



First impressions, as they say, make a lasting impact. For many of our dogs, the first person they meet at STAF is Gloria, and she is their first impression of what lies ahead. Gloria has helped enormously with incoming transports over the last few years, often driving long distances to pick up dogs who need the extra love and attention that STAF can provide. Often, our dogs come from abusive situations, have been neglected, or have lived alone on the streets, and Gloria provides them with the expression of love that they have never had. Gloria spends her free time driving countless hours back and forth to pick up the neediest dogs, and her readiness to do so shows a true commitment to the STAF mission.

Her dedication to STAF does not stop once the dogs are transported, as she often takes the young, energetic dogs into her own home, including the puppies who do not thrive in a shelter situation. Frightened, anxious, and older dogs also make their way to Gloria's home, where she and her canine STAF alumnus, Ariel, provide a relaxing environment for decompression while also working on training and socialization. This allows new dogs to get used to a home environment, learn basic house-training skills, develop confidence in a quiet home, and become crate trained. Her own dog, Ariel, lends a well-trained paw by teaching socialization skills, something many of the dogs lack when they arrive, and serving as a general example of canine excellence.

In addition to her work directly with the dogs and her regular Friday PM shift, if you have ever been to a STAF-sponsored event, there is a 100% chance that she has taken your photo. As the official, unpaid photographer at STAF events, Gloria uses her camera skills to capture the best moments at our fundraisers. Until Covid brought a halt to our in-person fundraising events, Gloria was a mainstay at almost every single one. She is an invaluable member of the STAF events schedule, and she works tirelessly to promote our organization.

We take great pride in officially recognizing all the ways in which Gloria Kennedy supports the STAF mission by honoring her with the 2021 Golden Paw Award!