

GRCA-NRC Golden Starfish Award



The Starfish Story *Original Story by: Loren Easley*

One day a man was walking along the seashore. He noticed that during the night many seashells and starfish had washed upon the beach. Thoroughly enjoying the morning sun and cool sea air, the man walked for miles.

As he strolled along, he noticed a small figure dancing in the distance. It made him chuckle to think of someone celebrating life in such an uninhibited way. As he drew closer, however, it became apparent that the figure was not dancing. Instead, she seemed to be repeatedly performing some ritual.

He drew nearer still and noticed that the small figure was a child. She was methodically picking up starfish and tossing them into the surf. He paused for a moment, puzzled, then asked, "Why are you throwing these starfish?"

"It's high tide," she replied, "If I leave them on the beach, the sun will soon dry them and they will die. I am throwing them into the ocean so they can live." The man considered her actions, impressed with the child's thoughtfulness. Then he motioned up and down the miles of the beach. "There must be thousands of starfish along here," he said, "you cannot possibly make a difference."

The young girl stopped. Her face darkened. She chewed thoughtfully on her lower lip, "You're probably right," she said softly. She looked down at the sand. Then she leaned over, carefully picked up another starfish, pulled back and arched it gently into the sea.

With a tone of gentle defiance, she said, "But I made a difference for that one."

The National Rescue Committee honored Deborah Nicolle as the 2008 Individual Winner for her work with Southern California Golden Retriever Rescue. Here is a brief description of Deborah's contribution directly from the announcement:

Deborah Nicolle -- Southern California Golden Retriever Rescue

In its founding year of 2008, Southern California Golden Retriever Rescue saved over 300 Golden Retrievers. This was done in large part by the efforts of Deborah Nicolle. When there is a dog that her group cannot re-home, Deborah makes the 7-hour, one-way drive to Homeward Bound to see that the dogs have a chance at a new life. She sometimes makes the drive several times a week, in addition to all the driving in Southern California to pick up dogs. She spends the better part of each day driving to all the shelters in the area. Deborah is always "on call".

Deborah's dream is to have a sanctuary for Golden Retrievers in Southern California, and with Deborah's efforts, it will become a reality.

