



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. NEWSLETTER

Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia

Quarterly Newsletter

April, May & June 2018

Help A Horse Day Celebration 2018

By Donna Harrison

What a whirlwind of activity this HelpAHorse event is and continues to be!! Competing equine rescue organizations throughout the country are upbeat and hopeful for the horses whose lives have been marred by neglect, abuse or starvation. To get everyone up to speed, here's what's been going on:

First, the ASPCA offered new requisites this year. There are 4 components to grant awarding this time around:

- 1) Number of adoptions or Commitments To Adopt (40%)
- 2) Dollar value of donations (25%)
- 3) Adoption Campaign (20%)
- 4) Adoption video (15%)

Since I am submitting this newsletter article in advance of the June 30 closure of opportunities, we really don't have the most accurate information but this I can say:

We are in Division Two (Quarter Horses) and no, that doesn't mean the breed; it means that we are in the middle of the three competitive groups – the 'Clydesdales' is a division for competitors with facilities with the largest holding capacities and budgets. The 'Shetland ponies' is the smallest division for competitors who have very limited holding capacities and budgets that are less than ours. GERL is between these two and this means that **should** we win our division, we would be awarded \$15,000!!!

There is a separate \$5,000 award for 'Most Compelling Video'. Thanks to Allen Brock and his team for creating the storyline and providing cinematography services PRO BONO!!! Allen's burgeoning company can be contacted at Equine Production Services (770) 255-6596 "Let Us Tell Your Horse Story" and



Ed Dabney kicked off the event, sharing useful information.

this information will be available online soon! Allen's company is working hard to add even more "umpphh" to our Rescue Challenge by arranging to have the Atlanta-based Medieval Times schedule an appearance during that event! For now, please see what was done for GERL by Allen et al. by visiting the link you see here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xogS73j4jjE>

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Help A Horse Day Celebration 2018

By Donna Harrison

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There is another separate award worth \$5,000 for Best Adoption Campaign. Our deepest gratitude to Pollyanna Chavez, Nancy Bogarts, Autumn Tuchek, Cindy Burt, Steve DeMoss & so many others who have put GERL on the Social Media Map. We now have adoptables displayed to their best advantage not only with still images but also with full profiles and engaging color videos set to music. The responses have been great. Just during this campaign period, April 26 till now (June 2) we've had 5 adoptions and one commitment to adopt! And we still have 4 weeks to go!! Thank you everyone! Moving forward, let's keep this up!



There were several vendors who came .

The June 2 event held at the Mansfield Equine Care Facility was not a requirement but we forged ahead. The weather held and allowed our demonstrators including Ed Dabney, Louis Wild, Elaina Schmersey and Josh and Kelsey Peebles to educate and entertain the public. We made GERL's presence known, we raised money (an early estimate of \$2,400.00) and found voices for those who have no voice. Volunteers organized concession sales, a silent auction, flea market, and exciting raffles! Exceptional vendors came out to join us. Susan Abel, author, Les Balsar, woodworker, Barbara Van Bausch and Oscar Franco, artists, Nicole Beyer, massage therapist and others shared exceptional information and offered items for sale. The Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association, KelMac Saddle Club, and the Georgia Horse Council each displayed information at tables and supported GERL. Horses being rehabilitated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture were on-site and Volunteer Jordon Mitchell rode Gypsy Rose, one of GERL's adoptables, to show off her best advantage. It was an amazing day.



A small crowd showed up, despite a few rain showers throughout the day.

Final results are to come. I feel certain they will surpass last year's! Thanks to so many who donated money, in-kind contributions, their valuable time, effort and pure love to this most important calling. Let's all agree we love horses for what they embody: freedom, spirit, adventure, perseverance, and drive. They are gentle, loyal, fierce friends and the ultimate travel companions who are willing to go the distance with you. Horses are collaborators, not possessions. We have so much to learn from them.



Crowd-Pleasers Elaina and "Cookie Monster" performed their pirate act.

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Help A Horse Day Celebration 2018

By Donna Harrison

Continued from page 2



Gypsy Rose is showcased by Jordan. Mitchell



Louis Wilde, Massage Therapist



Josh and Kelsey Peebles provided the crowd with a demonstration



Some folks were able to talk to Ed after his demo.

Update on Jones County Horses

By Dr. Rebecca Gimenez



Beauty – March 14, 2018



Beauty – May 24, 2018

You may remember an article that ran on the cover of our last quarterly newsletter, entitled “Three Lucky Horses”. We wanted to provide an update on the horses, "Beauty, Butterscotch and Bard.



Bard – March 14, 2018



Butterscotch with her new little girl.



Bard – June 5, 2018



Beauty has really filled out in the past three months since her rescue, as has Bard. Butterscotch, the pony, is getting so much love, care and training from her new owner's 2 daughters - here's one of them enjoying her.... although she hadn't lost a ridiculous amount of weight like the others (because she was a pony) she was still FULL of worms like the others and needed vaccinations, feet trimmed, etc. because that had not been provided by the previous negligent owner.



GERL Attends Horny Head Fish Festival

By Donna Pieper



The day started out early with set up for the 32nd Annual Hornyhead Fish Festival. The site of this annual festival is the 1924 Historic Newborn Schoolhouse. This old school was restored in 2017, but continues to hold authentic old-timey ambiance and houses the Schoolhouse museum. It is now used year round for private and public events such as weddings, reunions, town festivals, and more.

There were lots of booths with local arts & crafts, children's activities, great food, as well as live music. The parade down the main street kicked off at 9am with the traditional fire truck, sirens blaring, as well as a car show with some real classics. The parade Grand Marshall was Cowboy Bill and he was escorted by two members of the Dream Weavers Drill Team. I was able to share the purpose of GERL with a lot of interested folks.

You may ask: What is a Hornyhead Fish? From Wikipedia... "The hornyhead chub (*Nocomis biguttatus*) is a small species of minnow.



The overall winning fish caught during the festival this year measured 7.5" long, having 10 horns, being caught by Kenzie Ross, age 10.



Round Oak Spring Ride a Success

By Patty Livingston

It was pouring down rain when I arrived at Ron and Adriane Cook's farm in Hillsboro on Thursday before the ride. I was glad that there were still 2 days before the ride so that it might have a chance to dry out before everybody else started arriving. My girlfriend, Jill, had driven up from Florida and had already set up her camp. I put my truck in 4 WD and backed in beside her rig and waited for the rain to stop so I could unload my horse and get set up.



Tuff and his new friend, James

The next morning Ron came over and asked if we wanted to go out on a short ride with him and James before lunch. Jill and I jumped at the chance and immediately got our horses ready. Everything was lush and green, like a giant carpet, as we followed the trail through the ferns. It was beautiful. We returned for lunch and started working on getting all the auction items to the pavilion. That took several hours and before you know it, we were sharing a potluck dinner with all the folks who had arrived that day. I was totally surprised (and pleased) by the number of people

who showed up. It was good to see a lot of old faces, too.

We enjoyed great weather and another trail ride on Saturday. Riders had the choice of going out for a short 2-3 hour ride or an all-day ride. They had plenty of riders on both. Jill and I chose the shorter ride and worked on getting the auction ready when we returned.

Later, Louie Fortner, Ron and Adriane's good friend and our auctioneer for the evening, arrived on the scene. He is quite the jokester and kept everybody entertained while he squeezed all possible money out of our bidders. There were a lot of generous people in the crowd and they understood why we were there. We were able to raise a little over \$2,700 which will feed a lot of horses for a while.

I want to thank Ron and Adriane Cook for offering their farm, their time and even, their friends, to put on this ride to benefit GERL. I also want to thank Louie for driving all the way over to Hillsboro to help us raise money for the horses. It was an awesome success!



Ron Cook, our host and trail boss.

Round Oak Spring Ride a Success

By Patty Livingston



Trail ride through the forest



Taking a break.



Adriane Cook, our hostess



Diana Kelsey was there!

Volunteer of the Quarter

By Patty Livingston

During this past quarter, GERL had three separate events that took a Hercules to pull off. For that reason, we want to recognize more than one person for their outstanding work. There are so many folks behind the scenes. Here are a few.

Amy Cox

On April 21st we hosted our annual poker ride at Fawcett Farms in Dawsonville. Amy Cox was our Event Coordinator and she did a jam-up job of pulling it all together for a very successful event. Of course, the food that was served (Shepherd's Pie) was all prepared by Amy. All of the prizes and auction items were all secured by Amy. The printing, raffle item and every detail of this event was handled by Amy. She was the one who secured the new event location of Fawcett Farms after we were rained out at Dawson Forest. She rode the trails and flagged them for the poker ride. When she had time to make herself a costume, let alone her horses, I have no idea. She is amazing, and I am so happy that she is a GERL Volunteer. Thank you, Amy!



Donna Harrison

On June 2, 2018, GERL hosted the second annual Help A Horse Day event at the GDA Mansfield impound barn. There were trainers, entertainers and even a massage therapist, providing an opportunity for the crowd to peek into the world of horses. Donna Harrison, is the Event Coordinator for HAHD. I applaud her for hosting this successful event on behalf of GERL. I have no idea how in the world she was able to get such a great "line-up" of entertainment. I have learned that she works very hard to make everything perfect; not only with this event, but with whatever she does. Donna also happens to be our grant writer, so her job isn't over after the event. She is still busy gathering data for the ASPCA grant that we hope to receive. She was instrumental in helping Allen Brock with his recent movie, What Horses Dream. It was a team effort, for sure, but it wouldn't have gotten off the ground had it not been for Donna raising her hand last year and agreeing to handle this event in 2018. I want to express my sincere gratitude to Donna for what she gives to GERL and the horses! You ROCK, Donna!

Ron and Adriane Cook

On April 28, Adriane and Ron Cook hosted a fund-raising trail ride event at their farm in Round Oak to benefit GERL. We have been hosting rides at the Cook farm for nine years and when we decided that we would no longer host the annual Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride after 2017, Adriane immediately came to me and said that she and Ron would like to put the ride on in 2018 and they would take care of everything. And, they certainly did that. GERL was \$2,700 better off for it! Ron and Adriane are two of the nicest people that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing and I am truly grateful for their friendship, commitment and support. Please join me in thanking Ron and Adriane for what they do for the horses (all the time)!



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AREA COORDINATORS NEEDED in MIDDLE AND SOUTH GEORGIA!

We Need You!! Please consider volunteering to be GERL's horse "go to person" in your area. The types of things that you might be asked to do would be to perform a "drive-by" to check out a "skinny horse" report in your area. Perhaps someone in your area has applied to adopt one of our horses and we need someone to perform a farm visit. Please call Patty Livingston at the number above if you can spare a little of your time.

Happy Trails

By CeCe Calli

2018 has started out to be a pretty good year for our foster horses. 11 of our horses have found that perfect forever partner.....And the Help A Horse Day has just pushed us over the top!

Moonhanger, the gorgeous 20ish Paint, is now a part-time riding horse and a pasture buddy. Thank you, Rob and Debbie!

Holly has also found that one perfect partner. Yes, this match took a while, but good things come to those who wait, and Holly's wait is, at long last, over. Tara, you have yourself a great girl to love forever.

Maverick, that handsome Sorrel Quarter Horse is now willing and chilling in his new happy place. Thanks Laurie Wilson for sharing Maverick's story with Edwina. Maverick sure hit the lotto with Edwina.

Backstreet and Indy are getting all tucked into Ann's farm. She saw these two out in the pasture by Patty's place and took both of these guys home. How great is

that! And wait, plus, also Ann has adopted Cinderella.....

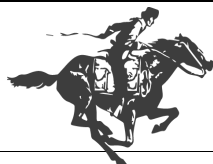
Ranger the young winner of our 2017 GERL Rescue Challenge is now living large with Chris and her family.

Justice, that lucky dude, has found the perfect partner in Rilee! Can't wait to see all the updates.....

Rosco, a sweet 20-year-old gelding, has a new best friend. Thank you, Michele.

Storm, that beyond beautiful OTTB is now best buddies with Matt. Wow! Now, that partnership is awesome.

Norman has also found his forever family....Pam and I worked on a couple of other horses but it was Norman that struck gold. Thanks so much Pam!



GERL Mail Bag



Dear GERL,

You put everyone's words into actions...my favorite charity rescue group!

Connie Burchette



Hi Patty,

We had a great first show and were able to raise \$200 for you guys! We've got several other shows to do this year so will continue the effort to raise more \$ and get the word out about what you guys are doing!

Mary Campbell

Mare Modern Goods

COME AND ATTEND Exhibition Polo Match

Hosted by Jack Cashin, GERL Member,
owner Chukkar Farm Polo Club

All Proceeds to Benefit

Georgia Equine Rescue League



Cold Bottled Water
And Soft Drinks
Available!

Come out and enjoy the fun!

Bring a lawn chair and a picnic basket.

Enjoy watching expert horsemanship.

Learn about this exciting sport!

SILENT AUCTION—FLEA MARKET

Date: Sunday, July 15, 2018

Time: Gate opens @ 1 PM Polo Match @ 2 PM

Where: Chukkar Farm and Polo Club

1140 Liberty Grove Rd., Alpharetta, Ga 30004

Directions: <http://www.chukkarfarmpoloclub.com>

(Admission \$15.00 per person)

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To report a case of equine abuse, call the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Division

Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
(404) 656-3713 or (800) 282-5852

If you would like GERL to assist with an Equine Abuse case call (770) 464-0138

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On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, simply select Georgia Equine Rescue League to receive donations before you begin shopping. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation to GERL. To date, GERL has received \$1,707.50 from AmazonSmile donations and we appreciate your continued support!

If you haven't already, please sign up and then ask your friends and family to sign up and support GERL through the AmazonSmile program.

Join our Feed A Horse Program

Starved and neglected horses impounded by the Georgia Department of Agriculture need your help! Donations will be applied directly towards feed and hay for impounded horses. Currently, the cost for rehabilitating a horse is approximately \$150 per month, per horse.

Make your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation through the Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. "Feed a Horse" program. We need your help so that these horses can live.

Get involved! Ask your friends, family, co-workers and others to help raise money to feed the horses!



Itty Bitty Before



Itty Bitty After

I would like to make a donation of:

- \$150.00 per month for 4 months to rehabilitate one horse.
- \$600.00 one time donation to rehabilitate one horse.
- \$ _____ per month to help rehabilitate the horses.
- \$ _____ any donation is gladly accepted!

...or Pay online www.gerlltd.org

**"Feed a Horse"
Program**

www.gerlltd.org

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Make check payable to:
GERL
Mail to: P.O. Box 328
Bethlehem, GA 30620

THANK YOU!

*Your donation is
tax deductible!*

Inaugural Rescue Horse Championship at GADS I, II Georgia International Horse Park, May 12-13 - by Nancy Cox



Offered at the Greater Atlanta Dressage Show I&II was a new championship category introduced specific to horses defined as “rescued”. These are horses that find themselves in a rescue situation, such as abused horses seized by law enforcement or the many unwanted horses that flow through the auction process to find themselves at a Kill Pen awaiting transport to a slaughter facility. In this population of horses, many athletic, trained, and sound horses silently flow to their heartbreaking end. Hundreds of rescue organizations do their part to save as many as financially possible. The Georgia Equine Rescue League, the co-sponsor of the championship, is central to supporting all rescue horses here in Georgia. They know too well the magnitude of this issue. This problem was the inspiration for the Rescue Horse Championship. The goal is to generate visibility of the issue and potentially motivate future horse buyers to “adopt, don’t shop” for their next horse.

Starting something new is always a challenge. Getting the Rescue Horse Championship off the Ground was no exception. For the first show, only one horse was eligible for the championship (full transparency: the entry was one of my rescue horses). Other riders had inquired, but

were not quite ready. The Championship will be held again at the Labor Day Show. Plans for 2019 are in development as we continue to inspire others to participate. The Georgia Equine Rescue League is also looking at other ways to incorporate this idea into other shows.

First Show: Introducing Chloe the Rescue Horse

Chloe made quite a statement by winning her classes on both days! This is remarkable when you consider what she had overcome to make it to the show in the first place. Chloe’s story is a common one, but this time with a much happier ending (or new beginning!). Last fall, Chloe appeared at one of the many Kill Pens that peddle the horses that were acquired over the last week or so. Those that look like they may go for resale (or “flip”) get a moment of time to have that chance. The vast majority are invisible, and flow through the process without much chance of intervention. Chloe looked athletic, with a good shoulder and nice hind leg. She was also pretty, with a kind eye.

In her riding video she showed a nice rhythmic trot with some suspension. I took notice and began to follow her progress. Time went by swiftly and nobody inter-



vened to rescue Chloe. Her time was up and she was shipping. At the last possible moment, a friend of mine stepped in and coordinated her rescue. She agreed to provide a home for her as my barn was at full capacity. What followed was defi-

nitely not part of the plan. Chloe arrived at her new home in Florida and quickly showed she was, indeed, athletic. At 14 HH, she easily jumped the 5’ pasture fences multiple times. She wasn’t quite settled it seemed. She was moved to the round pen to try and hold her, but she tried to climb out. She was very sweet and easy to handle, all except for the part where she needed to stay inside her enclosure.

Inaugural Rescue Horse Championship at GADS I, II Georgia International Horse Park, May 12-13 - by Nancy Cox

Continued from page 14

After discussing the problem, my friend and I came to the conclusion that Chloe deserved a chance with a great trainer to see what her potential might be. After seeing her in person, we confirmed that her gaits were terrific, particularly her beautiful canter! She seemed willing, just poorly trained. I remembered one of the Georgia Equine Rescue League "Rescue Challenge" trainers that I had admired, Cassy Hoban. I contacted her to explain my problem and see if she was willing to take her on. Thankfully she said yes. A Dressage Horse is (Re) Born Cassy is a true horseperson with a lifetime of experience developing young horses and retraining problem ones. She is skilled in many disciplines but has developed the 'bug' for dressage in the last couple of years. It fits her training sensibility: creating relaxed, forward and willing horses - the foundation of dressage training. Not having any idea of Chloe's past, Cassy started from the beginning to restore her confidence and trust. She was obedient, but it came from a place of resignation and disconnection. In

the few months Cassy has worked with Chloe, we now see the real horse inside: smart, athletic, funny, opinionated and giving.

By May, she was ready to show in the Introductory tests at GADS I&II. The goal is to build confidence while experiencing the environment of a show atmosphere. She was nervous in the warm up areas, and her first test was expectedly a little rough around the edges, but they got through it. By the end of the show, Chloe was relaxed and had the hang of her job and had completed her four tests successfully. She won her two contested classes, while being the solo competitor in the other two, thus achieving the high scores for the Rescue Championship. This is a fabulous start for this sweet mare; and some of the credit must go to Cassy. There are More Chloes out there! She is showing the promise we suspected was there when we first saw her. Like most rescue horses, she has developed a profound attachment to her rescuer. They seem to know they have been saved.

My goal with developing Chloe and sponsoring the Rescue Championship is to advocate for at-risk horses and inspire others to look for their next prospect from the ranks of rescue horses. Please consider this option as there are many deserving horses worth the chance and it may unexpectedly change your life as well!



GERL ADOPTABLES

For adoption fees and additional information, please contact CeCe Calli, Adoption Coordinator. (706) 371-6804 / adopt@gerlltd.org



Pleasure Lane is a 16-year-old black/white Paint QH gelding. He is a sweet boy and is rideable although he is a bit rusty, so he needs a strong rider. He has been a pasture ornament for much of his life and really needs a job. His current foster is working on his ground manners. This is a nice horse! Check him out!



Chad is a 15.1hh 10 year old Sorrel/White Paint. He was surrendered to GDA and brought into GERL's foster program. Chad was a competitor in this year's Rescue Challenge event with Lisa Berry as his trainer.



CLOUD is a 15.2 hh, 20-year-old Flea Bitten Gray, TB Gelding. He is very easy-going, has good ground manners, and is good for the farrier & vet. Anybody can ride this horse! And, he is a pretty boy!



Lula exhibits a gentle nature with no vices or health issues. She is easy to handle on the ground and leads well. Lula is a bit shy around her face but very loving after you begin to show her attention. She is fine with shots and stands for hoof trimming by a farrier who is patient with her.

Visit our website for up to date adoptable horses: www.gerlltd.org

GERL ADOPTABLES

For adoption fees and additional information, please contact CeCe Calli, Adoption Coordinator. (706) 371-5804 / adopt@gerlltd.org



Gypsy Rose is a sweet mare that loves attention. She is curious and friendly. She is missing her left eye but is unaffected by that minor handicap. Rosie possesses lovely ground manners and is quiet at the walk, trot, and canter. She would be an excellent mount for an older person who still enjoys riding.



Shadow is a 17 year old Tennessee Walker/Quarter horse mix. We were informed that he is rideable but this will be evaluated further once he has regained his body weight.. This guy is turning out to be a sweetheart. He loves attention and has a very kind eye and a sweet disposition. He is going to be a looker!



Ladybug came to the GA Department of Agriculture (GDA) in January 2017 as an “owner surrender” from south GA. Over the course of her time at GDA, tests were done and she was diagnosed with Cushing’s Disease. Her condition is easily managed with one pill that she eats willingly with her feed. The care that GDA provided along with the medication and an adequate diet has allowed her to put on weight, her coat looks much healthier, and her overall demeanor indicates she is feeling much better.

Ladybug has a gentle soul and is very easy to handle. She gets along well with other horses. She leads well and is very willing. She stands quietly for the farrier and the veterinarian. She is sound and moves with liveliness. She has been ridden but, due to her low back, the use of special high wither pads and a good fitting saddle is a must.

She was just transferred to the GERL adoption program and she is ready to find her forever home. Once she gets to know you and gets over her initial shyness, she is a true lovebug and would be great for a home looking for a companion horse, a backyard pony, and an overall lovely companion. Her adoption fee is \$100.

Visit our website for up to date adoptable horses: www.gerlltd.org

GERL Visits Henry County 4H Horse Club

By Cynthia Brayton



I was invited by 4-H volunteer, David Williamson, to make a GERL presentation to the members of the Henry County 4-H Horse Club, also known as Hoofbeats. They pride themselves on providing quality, hands-on learning experiences to all members, whether horse owners or not. Club members do not have to own a horse to be a part of the Horse Club. They just have to love horses.

The 4-H name & emblem represents the ideals of the program with its focus on Head, Heart, Hands and Health. The 4-H name & emblem is very important to Hoofbeats as a club because it represents who they are.

The goal of the Henry County 4-H Hoofbeats Horse Club is to:

- ◆ Promote mastery of horsemanship skills through hands-on learning experiences.
- ◆ Develop generosity through service in the local equine community.
- ◆ Build a sense of belonging by giving 4-H'ers the opportunity to be a part of something important and relevant.
- ◆ Encourage independence in every member by teaching them to be responsible and knowledgeable horsemen and horsewomen.

During my presentation I shared stories about our rescue horses who found their forever homes with great new owners. I



talked about the mission and purpose of GERL and how we help horses whose owners have not taken care of them. We talked about how to properly care for a horse and the importance of a good feeding program.

David prepared a quiz for the members which involved everything from identifying anatomical parts of a horse to the names of different kinds of tack. The young people provided the correct answers which shows their interest in horses and their care. David brought one of his horses to the 4-H Hoofbeats Club, which is located in the Henry County Extension office, for a live demonstration. There is a large arena on the grounds which was ideal for David's demonstration.

The Hoofbeats club members presented me with a donation to GERL in a 4-H bag. We really appreciate their enthusiasm for horses and their generosity to GERL!

GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars!*

July 15, 2018
GERL Polo Match
Chukkar Farm Polo Club
Milton, GA

October 20, 2018
GERL Rescue Challenge
UGA Livestock Arena
Athens, GA

November 10, 2018
GERL Annual Castration Day
Vet Clinics all over Georgia

December 8, 2018
GERL Christmas Party
Bethlehem, GA

Mark your calendars so that you don't miss any of these wonderful events that will benefit GERL. It's a guaranteed great time, a benefit for a wonderful cause and a way to see old friends and meet new friends!

Visit our website for up to date information on events: www.gerlltd.org



LET ME SAY THIS...ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

In the last edition of the newsletter, I spoke about several areas of the GERL daily process that needed transformation. We were on the cusp of the ASPCA's Help A Horse Day (HAHD) contest that officially kicked off on April 26th. Since that time, there have been a whirlwind of meetings, planning and action that has helped transform the way we do things in several areas involving our horses and social media. Our Grant Writer, Donna Harrison, is the Event Coordinator for HAHD, and she was able to form a team of volunteers who are truly professionals.

This team of three traveled to all of our foster home locations to meet each horse. Those three people were a photographer who was able to capture the horses' best angle; Autumn Trchek, a knowledgeable trainer/farrier, who evaluated the horses' level of training and condition of the feet; and the third person was Pollyanna Chavez, orchestrator and videographer. She had mapped out the route and made all the phone calls to arrange everything. This team spent 3 hours to do a thorough session with each horse.

After turning in their results to Donna, she started a flow of photos, videos and other information to our Facebook Coordinator, Nancy Bogardts, and our Webmaster, Steve DeMoss. This flow created excitement and started picking up followers. It also made the phone ring and, all of a sudden, there was interest in several of our horses! These horses have been in our program for over a year! We were thrilled to see what a difference it makes when we are able to present videos and updates. It was an instant success as several horses were immediately adopted into good homes.

The Department of Agriculture signed over 7 horses to GERL which had not sold in their last auction. Many of these horses were older, but we found that people were interested in adopting them if they could just see a video. Donna organized the HAHD event at

the GDA Mansfield Impound where we were able to showcase available GDA and GERL horses. In fact, we actually were able to get one adopted the day of the event!

I think I mentioned previously that Allen Brock, one of our Area Coordinators, is a former stunt man who worked for Warner Brothers for many years and also has his own production company. Allen came up with the name of our publicity movie, *What Horses Dream*, on one of our earlier conference calls. He later wrote a storyline, filmed and produced a wonderfully compelling movie that we think has an excellent chance of winning some of the ASPCA's grant funds. Donna made sure that the movie was posted on Facebook and on our website and that it was kept in the spotlight, receiving over 1,000 reviews.

The HAHD committee will be dissolving on June 30th, when the ASPCA contest is over, except for Donna, who will be gathering data to complete the grant application. I feel like this wonderful team of professionals that has come into our lives has given us a whole new perspective of what it takes to adopt horses in a timely manner. It has made me revisit some of our guidelines that are out of date and need to have more details added. The success that we have already experienced during our HAHD has also had an impact on our Rescue Challenge event that will be coming up in October. Monthly meetings are already taking place and though many of the committee members are different, we understand what needs to be done to properly promote our event to ensure success. And let me say this about that...we want all the seats to be filled and lots of people interested in the six horses that will be participating in that event!



Please visit our website for articles, membership application and general information: www.gerlltd.org

A Note from the Secretary's Desk

by Cynthia Anderson



As most of you know, I am fairly new to the position of Secretary for the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL). I took over the job one year ago. I would like to reflect on what I have learned since taking over the position from Anne Ensminger.

First, I would like to thank the board and each and every member of GERL for allowing me this opportunity. I know

that I can never replace Anne, her dedication to GERL, her knowledge of the members. Her kindness, and wit, cannot be matched. However, I am willing to learn and I appreciate any suggestions or constructive criticism that anyone has to offer. After teaching for many years at the college level I have learned that it is all about perceptions. The way you say things and do things are often perceived by others in different ways. This can sometimes lead to miscommunication. So for each and every member and supporter of GERL, please feel free to contact me with any suggestions you may have for me.

Secondly, I have learned that the membership base of GERL is truly dedicated and members solidly support our mission in every aspect possible. Members offer financial support, physical support, and educational support. I feel privileged to be associated with such a dedicated group. Most people associated with GERL work full time jobs outside of their positions

with GERL. Some work in business, education, the medical field, the horse industry, and many other fields. The one thing we all have in common is our love and concern for horses as well as the mission of GERL. It is gratifying to see the willingness to make the time to see that the mission of GERL is always proactive and moving forward. So please remember that if someone associated with GERL does not respond as quickly as you think they should; they may just not have the physical time to do so, not because they don't care, but because they have to fulfill other duties associated with busy lives. It is a delicate balance of time and responsibility. I know that personally until I retire in May of next year (hopefully), my professional responsibilities prevent me from attending some of our events. This is always a disappointment for me as I would like for my GERL duties to be one of my first priorities.

The third thing I have learned is that I love this organization and what it stands for. We have had several successful events this year. In spite of having to change the date of the Poker Ride, it was, as usual, hugely successful and a wonderful time was had by all who attended. Help a Horse Day at the Mansfield impound included several very enjoyable demonstrations by trainers and introduced the public to GERL and our mission. It was also a wonderful opportunity to showcase horses that are available for adoption. Again, it was quite successful. Coming up are the Polo Match, a Multi-County Meeting with law enforcement, and the Rescue Challenge.

Thank you all for everything you do to make this organization successful.





Lauren Norman with Gypsy Rose.

Andrew Kenneson | The Tribune



Horse Helpers

Rescue | A statewide non-profit places animals who need a home

A few years ago, a cinnamon colored Arabian horse named Gypsy Rose was wandering the streets. She lived with an older owner in North Georgia who probably should not have owned a horse. He couldn't afford enough food, and the fences enclosing the horse pen were old and rotted. Every so often, Gypsy Rose would slip out. Police officers would pick her up on the edges of highways or munching grass in people's yards miles from her home.

This went on until once, after police dutifully returned Gypsy Rose to her owner, her owner told them he no longer wanted the horse. "You take her," he said. At this point, a horse's options are slim. Most either find a new owner or die. She was unlikely to find a new owner. Horses are serious investments. Few people have the resources to take care of a horse, and a horse like Gypsy Rose was not, at this point, a great investment. Years of mistreatment had left her skittish and mean. She'd lost an eye. A scar ran across her nose. The bones on her back

and hips stuck out from malnourishment. The second option seemed more likely. Often these mistreated and unwanted horses in Georgia are sold to a meat dealer and then die on a killing floor in Mexico or Canada. If they are too skinny to be sold for meat, they are often euthanized. But Gypsy Rose was lucky. Because there is, in fact, a third option. There is the Georgia Equine Rescue League, or GERL, a statewide non-profit dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating abused and unwanted horses. Formed in 1992 after the passage of the Humane Care for Equines Act, GERL works closely with the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) to find new homes for horses like Gypsy Rose. Police turned her over to the GDA. Failing to sell at one of their auctions, Gypsy Rose ended up in the care of GERL and then to foster care at the farm of Lauren Norman in Walton County. Lauren has a heart for the unwanted. She found her dog at the pound. She's currently in the process of adopting a child from India. Norman lives near

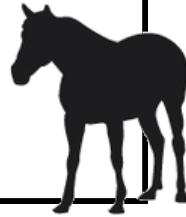
Jersey, in a house on top of a hill with a fenced in pasture spreading from her front doorstep. She owns two horses, and Gypsy Rose has been living with her for about a year. She's one of about 30 foster homes in Georgia where GERL places horses waiting to be adopted. While the horses are there, GERL helps pay for most of the expenses of keeping the horse happy and healthy. The goal is to find Gypsy Rose a "forever home," a place where she will be happy and used for the rest of her life. To be in one of these homes, Gypsy Rose needed to re-learn how to be around people after years of mistrusting them. When Gypsy Rose arrived at Norman's place, Norman could barely get her under control. Now, after months of careful training, she trusts the horse around her one year old daughter. Gypsy Rose is also a healthier weight from eating the high nutrient diet she lacked at her last home. As a result, Gypsy Rose is good candidate for adoption. GERL places about fifteen horses in homes every year. But even

though Norman desperately wants Gypsy Rose to be adopted, she's not pushing her on anyone. "She's got to have the appropriate home, the right people and the right place," Norman said. She said two people have already shown interest in adopting, but Lauren didn't think either would be the right one. But if all goes according to plan, Gypsy Rose will find a home soon, and days of wandering the streets will be over. Between April 26 and June 30, GERL will be on a fundraising and adoption drive. The more horses they find homes for and the more money they raise, the more money they might possibly win from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or ASPCA. Donna Harrison, the group's grant writer, said the money will help with adoptions, but also with geldings and equine medical programs. With more resources, GERL can keep working to find horses like Gypsy Rose forever homes.

GERL Stallion to Gelding Program.

Stallions Gelded To Date By GERL:

922



Thank you for donating to the "Feed a Horse" Program

Erik Wittenzellner
 Carol Royer
 Ben Hudson
 John Lynn
 Constance Burchette
 James and Kathy Januzelli

Thank You For Helping

Thank you to CeCe Calli for her generous donation to support the Rescue Challenge 2018.

Horses in our Foster Care Program

CeCe Calli—Foster Care Coordinator
 (706) 376-2410
 foster@gerlltd.org

HORSES

FOSTER HOME

Gypsy Rose	Lauren Norman
Pleasure Lane	Blake & Lori Hoffman
Chad	Patty Livingston
Foxfire	Steven Neal

In Memory of

- ◆ Carl Gordon by Bobbie Freeman
- ◆ Carl Gordon by Dr. Melody Milbrandt
- ◆ Carl Gordon by Diana Kelsey
- ◆ Andee DeMoss Rogers by Diana Kelsey
- ◆ Edna Pursley by Dorothy and John Wice
- ◆ Melanie Norville by Melanie Webre
- ◆ Melanie Norville by Mary Montgomery
- ◆ Teresa Truxillo by Brian Truxillo
- ◆ Karlee Arey by Barbara Muse
- ◆ Robyn Smith's horse Luke, by Barbara Kutchback and friends at Providence Club
- ◆ Tony and Benessa Black's donkey Buddy by Dr. Ava Talmage
- ◆ Jim and Dawn Kelley's horse Romeo by Dr. Ava Talmage
- ◆ Jeff Perry's horse Meme by Dr. Ava Talmage
- ◆ Kristi Gappa's horse Harley by Dr. Ava Talmage
- ◆ Randy Hyde's horse Breezy by Dr. Ava Talmage



In Honor of

- ◆ Lori Bachtel by Sherry Saurini
- ◆ Christmas present for Rosalie McKenzie by Carolyn Combs
- ◆ Nancy Bogardts by Christina Scruggs
- ◆ Christmas present for Donna Pieper by Steven Horn
- ◆ Christmas present for Denesa Snell by Sandra Hagge
- ◆ Jennifer DeFelice by William DeFelice
- ◆ Jenny Gelb by Geri Kono
- ◆ Bella and Pearl by Anne E. Mitchell
- ◆ Sandy Hagge, Cathy Merritt, Sharon Reynolds and Gail & Gerry Williams by Denesa Snell
- ◆ Ken & Susan Archer's Wedding Anniversary by Ronnie Pesserilo
- ◆ Zips Double Diamond "Dee" by Constance Burchette
- ◆ Lee Reese by Cheryl Evans Shedd
- ◆ Robyn Smith by Barbara Kutchback and friends at Providence Club
- ◆ Cognac Martel by Steve Prediletto
- ◆ Dr. Linda M. Stringer by Dianne Harper
- ◆ Bard, a horse rescued by Dr. Rebecca Gimenez, by Brenda Allen
- ◆ Bard, a horse rescued by Dr. Rebecca Gimenez, by Olivia Westbook

GDA Success Stories

Rain arrived around January 25th, 2017 with five other Thoroughbreds. Rain weighed approximately 821 Lbs & approximately 15.2H. He had grown quite a thick winter coat and this angle was the best to get the visual of how thin he really was. Once he was in adequate body condition, he was sent to Lee Arrendale State Prison Equine Center for the start of some retraining/riding. He was put in the December 2nd, 2017 equine auction was sold to CeCe Calli, GERL Foster Coordinator. Below is a picture of CeCe & Rain. Thank you CeCe & wishing you and Rain lots of long rides together!



This is Rain, a 9-year-old Thoroughbred Gelding.

Cargill Announces new Ultra Premium Line of Horse Feeds

Cargill Feed has a new ultra-premium line of horse feed, ProElite which has now been incorporated into the SHOW program. Triple Crown POPs will also be accepted.

Please save Proof of Purchase seals from ProElite and Triple Crown and send them to:

Ginny Scarritt, 4835 Kendall Court, Atlanta, GA 30342



With *Your* Help we...*Will* Make A Difference!

Please Help! GERL receives money for the following ...

Please save Proof Of Purchase seals from bags of these Southern States feeds ...

Legends & Reliance
and send them to:

Ginny Scarritt

4835 Kendall Court * Atlanta, GA 30342



In April, 2018 GERL received \$787.50 from our Proof of Purchase Program. Please keep those POP's coming!

Thank You For Your Donations

- ♦ Dr. Jan Smith
 - ♦ Vickie Bryans and H J Fox Classics
 - ♦ Mare Modern Goods
 - ♦ Sherry Massey
 - ♦ Bonnie Lavoie
 - ♦ Christopher Gregory and Susan Futrelle-Gregory
 - ♦ Peggy Paris
 - ♦ Lisa Casey
 - ♦ Kathy Adams
 - ♦ Meghan Cameron
 - ♦ Mary-Ellen Mateyka
- ♦ Susanne Lauda
 - ♦ Karen Johnson
 - ♦ Bremen Sengstack
 - ♦ Sherri Sharpe
 - ♦ Jane Estes
 - ♦ Susan Reid
 - ♦ Debbie Smith
 - ♦ R. W. Wallace
 - ♦ Gerald Davis
 - ♦ Beulah Newton
 - ♦ Cheryl Bray
 - ♦ Henry County Extension/4-H



Update on GERL's Kroger Plus Community Rewards Program and Amazon Smiles

YOUR KROGER PLUS CHARITY SELECTION ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017.

DID YOU KNOW YOU HAVE TO RE-ENROLL YOUR CHARITY IN THE KROGER PLUS PROGRAM EVERY YEAR?

During the 1st quarter of 2018, The Georgia Equine Rescue League received \$ 142 from the Kroger Plus Program. That is compared to \$ 140 last quarter. For now, it looks like we are holding that level of support. Thank you so to those who continue to support us quarter after quarter, year after year. Back in 2014 when we first rolled out this program, we received 268 for one quarter. That means we still haven't reached that initial level since we rolled out this program. It can be challenging to maintain support for this program because many people may not be aware that you must re-enroll in your chosen charity each year. All selections end at the end of September each year and you must select your charity again. Please go to <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com> to enroll or re-enroll GERL as your chosen charity. If you have not chosen GERL as your charity in the past, please consider supporting GERL through this program. The Kroger Community Rewards Program is an easy way for you to support GERL. All you have to do is go to <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com> and link your Kroger Plus card to Georgia Equine Rescue League. This does not affect the shopping rewards that you receive through the program.

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING GERL THROUGH THE AMAZON SMILES PROGRAM.

During the 1st quarter of 2018, we have received \$200 from this program. That is compared to \$146 last quarter. This increase is probably due to holiday shopping. We had been increasing or holding at the same level each quarter, so it looks like support is being maintained quarter over quarter. That is very encouraging, thank you to those who always go to the Amazon Smile link and support GERL while you do your shopping. If you shop on Amazon through their Amazon Smiles program, 0.5% of your purchase is donated to GERL. In order to support GERL through the Amazon Smiles program, all you have to do is go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-2080606> and choose Georgia Equine Rescue League as your charity. You also have to begin shopping via that link in order for your purchases to be credited toward GERL. What a great way to support a great cause without spending any of your own money.

You can find links to both of these programs on the GERL website at <http://www.gerlltd.org>. Our thanks go out to all of you who have chosen to support GERL through these programs.

Video Viewing Party - Director Cut Version!

By Patty Livingston

On May 19th GERL Grant Writer and Help A Horse Day Coordinator, Donna Harrison and her husband Rick, hosted a potluck style picnic at their home with plenty of hotdogs and hamburgers and all the fixins. The get-together was a viewing party to be the first to see the new longer version (8 minutes) of the movie, "What Horses Dream". Most of the attendees were the movie committee members and their families, including Allen Brock, Oscar Franco, Dan Brock, Debbie Brock, Donna, Rick and Lilly, the star of the show.

A previous version was recently released that is approximately 3 minutes, which was created as GERL's entry in the ASPCA's HelpAHorse Day contest which includes creating a "compelling" video. We certainly hope that you think this movie is all that, and more! Check out this latest version that tells the story of What Horses Dream! And, get your hanky!



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Allen Brock, Director, Donna Harrison and Debbie Brock, Production Assistants, Kendra Franco, Oscar Franco, Asst-Director and Rick Harrison (actor). (and Tank)



Co-star Kaitlyn Holland (center) and her mom.

GERL Poker Ride at Fawcett Farm at BIG Success!

By Patty Livingston

You might remember that our annual poker ride that is always held at Dawson Forest was rained out on the original date of March 17th. We had big plans to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with costume contests and a parade. Securing Dawson Forest is no easy task and if you find yourself having to reschedule an event, it is near impossible to get a date that doesn't conflict with a hunt of some kind. So, Amy



Sue Wrensen, Julie Schwab and Art Schwab

Cox, our poker ride Event Coordinator, quickly came up with the alternate location of Fawcett Farm Horse Trails, which is about 12 miles north of Dawson Forest. It didn't take much to convince everybody, that this would be a good place once we went to the Fawcett Farm website and saw photos of the views. A date of April 21st was chosen and we decided to go forward with the St. Patrick's theme since we already had our costumes. Secretly, I felt relief.



Lynne Robinson worked Registration.

During the next month, Amy stayed busy getting the flyer and other materials printed, gathering auction items, securing a license to hold a raffle and lining up the raffle item, which happened to be a S&W 38 Special Revolver. She had raffle tickets printed and then she sold over \$1,000 worth of tickets. Amy is a force to reckon with and I often wonder



Rylee and Justice



Lisa Carroll and Judy Ricketson were so cute!



Caroline Love and Lara McHugh

how I got so lucky as to have her help and support with this event.

She and I spoke on the phone often, with her updating me on all the things she had done towards getting ready for the big event. One of those discussions was about Danny Fawcett, the owner of the facility, and how nice he was. He was happy about having us come there to host our ride and took a lot of time answering all of Amy's questions. I had never been to Fawcett Farm before, so I was getting excited.



Brenda and Garth Brooks

GERL Poker Ride at Fawcett Farm at BIG Success!

By Patty Livingston



Best Costume was won by Megan Barnett (far right).

One Friday afternoon, a couple of weeks before our event, I drove to Amy's house in Dawsonville. We took two of her horses and trailered over to Fawcett Farm for a ride, hoping to pick out the poker ride trail that we would be using. I took pictures all day. Everywhere you looked, was a beautiful view.

The day of the event finally came and several of us arrived on Friday to get things set up. I brought a huge roll of orange plastic fencing and some t-posts that we used to build a huge paddock area for the horses. There were 3 electrical sites available, high lines and a beautiful flowing creek that ran nearby. After getting our camp set up and all the stuff unloaded, we decided to go for a short ride.

I had brought Justice, my foster horse with me, along with Rilee, the 16-year-old girl who was interested in adopting him. A weekend together would tell her everything she probably needed to know about him. We enjoyed the trails and returned to camp in time to put the horses away and get ready for potluck.

The next morning, people started arriving pretty early. We had some great volunteers who showed up and helped. There was a good crowd and a beautiful day for a poker ride. Everybody went out on their horses and returned to a great lunch, prepared by Amy. We gave out door prizes and then kicked



Robert Horsfall (far right) - winner of the Poker Ride

off the live auction. Amy had decided to switch her silent auction to a live auction when Mickey Farmer graciously agreed to come to the event and handle it. It was exciting to see people bidding on items and often, bringing more than it cost.

After the auction was over, all of the winners were announced. Robert Horsfall won \$100 for best Poker Hand. Road Apple Bingo Winner: \$200 1st Prize to Linda Kundell, who was generous enough to donate it back. \$100 for



Louie, Amy Cox and Spooky in costume.

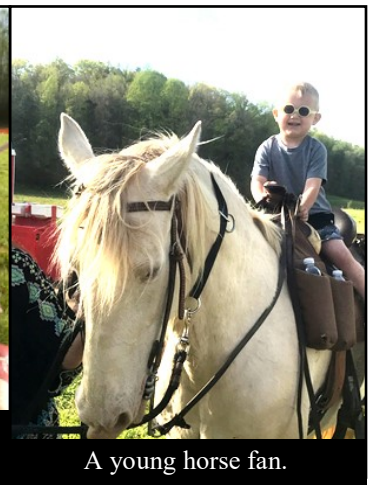
2nd Place went to Robyn Davis. Susan Reid won the gun and then donated it back to be auctioned. Carol Sauers purchased it.

It was a very successful event and we were able to raise more money than we usually take in for our poker ride. That had me smiling all the way home!

BIG THANKS to all of our volunteers who showed up to make this happen!



Jeff & Lara McHugh and Kim Trahan



A young horse fan.

2018 GERL Rescue Challenge



Competition will
be held on
October 20, 2018
At the
UGA Livestock Arena
Doors open 9:00 am
2598 S. Milledge Ave.,
Athens, Ga 30605

\$5,500.00
Total Purse



2017 GERL Rescue Challenge winner Kailey Perkins with Ranger

Georgia Equine Rescue League

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2018 Rescue Challenge Horses



Foxfire-5 year old
14.2 Sorrel Grade Gelding



Broadway-16 year old
14.3 Sorrel Grade Mare



Houston-3 year old 14.3 Sorrel Grade Gelding



Twister-6 year old 16h Chestnut Thoroughbred Gelding



For complete information about our Trainers,
Judges and to purchase tickets, please
visit our website www.gerlltd.org



Dreamer 3 year old Pinto Filly

Event October 20, 2018

UGA Livestock Arena, 2598 S, Milledge Ave. - Athens, Ga 30605



2018 Rescue Challenge

Event October 20, 2018

UGA Livestock Arena, 2598 S. Milledge Ave. - Athens, Ga 30605

2018 Rescue Challenge Trainers



Autumn Tucheck



Tinker Moffitt



Bennett Smith



Betsy Fajen Rengifo



Josh Peeples

For complete information about our Trainers, Judges
and to purchase tickets, please visit our website www.gerlltd.org

2018 Rescue Challenge Judges



Julie Rickards



Kailey Perkins



Elizabeth Dabney

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 1/4 Page: \$150.00 per year (Newsletter/Website/Color)
 1/2 Page: \$200.00 per year (Newsletter/Website/Color)
 Full Page \$300.00 per year (Newsletter/Website/Color)

(Above 3 ads include a 2" X 3.5" color on the front page of our website)
 (Customer supplies business card/photos/graphics)

Contact: Lynne Robinson / ads@gerlltd.org



AVA K. GRINER TALMAGE DVM
 Office: 706 502-2989

AMICALOLA VETERINARY SERVICES
 Ambulatory Mixed Animal Practice
 Talking Rock, GA 30175

Email: ava@amicalolaveterinaryservices.com
 Website: amicalolaveterinaryservices.com

You can visit our website to for articles, membership application and general information: www.gerlltd.org

Georgia Equine Rescue League
PO Box 328
Bethlehem, GA 30620
(770) 464-0138
www.gerlltd.org

PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #1037
STONE MOUNTAIN, GA

Donation/Membership Application

"As a convenience you can donate or signup/renew your membership on our website using www.gerlltd.org"

Sign Up Today to help starved, abused and neglected horses in Georgia!

Sign Up Today to help starved, abused and neglected horses in Georgia!

New Member: _____ Renewal: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Referred by: _____

_____ I am a horse owner

_____ Although I do not own a horse, I would like to support the GERL

_____ I am interested in becoming a GERL Foster Home

_____ I am interested in becoming a GERL fundraising event volunteer

Annual membership dues are:

\$35.00 Family _____ \$25.00 Single _____ \$15.00 Junior (12 & under) _____ Age: _____

\$50.00 Club, Organization or Business _____ \$1000.00 Lifetime _____

Misc. Donation: _____

In Honor of _____ for the amount of \$ _____

In Memory of _____ for the amount of \$ _____

Make check payable to: GERL
Mail to: GERL - P.O. Box 328 - Bethlehem, GA 30620



With Your Help ... We Will Make A Difference!



Certified 501(c)3 with the State of Georgia

You can visit our website for articles, membership application and general information: www.gerlltd.org