

# SPOTLIGHT ON RESCUE



by: Carol Allen, Chair  
 National Rescue Committee  
 (315) 469-7926  
 E-mail: carosal@twcny.rr.com

## 2004 Starfish Award Winners

The National Rescue Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the Starfish Award for outstanding contributions to rescued Golden Retrievers and Golden Retriever rescue programs for 2004. There were many excellent nominations in both categories (Program and Individual). The task of selecting winners was a difficult one but we believe our selections truly reflect the "best of the best."

Chandler Rudd has been selected to receive the Starfish Award in the "Individual" category. Chandler has been a dedicated rescue volunteer for sixteen years. He began his service to rescue with Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue where he served on the Board of Directors, chaired the Transportation Committee and administered YGRR's highly successful vehicle donation program. In recent years he has also served Heartland Golden Retriever Rescue of Tennessee by assisting with the coordination of home visits and the transportation of Golden Retrievers from Heartland to carefully selected homes in the northeast. And he serves on the Board of Directors of The Goldstock Fund, donating his time and effort most particularly to the successful operations of the annual Goldstock Camp for Golden Retrievers and their families.

But Chandler's commitment to rescue is also a very personal one. In 1997, Chandler and his wife, Dee, adopted a Golden rescue puppy with paralyzed back legs. Lucy had been found in a dumpster and later was diagnosed with spina bifida. Together, this threesome turned Lucy's handicap into an asset, as she became a certified therapy dog. Lucy's story and her efforts to help children are known throughout the country. Their weekly visits to nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and hospitals are an inspiration to many who are trying to work through their own physical and mental challenges. Chandler Rudd is truly an individual committed to "making a difference" in the true spirit of the Starfish Award.

Rescue a Golden of Arizona (RAGofAZ) has been selected to receive the Starfish Award in the Program Category. Starting with a small organizational meeting in 1998, RAGofAZ has rescued over 1,400 Golden Retrievers and now has a membership of over 600. Its carefully designed outreach programs ensure that no Golden is overlooked in a county, which is the fourth largest in the country and has a severe unwanted pet population. No Golden, regardless of age, situation or medical condition, is turned away. No Golden suffers the fate of a

pound death. Each Golden entering the program is tested for and treated, if necessary, for Valley Fever, a disease found only in the southwest.

RAGofAZ is well known in the Phoenix area for its public information efforts on many topics relating to Golden Retrievers and to dogs in general. The GRACE Award was established by RAGofAZ to acknowledge the outstanding service performances of rescued Golden Retrievers from around the country. And most other Golden Retriever Rescue programs have benefited in some way, large or small, by the generosity of RAGofAZ in sharing information, forms, startup help, manuals and advice.

Rescue a Golden of Arizona truly "makes a difference."