, integrating it into your pack, and helping to turn it into a good canine citizen can be easy or might be a challenge. But knowing you are helping a dog who might have been as good as gone makes your heart swell.

And it's important to remember that foster families have a whole network of support behind them. From written handbooks to hands-on instruction from knowledgeable volunteers, you get what you need to make you feel prepared. And if things don't work out, you're not stuck with a dog you can't manage – GSRNC will find a more appropriate foster home for him or her. If you're interested in learning more about fostering, [click here](#).

So maybe the hidden skill you have is opening your home to one of our "diamonds-in-the-rough"! If it sounds like something you'd like to do, please fill out our [volunteer questionnaire](#) and we'll be in touch!