

# THE LAB'S TALE

Winter 2008  
Volume 10, Issue 1



Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.  
"We give Labs a second chance"

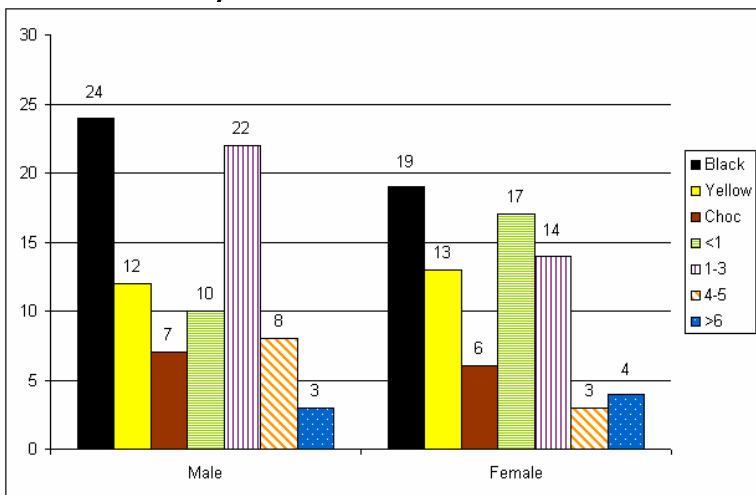
## 2007 Rescue Summary

Over 830 Labs have been rescued since Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue was founded in February, 1999. This past year (2007) we rescued a total of 81 dogs. Of that, 43 were males and 38 were females.

Donations are vital to our efforts and we could not rescue so many Labs without the help of our generous supporters. In 2007 our primary source in income was donations; totaling \$42,759.97. Fundraising revenues came in second at \$25,634.20. This was mostly due to the success of our dinner auction. We want to thank all of our generous donors for this past year's support.

Once again our largest expense was veterinary bills. In 2007 we spent \$32,192 on veterinary bills (42% of our total expenditures); in 2006 our medical expenses were \$48,478. The decrease is due to a corresponding decrease in the number of dogs we were able to rescue this year. However, the cost per dog increased from \$334 to \$397, greatly in due to the fact that a few of our rescued dogs needed expensive medical treatments.

### Summary of our rescue activities for 2007:

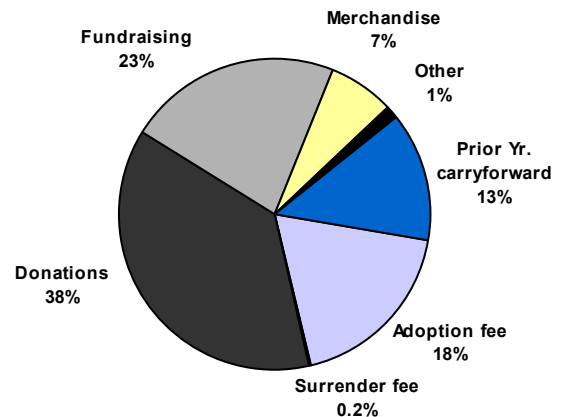


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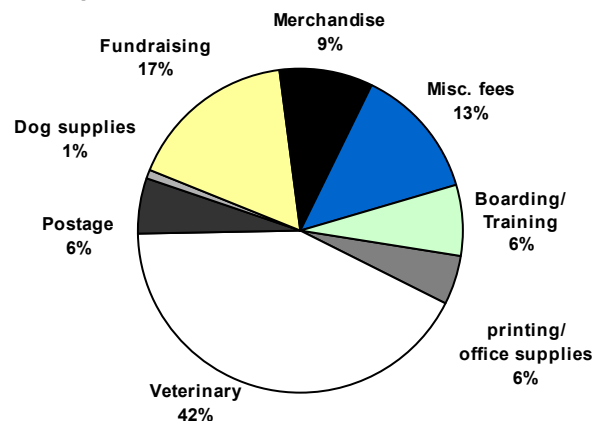
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## 2007 Revenues and Expenses

### 2007 Revenue



### 2007 Expenses





## Why Do I Do It?

I've been asked many times why I do it...foster dogs, that is. I've always said it's because I want to give back, and now I can say it's because of dogs like Dexter. You may remember seeing Dexter, a black male, on our site a few weeks ago. Dexter left us for the ultimate forever family on November 30th, and its souls like him that make fostering completely worth it.

I explain to people that it's my way of giving back what my own dogs have given to me their whole lives...unconditional love. As a foster parent, I take in dogs that for the most part have not had the best lives, and give them a warm a loving home, albeit for a short time, until their forever families are found. They may have some issues that by no fault of their own we need to work through, and that's what I'm here for; to help prepare them for the way life is supposed to be.

In Dexter's case my home was to be his last, but oh what a great time he had for the last eight weeks of his life. Almost immediately I noticed that his appetite was not as healthy as it should be and we soon found out that he needed hip replacement surgery. I attributed his loss of appetite to being in pain, and basically catered to him to get him to eat. He at times he was fed by hand; served warmed canned food, rice and boiled hamburger; for Thanksgiving he had mashed potatoes, gravy and left over turkey bits for a few days. We've all been there; you do what it takes to get them to eat, right? He also slept on my daughter's bed every night, he slept on my couches during the day (one he wasn't supposed to, but I never had the heart to kick him off). He pulled the stuffing out of toys (something it took him a few weeks to even figure out what to do with), he met our neighborhood dogs, had a few play dates and even picked up a tennis ball and dropped it at my feet from time to time (even through his pain). He LOVED slow paced walks, sniffing everything that came across his path. His life was now

one filled with the little things he came to love; playing school with my daughter, being pampered at the dog spa (he had the softest fur); getting spoiled with treats from my grandmother; nudging me when HE decided I wasn't done petting him yet.

These are the kinds of wonderful experiences both the dogs and my family get with fostering. We grow together, learn from each other and experience things differently with each new dog that comes into our lives. It's a very fulfilling feeling to see a dog blossom into what he was supposed to be in the first place.

After a total weight loss of 10 lbs in eight weeks, a very severe bout of stomach troubles and emergency surgery, it was found that Dexter's abdomen and several of his major organs were riddled with cancer. He was brave until the end, never truly showing us how much pain he was in, but enjoying each and every day (on my living room couch).

Dexter is the reason why I foster. To know that I can make a difference to even one dog is an extremely rewarding experience and to date, I've fostered 14 dogs. "Doesn't it hurt when they leave?" "Don't you get attached?" I'm asked. Sure, both my daughter and I cry with the departure of each dog, but we know that they are going to loving, permanent homes in which they can spend the rest of their days happy and loved. And for Dexter, well, I like to think that he got the best forever family of all. He was adopted by Heaven.

*Note: As I help edit this newsletter it brings me to tears to see all the generous donations that came through in Dexter's (and Kobi's) names). I know that Dexter is extremely grateful for all the thoughts, prayers and kindness that people he didn't even know showed him.*



*Dexter and his foster Mom Carole*

**A Special Thanks goes out to all of our foster families. We couldn't help dog's like Dexter without your generosity and love.**





## Recent Adoptions

The following Labs have been adopted since October:

Kappy	Meri & Shawn C	Homewood
Dutchess	Anita and Chaitanya M	Chicago
Sophie	Steve D	Forest Park
Purdue	Jim & Colleen B	Chicago
Tyler	Jennifer & JJ H	Downers Grove
Lexi	Suzanne & Chris C	Aurora
Sunshine	Maureen S	Chicago
Cammie	Victor R	Wilmette
Ottie	Beth & Chet H	Lake in the Hills
Bonnie	Marty & Jennifer A	Deerfield
Heidi	James M	Chicago
Wonka	Julie & Bill C	Ingleside
Kobi	Stacy B	Chicago
Basil/Jake	Joan & John R	Chicago
Rick	Catherine H	Evanston
Luke	Jennifer C	Geneva
Frankie	Sarah D	Chicago
Toby	Betsy & Kevin B	Franklin Park



*Toby now named Ranger was adopted by the Bartlett Family.*

## How Are We Doing?

In 2007 we had an increase in our total revenue. We did not collect as many adoption fees as we did in 2006, but our revenue from fundraising was greatly increased from 2006 due to our Dinner Auction.

Overall we are on target and financially prepared to rescue even more Labs in 2008.

## News and Events

*Mark Your Calendars Now!*

### **2007 International Kennel Club (IKC) Cluster of Dog Shows**

February 23 - 24, 2008

Booth #147

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

McCormick Place, West Building - Chicago

We will have Labs, fundraising merchandise, and rescue information at this exciting event.

For more information visit:

<http://www.ikcdogshow.com>

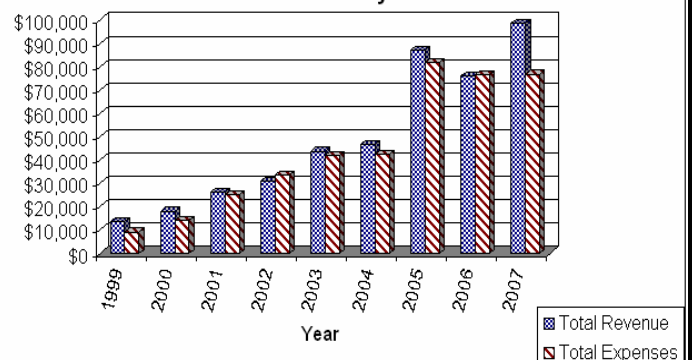
### **Jewel Shop and Share**

March 3, 4 and 5, 2008

Coupon coming soon!

Check the MLRR website for more information.

**MLRR Financial Summary 1999-2007**



### **Price of a Lab**

<b>Adoption Fee</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Year Supply of Food</b>	<b>\$400</b>
<b>Replacement of Stuffed Toys</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>Comfy placeto sleep</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Deshedding treatment at dog salon</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<b>Finding a forever home for a rescue</b>	<b>PRICELESS</b>



## Thanks to Our Donors

Donations from October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

BP Fabric of America Fund	On behalf of Renee M
Saint-Gobain Corp.	From Maggie W.
Shear Paradise Pet Salon	For Kobi & Dexter
Friends of the Dog Park	
Daniel A	
Cindy & Larry A	
Jill A	Miles' fka Jackson 2nd birthday
Julie, Doug & Elisabeth A	In honor of Harley
Joe A	In memory of Bagfield
Elaine & Jeffrey A	
Carmella A	Medical needs
Kathy & John B	In honor of Newman fka Finnegan
Brandy c/o Barker Behavior Inc	
Dr. Phillip B	In memory of James A.
Georgeanne B	In memory of Hudson
Cynthia B	My labs Hayley & Kona
Michael B	Hugo
Stacy B	Kobi's surgery
Becker Animal Hosp	
Nancy B	In memory of Sadie
Kris B	
Steven B	
Chris B	
Susan & Michael B	In memory of David B.
Chuck & Pam B	
Cindy B	
Drs. Alley & Brammer	In memory of James A.
Harry & Cynthia B	In memory of Ella
Jennifer B	AllState Giving Campaign In honor of Dr. Greenburg fka Purdue & Mr. Whiskers
Jim & Colleen B	Donation in honor of Laura G.
Amy B	
Carol B	In memory of James A.
Scott & Jennifer B	
Carol & Steve B	In honor of Carson
Shelley B	In memory of David B.
Allstate Giving Campaign	
Francine C	For Dexter
Jim C	In honor of all rescued labs
Daniel & Mary C	
Jan & Daryl C	In honor of Cassie Cooper
Rod C	To help Dexter & Kobi
Randy C	
Kelly C	
Kelly C	

Pam & Mike C	From Bosco for Kobi & Dexter
Mary Therese D	In honor of Maddie fka Autumn and for Dexter & Kobi
Rebecca & Steve D	In honor of Jake
Suzanne & Jim D	
Dr. Ronald D	In memory of James Altergott (Gott)
Bettina D	
Aaron & Jennifer D	In honor of Dexter & Kobi
Timothy & Marjorie D	In honor of Frankie D.
Kathy D	
Matthew & Christine D	In honor of Logan
Linda D	For Kobi & Dexter from Linda & Winston
Dr. J Anthony D	
Wendy & Stu D	In honor of Dex
Tammy D	From Tammy & George fka Jet In memory of Sandy & Josie. Remembering their love & devotion
Michael & Dorothy D	
Carly & James E	
Marcia E	In memory of James A.
Nancy E	
Lois & Ralph F	In memory of James A.
Anna F	In memory of Mocha
Scott & Edie F	In memory of Charley
Beverly & Ernest F	In honor of Princess Leia; on the occasion of her book
Wayne F	In honor of Carib fka Woody; Merry Christmas
Kari F	Abbott Labs Employee Giving Campaign
Rose & Frank F	
Dave, Amy, Jason & Geoffrey F	In honor of Rosemary H. birthday
Rebecca & Barry F	
Andrea & Wilbur G	For Kobi & Dexter
Mike & Jenny G	For Dexter & Kobi
Kris & Steve G	For Kobi & Dexter from Steve, Kris & Kelso
Deborah G	
Chuck & Maribel G	AllState Giving Campaign
Jane G	For Kobi & Dexter
Gwenneth G	Dexter's hip surgery
Gail G	From Gail & Hunter
Betsy & Dave G	In memory of Steffre
Julie & Tony G	For Kobi & Dexter
Dennis & Diana G	
Lisa G	Donation for Dexter
David G	Help Dexter with hip replacement
Garry & Michele G	
Garry & Michele G	In honor of Kim N.'s b-day & for Dexter & Kobi
Amy H	Donation for vet bills
Bruce & Donna H	Thanks for all you do; We are so grateful for Tucker- 11/05
Mark & Natalie H	
Michael & Nicole H	In memory of Sedona
David H	
Angela D H	Donation in memory of David B



## Donors Continued...

Laurie H	In memory of Riley
Jan & Mike H	In memory of Dexter
Liz & Mike H	
Barbara H	
Joan H	In memory of James A.
Betsy H	In honor of Barbara R. birthday
GH and Bernadette I	In honor of Chakra & for Dexter & Kobi
Adrienne J	For Kobi & Dexter
Jewel	Shop & Share
Holly J	In honor of Maggie
Nancy J	
Alan & Janet J	In memory of Beau R.
Jennifer K	
Richard & Debi K	
Richard & Debi K	In honor of all the rescue workers
John and Darylynn K	THANKS FOR OUR DOG
Peggy K	In memory of Erin and to help Dexter & Kobi
Kimberly K	
Karen K	
Heidi & Mitch K	In honor of Rushmore & Mo-our 2 labs
Denis & Richard K	In honor of Lisa G. birthday
Jan & Roberta K	In honor of Tess' 7th birthday
Jennifer K	Kobi & Dexter
David & Patricia K	In honor of Molly
James K	Merry Christmas Kobi & Dexter from Ellie!
Krisztina K	
Katherine & Roman K	In honor of Cheyenne fka Buffy
Carol & Richard K	In honor of Mindy
Michele & John K	In memory of Midnight. Merry Christmas!
Neil & Karen K	In memory of Abbie W. from Colorado Springs, CO
Gretchen K	Merry Christmas Mom and Matt
Leigh K	Merry Christmas!
Erin & Matt L	In honor of Buddy
Christopher & Colleen L	In honor of Ruger L.
Jay & Ellen L	Donation in honor of 1st anniversary of Dreyfus' adoption
Dean L	For Kobi & Dexter
Katherine & Steven L	In memory of Sanford
Laura & Scott L	
Robert & Carol M	For Peter & Rita B. Christmas request
Andrew Jordan M	In honor of Rufus
Hal & Meg M	Donation for Hip Surgery for Dexter
Douglas & Sally M	In memory of Regis
Tamara & Ed M	Donation for 2008 reunion fee
Dr & Mrs. Keith M	In memory of James A.

Jessica & Nick M	In honor of Joe & for Dexter & Kobi
Zoe Elizabeth M	In honor of Barbara R. birthday
Julie M	In memory of James A.
Julie & Glenn M	In honor of Cody
Karilyn M	For Dexter
Kari R. M	For Dexter
Edward M	In honor of Tex
Cynthia M	
Kristy M	
Beverly & Howard M	In memory of Regis M
Rosemary M	for the dogs
Thor M	In honor of Rosemary M's birthday
Peter & Sandra M	In honor of Bailey-adoption anniversary
Kelly M	
Karen N	For Kobi & Dexter
Randy & Andrea N	For Kobi & Dexter
Cristi N	
Beata N	
M. Kim N	In memory of Daniel; for Kobi & Dexter
Kimberly & Robert N	To help Dexter & Kobi
Paula O	For Kobi and Dexter
Amy & Henry O	In loving memory of Ole
Tiffany O	Donation in the name of Guinness
Allison & Rob P	
Ellen & Chris P	
Julie P	
Jessica P	
Andrea P	AllState Giving Campaign
Ron & Jackie P	In memory of Mocha
Brad & Jenn P	In honor of Roscoe FKA Peter Brady
Michael & Patricia P	
Amy Q	
Carolyn & Stephen R	in memory of James A.
Philip R	
Pat & Sue R	in memory of James A.
Sandy R	
Barbara R	Sadie (fka Casey) continues to thrive - what a wonderful dog!
Melissa & Joseph R	AllState Giving Campaign
Amy R	In honor of Rocky
Victor R	
Al R	in memory of Chet
Al R	
Donald & Sue R	New hip for Dexter & Kobi
Charles & Gloria R	in memory of James A.
Joanne S	
Amy S	in honor of Kelsey & Brody
Elizabeth S	in honor of Buddy



Donors Continued...

James & Jill S	
Stan S	Abbott Labs Employee Giving Campaign
Scott & Katie S	In honor of Max S.
Jeff & Sirkka S	
Ralph & Helen S	In honor of Bo; for Dexter & Kobi
Gail S	For Kobi & Dexter
Gary & Marie S	In honor of Dr. Rosen @ Lombard Vet Hospital
Missy & Philip S	
Pam S	For Dexter
David S	Christmas '07
James S	Donation for Kobi & Dexter
Sarah S	For Kobi & Dexter
Thelma S	In honor of Rita & Pete B. in honor of Judy K. birthday
James (Rick) S	For son-in-law Brian's birthday
Anne S	
C & M Squire	In memory of James A.
Richard S	
John and Sandra S	Donation to MLRR in memory of Dexter
Katherine S	
Katherine S	
Donald S	In memory of James A.

Paul & Cheryl S	
Marjorie & James S	In honor of Dixon
Kim S	In memory of Dakota
Sheryl & Mark T	In memory of Elliott and for Dexter & Kobi
Beth & Todd T	In honor of Augie & Max; for Kobi & Dexter
Matthew & Kristin T	In honor of Frankie D.
Jeffrey T	
Kristin T	
Danielle & Peter T	
S. T	
Cindy T	
Union Pacific	
Mike & Michelle W	In honor of Luke, our rescue dog
Bob & Alice W	In memory of Roxie & Zephyr
Richard & Jean W	In memory of Doreen C. In honor of Winston for Christmas
Karen & Steve W	In honor of Ginger & Libby & to help with medical expenses for Dexter & Kobi
Dorothy & Marvin Y	Thanks for Jack & What you do
Deborah & Raymond Z	
Scott & Nancy Z	In honor of Harley H.
LinkShare	
Pendergraft Family	In memory of A.
Kirkland & Ellis	Kirkland & Ellis
PAETEC	PAETEC

LABertisements


Marla Lunt  
marla@k-9playtimeinc.com

**K-9 PlayTime, Inc.**  
Play Care & Training Center

*We Take Fun Seriously!*

www.k-9playtimeinc.com  
403 Washington Blvd., Unit 1 • Mundelein, IL 60060  
"Just west of Gregg's Landing"  
847-970-PLAY (7529)  
fax: 847-970-7528

**Now doing sleepovers!!**

Happy Dog Barkery 

Downers Grove  
Elmhurst

Coming soon to Yorktown Center in Lombard!

<http://www.happydogbarkery.com/>

**Becker Animal Hospital**  
322 Frontage Road  
Northfield, IL  
847-446-8010





## Black Listed-the truth about BBD-Big Black Dogs (otherwise known as Black Dog Syndrome)

Do you know how doomed black dogs are when they are brought to a pound? Black dogs, particularly black Labs or Lab mixes, are euthanized at a horrifying rate at many pounds & shelters because people pass them up for lighter colored dogs.

There are no hard numbers, but informal surveys done at animal shelters show that black dogs are less likely to be adopted. There are numerous reasons why black dogs may be adopted less than non-black dogs: superstitions, negative labels, fear that people feel like they can't read expressions from a dark-haired dog; or whether it's because they don't photograph as well, or people think they look meaner, etc. But those of us who have black dogs (especially Black Labs) know that they are just as sweet on the inside and are also strikingly beautiful on the outside with their shiny black coats.

Shelters are having a hard time trying to get around these stereotypes and fears, and create awareness of the BBD stigma; a plight so many who love animals aren't even aware exists. Some are even employing "marketing" efforts to adopt out these wonderful black pearls; putting colorful bandanas on them, highlighting their personalities, teaching them tricks, never putting a bunch of black dogs near each other in the kennel, and more – all in the name of steering potential adopters their way, and making them take a second look.

That is why MLRR exists; to help save these poor souls. As you can see by the MLRR website, the majority of dogs that we currently have available for adoption, are just that, Big, Beautiful Black (or dark Chocolate) Labs! Our little corner of the world, speaks volumes for these misunderstood and often overlooked marshmallows! So the next time you or someone you know mentions rescuing a dog, think about the BBDs and how much they need our help.

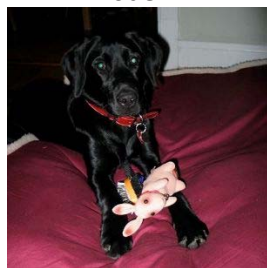
### Some lucky BBD's adopted through MLRR



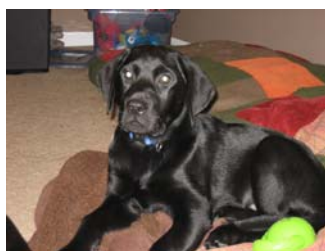
Bode



Reuben



Ruby



Atticus



Hamilton a BBD looking for a new forever home.

### Top Ten Reasons to Adopt a Black Dog

10. We cannot clash with your furniture or clothing (and some of you actually worry about that)
9. We cannot clash with any collar you might choose either! Ditto for the bandanas; accessorize us!
8. Ease of vacuuming! You can quickly spot the areas of most urgent need.
7. We hide the dirt well (doesn't mean we don't need that bath after a messy play but your guests won't be able to see it so quickly).
6. We make an excellent "backdrop" for a second lighter colored dog (if you choose to have one).
5. Availability!!! We are available now at every shelter or rescue you can imagine, in every age bracket with no long waiting lists or difficult search.
4. No annoying queries of "exactly what kind of dog is that anyhow?" People are content with "big black dog" and don't ask anymore questions.
3. EXCELLENT night walk protection. The "bad guy" won't see us till it's too late!
2. Status symbol potential. Black pearls are the most costly you know.....
1. WE NEED YOU!



Noel a BBD looking for her forever home



Midwest Labrador Retriever  
Rescue, Inc. (MLRR)

P.O. Box 1473  
Lombard, Illinois 60148

Phone:  
(847) 604-3254

E-Mail:  
mail@midwestlabrescue.org

MLRR is an **all volunteer**, 501(c)(3)  
non-profit organization dedicated to  
finding loving, permanent homes for  
unwanted or abandoned Labrador  
Retrievers throughout the Chicago area

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*  
[www.midwestlabrescue.org](http://www.midwestlabrescue.org)

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**\*\*Save the Date\*\***  
MLRR's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction & Dinner  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Auction Items Needed**

The most important part of the auction is the items up for sale and we need your help in gathering them!! EVERYONE knows SOMEONE who has a "hook-up" for some great items they could donate to the auction. Talk with your family, friends and co-workers; they may have access to tickets for a theater, a ball game, a restaurant, a night at a hotel, etc, that they just might be willing to donate.

Did you have great service at a restaurant or spa?? Tell the manager, and then ask if they would be willing to donate towards our auction! We are a 501(c)3 organization so all donations are tax-deductible.

If you have items to donate for the auction or would like to volunteer to help with this great fundraiser please contact Jenny at [jennypaul17@comcast.net](mailto:jennypaul17@comcast.net)

Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.  
P.O Box 1473  
Lombard, IL 60148

