



# Golden Girl Gazette Herald

Summer 2022

## A message from our executive director...

I've had emotional moments in my life where not a word was spoken, yet I knew would be life changing. The time I realized I wanted to change my career from reporting about abused children to taking care of them. The moment I knew I was in love with my husband, Robert, and the first time I held each one of our four babies.

There have also been times when words filled me with joy or sadness, or were even life changing. My mom saying, "Move to West Virginia" or when my doctor reported, "you're in remission!" or the first time I heard Tammy, a former resident, say, "Golden Girl didn't just change my life, it saved it. Y'all took me in and saved me!"

Last week, a question was asked that impacted my heart. It was an epiphany, one of those true light bulb moments. I was at the Vision Center in Walmart, ordering my contacts and I mentioned to the manager that I worked at Golden Girl. She didn't know about our agency, so I told her about our mission and my passion for helping our girls. I told her that we were different from most group homes licensed by the State. I explained that I encouraged our staff members to care for our girls but also grow to love them as part of our Golden Girl Family. I told her that our licensing standards discourage physical contact with our girls, but I added, "I'm a bit of a rebel because once a girl gives me her permission to hug her, I don't hesitate. It's breaking the rules a little but I'm not going to stop giving hugs." She was quiet for a moment, and then with worry in her eyes asked, "If you don't, who will?" That's when it happened, the epiphany, the strike to my heart, those five little words, "if you don't, who will?" Could I seriously be the only person giving this traumatized child physical contact? Surely, that couldn't be true and if it were, did that mean we (as in Golden Girl) were the only ones expressing our love to her? Where we the only ones taking care of her?

The manager told me she had two teenage girls and that the three of them were close and liked watching movies at home together. This sweet mother told me that she is not a hugger but she gives her daughters a hug every day. Baffled, I asked, "What about your girlfriends?"

She quietly replied, "I don't have any." She shared with me some personal struggles she had recently. I listened, yet in the back of my mind, I kept hearing the question, "If you don't, who will?"

We consider anyone that has been a part of Golden Girl our family, current residents and staff, former ones as well. Anyone who has visited, donated, volunteered or prayed for us are part of our GG Family. Suddenly, I knew the answer to "who will?" The thousands of members of our Golden Girl Family! The answer was clear, "WE WILL!"

Checking out I wrote down Golden Girl's and my personal contact information. As I handed the paper to her, I asked, "I know you're not a hugger, but you feel like a friend, so can I give you a hug?" Looking me in the eye, she nodded and said, "Yes". I didn't hesitate.



# Meet "Clover" Our New Horse!

"I feel like a queen  
when I ride Clover!"



"I love his velvety nose!"

These are just a couple of beautiful statements made by our girls when they are with Clover. Clover was unwanted himself and he was put up for adoption. He wasn't a cute little colt who everyone wanted. Golden Girl was able to adopt Clover and use him to teach the girls how to ride. He has a lot in common with our girls and will bring lots of joy and laughter for years to come.

To help support our  
Equine Therapy  
program call Nikki  
Thomas (304) 939-  
5726 or email  
nthomas@gggh.org

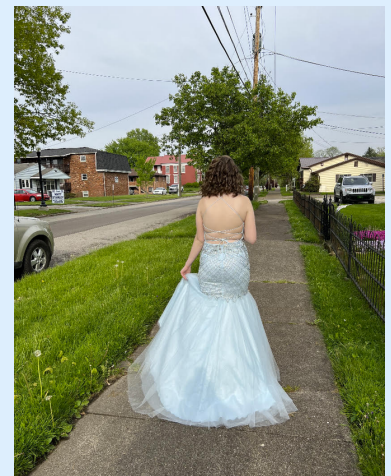
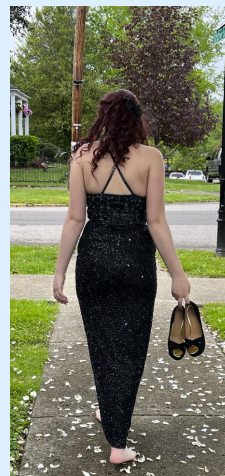
Did you know that Equine  
Therapy helps individuals  
develop a work ethic, identify  
feelings, and learn how to  
trust?



## Prom 2022



For most girls Prom is an exciting time to pick out the perfect dress with your mom and have your whole family gather around taking photos of the special occasion. Our girls deserve to look beautiful and to have family celebrate with them. Thanks to our Very Special friends like **Corbie's, Rosetree**, and many others we are able to dress our girls in luxurious gowns. Thank you for making our girls feel beautiful.





# Summer Fun Sponsor Opportunities



\$55

"Campfire Girl"  
Camping Chair  
Marshmallow  
Roasting Sticks  
S'mores Supplies  
Bug Spray



\$75

"Fishin' Girl"  
Camping Chair  
Fishing Pole  
Tackle Box  
Bait  
First Aid Kit  
Sunscreen

Join us in making this Summer unforgettable for our girls! Go to [gggh.org](http://gggh.org) and click on "Summer Fun" or pay by mailing a check to Golden Girl Group Home P.O. Box 876 Ceredo, WV 25507.

"Water Girl"  
Swimsuit  
Beach Towel  
Sunglasses  
Flip Flops  
Sunscreen



\$65

"Sleepy Girl"  
Sleeping Bag  
Twin Air Mattress  
Lantern/Flashlight  
Bug Spray



\$85

For More info call Nikki Thomas (304) 939-5726



**Hats Off A Huge Success**

Lots of Style! Lots of Pizzazz! Lots of Fun! The Guyan Country Club was full of Derby excitement this year. Everyone had a great time. Thank you to all of our friends who supported Derby 2022.

**Do not miss getting a seat for next year!**  
**Reserve your seat or table for April 29, 2023 by**  
**going to [gggh.org](http://gggh.org) or call Nikki Thomas for**  
**more (304) 939-5726**





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# Early Bird!



Would you love to support Golden Girl **and** get an amazing tax incentive? Call or email Nikki Thomas today to reserve you **Neighborhood Investment Program** tax credit. (304) 939-5726 or [nthomas@gggh.org](mailto:nthomas@gggh.org)



In order to receive the latest, up to date news about your Golden Girl Group Home Family please provide or update your contact information by emailing [rharrison@gggh.org](mailto:rharrison@gggh.org) or text (304) 544-7401 or [nthomas@gggh.org](mailto:nthomas@gggh.org) 304-939-5726

