

THE heart



NOV 2017 / VOL 18, ISSUE 4

HOMeward BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

What's Inside

Our 17th Annual "Kibble & Bids"™ event was a huge success! Together we raised over \$142,000 for the dogs while enjoying a wonderful evening on the river with good company, fine food and drink, and Goldens – of course! Your generosity makes our mission possible. With thanks to our hosts Doug Alcorn and John White, read all the highlights inside (pages 4-5).

Special needs dogs need time, patience, lots of love, and unique approaches. In our cover story, one of our long-time volunteers shares her secrets.

In September, we put out a request for a year-long foster for Airman Erin Baker who was deploying to South Korea. We are happy to report: Mission Accomplished! Read about it in "A Foster For Zeke" on page 3.

November is National Adopt-A-Senior-Pet Month. You are never too old to love or be loved. Read about the benefits of senior dogs on page 7.

And in this season of giving thanks, we pause to share our gratitude for you – our volunteers, supporters, and friends. You truly are the heart of Homeward Bound.

PLEASE PASS ALONG!

You can help us to expand our reach by sharing our newsletter with friends, family and co-workers! Thank you!



Tatia, Shamus & Gino

Fearful Dogs: Bringing Up Gino

BY: Tatia Taylor

To see Gino as a Golden Greeter at Kibble & Bids™ this year, you would never know that this relaxed dog was so terrified and submissive that he would once urinate when approached by people. Gino was a fearful dog when he arrived at Homeward Bound in Summer 2015. He came from a bad breeding situation and had never been socialized to humans much less experienced a normal dog life. He was adopted, but his new family realized that they were not equipped to help him. Then he went home with one of our dog whisperers who has a special way with fearful dogs.

We asked Tatia Taylor to share some advice that we know will be helpful for anyone beginning this journey. She had more words of wisdom than space allows here, so look for a full blog post with greater detail at www.homewardboundgoldens/blog.

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Our Mission

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization which rescues and heals displaced, abandoned, and homeless Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes, regardless of their age or health. Homeward Bound secures safe, loving homes through a comprehensive adoption program, and also provides lifetime sanctuary for Golden Retrievers that cannot be adopted.

Homeward Bound also provides education on proper animal care and on the benefits of, and need for, rescue and sanctuary. In the event of a disaster, Homeward Bound will provide assistance to other rescue groups and the families of dogs impacted by the disaster.

Homeward Bound will continue to serve as a model rescue organization, addressing animal welfare needs throughout California and neighboring states, and strives to be a national leader in rescue, sanctuary and education.

DOGS RESCUED TO DATE IN 2017
237

VET EXPENSES TO DATE IN 2017
\$179,758



A Message From Our President

"You can't change a dog's past, but you can rewrite its future." ~ Author Unknown

Porsche: a therapy dog who never experienced the outside world. Amelia: a former breeder dog bereft of human kindness. And Chief – dumped and abandoned in a field near Homeward Bound. These and countless others who have crossed our door on their journeys home come to mind. Each one arrived deprived and hurting. Physical pains are dealt with quickly. But emotional scars can take time and considerable patience to overcome.

Tatia Taylor, a long-time volunteer, is one of those extraordinary dog whisperers experienced in helping fearful dogs overcome their past. As you read her words and wisdom within, you will come to understand the true meaning of rescue: it is not a verb, it's a promise of trust, acceptance, and hope.

We cannot change a dog's past, but with your help, we can rewrite their futures. In Homeward Bound's 17 years, we have helped to rewrite the futures of more than 8,700 dogs.

Your contributions of time, talent, and contributions make our work possible. I am grateful for your generosity not only at this special time of year – but each and every day.

We will be launching the Giving Tree, once again, on Thanksgiving weekend. You can help light up our virtual tree in honor or in memory of your special someone while helping Golden Retrievers on their journeys home. It is the perfect tribute to people like ourselves who understand that the best gift of all is the gift of a new beginning – a rewritten future – a life saved.

My sincere thanks for all you do – our volunteers, supporters, and partners – to make our mission of rescue possible.

Sincerely,

Jody Jones, President





Erin & Zeke With
The Greenhaws

A Foster For Zeke

BY: Audrey Farrington

Our nation depends on the courage and commitment of those who choose to serve. Their service includes personal sacrifice affecting those they love – including their pets.

A career of military service should not preclude close personal bonds with family – two or four-legged. In fact, those close pet relationships provide something to look forward to during deployments to faraway places and important stress relief upon their return.

To support military members facing deployment, and to reduce the need for the surrender of animals to shelters, Homeward Bound registered with Dogs on Deployment (DoD), a national non-profit connecting military service members in

need with volunteers willing to foster their pets during service commitments.

And that is how we met Erin and her adorable Golden boy, Zeke.

Erin has been in the Air Force for almost five years. She has been deployed to the Middle East and Pacific Air Force bases. Stationed stateside, she brought Zeke home as an eight-week-old puppy a year ago in September 2016. Since then, they have been inseparable. Erin taught her young charge well: he loves the water, fetch, and playing with other dogs. When he returns the ball, he's positive that belly rubs are part of the game and offers his up before returning to the ready position.

Although a year old, Zeke is still Erin's puppy. So she was filled with trepidation when her new deployment orders arrived: A year in South Korea at Osan Air Base.

Service members often rely on family

members or each other to look after their loved ones (human or canine) while they are away.

"I was worried I wouldn't find him the perfect home or that he would be with someone where he wouldn't get enough exercise and attention," says Erin. "Since my family is located in Virginia, they weren't a viable option. My coworkers also have such an unpredictable schedule with their deployments and traveling; I didn't want him to get moved from house to house for 12 months. I began looking at DogsOnDeployment.com and stumbled upon Homeward Bound's listing; I instantly felt like this would be the right place for him!"

We're fortunate at Homeward Bound to have a facility that can house Zeke. We're also blessed to have a network of foster families. Because of Zeke's still formative age and the length of Erin's deployment, we sought a foster family from within our ranks to provide love, play, and belly rubs to Zeke in Erin's absence. Homeward Bound will supply any medical care or special needs.

"Temporarily leaving him has made me full of sadness," Erin tells us. "Of course, I'm curious if he will think I'm abandoning him which gets me more upset. I hope he doesn't!"

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**HOMeward
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Retriever
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Kibble & Bids™ 2017: It's A Wrap!

It was an idyllic early fall afternoon and evening on the Sacramento River as good friends and nearly two dozen Golden Greeters joined us for our 17th annual Kibble & Bids™ event at the home of Doug Alcorn and John White. And no surprise to us – more than \$142,000.00 was raised in support of the dogs – thanks to your generosity.

Fine wine, beer, and spirits flowed, delectable appetizers were sampled, and irresistible deserts disappeared as guests meandered through our host's beautiful classic car collection on the gorgeous riverfront lawn. Our silent auction bidders plotted and positioned to be the highest bidder on amazing items while old and new friends exchanged photos and stories of their own beloved fur companions.

All of this led up to a touching program and live auction which began with the passing of the leash from U.S. Airforce Airman Erin Baker to the foster family of Zeke, her beloved Golden. As usual, the bidding was fierce for valuable treasures and your big-heartedness resulted in raising critical funds for the purchase of our solar project.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our vendors and to Joe Gates, our auctioneer, for helping us to put on such a memorable event. Of



course, we also thank our auction item donors and generous supporters for helping us to achieve our fundraising goal benefitting the dogs.

Canine and human lives are touched and saved by you by partnering in our mission. Since our founding, more than 8,700 dogs have passed through our gates on their journeys home. This event is one of three annual fundraising efforts that

ensure the dogs' needs are met all year long.

On behalf of the dogs, thank you to all who attended, donated, and supported to make Kibble & Bids™ 2017 one of the most successful ever. And a very special thanks to the amazing volunteers who work tirelessly in a year-long effort to bring this event together.

Photo Credits: Mike Long





Each Dog Is Different

Dogs can be remarkably resilient, but the course of recovery can be measured not in days or weeks, but often in months or even years. Improvement can be a start and stop process. Patience and consistency are key, measuring success in the tiniest of increments and celebrating them while understanding that banished fears may make room for new ones. Every fearful dog will not become a 'regular dog.' In fact, most will always have some quirks and limits. The relationship you build with them will allow you to know when they are 'there.' These dogs are true project dogs. The goal for them is to become whoever they are meant to be - whatever that is - not what you envision them becoming. They will absolutely know if they are letting you down somehow, so they have to be enough for you just as they are. All progress is icing on the cake. It doesn't mean you should not work to help them overcome their fears. Just that you never show them disappointment or anger, and you can be happy with them unconditionally.

Trust is the Essential Beginning

Many dogs from bad breeders or puppy mills have never had a personal relationship with a human being: an intimate, connected, loving relationship. People who truly talk to their dogs have the best chance to make progress with fearful dogs. That means eye contact, one-on-one, sincere communication. Everything that they become brave enough to accomplish circles back to the connection and trust that has been built with their person. A tiny drop of negativity goes a LONG way. Fearful dogs can be taught by simply changing your tone of voice, not by turning up the volume. Training in a gentle way for very short periods can contribute greatly to the trust relationship you are building. The fearful dog learns that they can please you in a safe way and that there is no scary consequence if they don't get it right



Tatia, Gino & Shamus
at Kibble & Bids

the first time. The last thing they want to do (and the ruination of the trust you want to build) is for them to feel like they are a disappointment to you. The message you must convey is 'only good things come from trusting this person.'

Security of Place, In, and Out of the Home



These dogs have typically never had a place where they felt safe, and have never experienced being somewhere that they have ownership of. Placing their bed and introducing them to it can be the first step; the same with the backyard where they potty. Giving them a "spot" that belongs to them helps whether in the home, yard or in public. I brought a rug for Gino

to use as "his spot" on our first camping trip; worked like a charm! Encouraging them to share furniture and beds when they are invited is a good tool to start establishing ownership and a way to gently practice 'no' or 'off' when they aren't invited. Most of these dogs have never had unfettered access to space. They can be overwhelmed by large open areas such as big rooms or large yards. Keeping them with you can help them begin to adjust to the spaces of their home, so they feel more secure in a room because you are there. Feeling safe and protected at home is one thing; feeling that the home they live in with you is THEIRS is another.

Engage Them

While you quietly build a connection with a fearful dog, it may be helpful to engage them in whatever you are doing. Have them come 'help' with everything, so they witness and feel a part of the activities. As you have them watch everything, talk to them, so they see that mundane actions are an opportunity to be with their person and get praise and love for being such a brave and helpful dog. Avoid treats for this kind of ongoing interaction; it's not that kind of training, and you don't want to confuse the trust relationship with a reward for a command. The fears will begin

to fall away and they 'forget' to be afraid of things that used to wind them up.

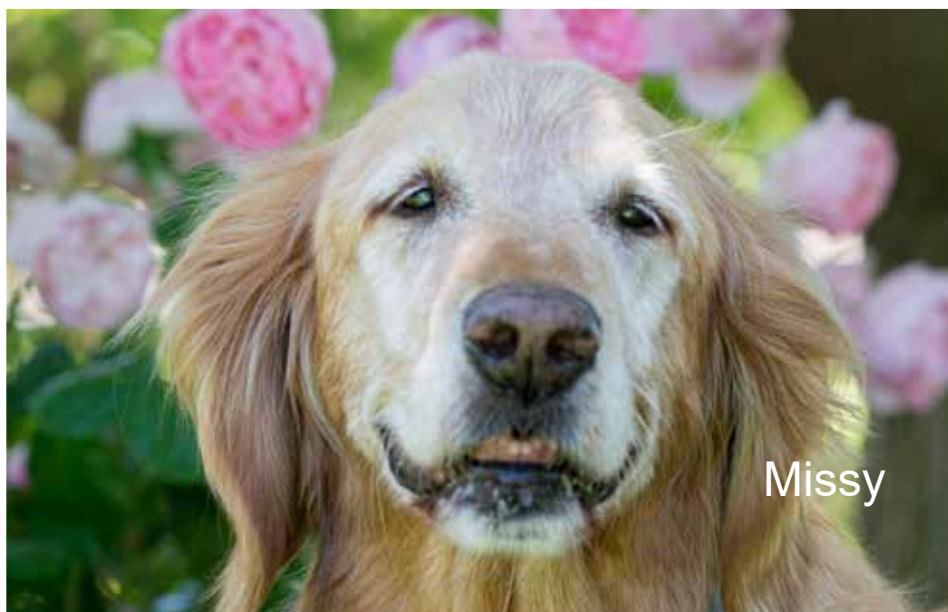
Gently Pushing Boundaries

Achieving goals is good, and so is routine and trust in what they expect to happen. But if the dog becomes too comfortable in their new level of courage, they can become rigid and not open to new things. Let them enjoy that success for a while, but to keep them progressing, they will eventually need to try something else. It can be a small thing; just enough change to keep them from becoming complacent in what they will tolerate. It's a balancing act between giving them the security and stability of a known environment and routine combined with their trust in you, and occasionally giving them a new challenge to overcome.

The Helper Dog

Having another dog at home to set the example can make a huge difference. We couldn't have done any of this without my other dog, Shamus. Gino has evolved from copying everything Shamus does to wanting to be his own dog and do his own thing as his confidence has grown. When Gino was rescued a year before I got him, I was without another dog and felt I couldn't give him the right home without one. A year later, when the chance came around, I had Shamus and it was finally right. We are making up for lost time.

The fearful dog's journey can be a long one, but so rewarding as you watch a dog experiencing, for the first time, the joyful moments of just being a dog.



Never Too Old To Be Loved

BY: Audrey Farrington

Last summer, a prospective adoptive family met a litter of puppies at Homeward Bound. They were excited to pick out a cute little bundle of fluff to bring home. However, when the conversation turned to the care, training, and raising of a puppy into a canine good citizen, they quickly changed their preference to an older dog.

This family recognized the hard work that goes into the adoption of a young pup that needs patience, energy, and consistent guidance to help them become a well-adjusted grown-up dog. It's a good match for some, but we are fortunate that many of our families understand the benefits of adopting a senior dog.

November is Adopt a Senior Pet Month. Senior animals often spend the longest amount of time at a shelter before finding their forever home — if they find one at all. Thankfully, many of our shelter partners know that there is a rescue that welcomes and values these sugar faces: Homeward Bound.

There are plenty of benefits to selecting an older pet over a younger one.

What You See is What You Get

Understanding the personality of a dog is key to finding the perfect match for both the family and dog. While young puppies are still developing their personalities, you'll know right away whether a senior dog is a cuddle-bug or a loner.

Because older dogs are often surrendered after years of living in a home, they are usually already housetrained, sparing you all that stress (and carpet cleaning!).

Seniors take the guesswork out of how big a dog will get, what their personality will be like, or how much energy that puppy will have as an adult.

You Can Teach an Old Dog New Tricks

Because senior dogs are typically calmer and less energetic than puppies or young dogs, it is easier to teach them new tricks. In fact, many senior pets are already pros at performing basic commands. Their low-key natures often make them ideal for households with children.

The right senior can also be helpful in training up a puppy or younger dog — issuing appropriate dog corrections and communicating the right way as only dogs can do.

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Giving Thanks For You

During this special time of year, we pause to reflect upon and give thanks for all that is good. We are so blessed at Homeward Bound, it is hard to know where to begin. This list is very long.

For every person who sees, stops, and takes action on behalf of an animal in need.

For those who entrust the care of their dog to us when faced with a decision we hope we never have to make.

For every volunteer who braves a crowded shelter knowing they can't pull them all.

For every transport team member who logs hundreds if not thousands of miles to bring dogs to safety.

For every placement team member and adoption counselor matching two and four-legged companions including, sometimes, tactfully and politely relaying: "this isn't the right dog for you, but let's look for another."

For our foster families who open their homes – sometimes for a short time – sometimes for a lifetime.

For the feeders, cleaners, walkers, trainers, groomers, and evaluators who give so unselfishly and with such devotion.

For the people who keep our office running, our volunteers coming, our facilities functioning, our yards and garden pristine, our technology operating, our books kept, our donors recognized, and our coffers filled with fundraising.

For our supporters, friends, and partners who make our mission possible.



Sammy

For the early morning and midnight oil and countless hours dedicated by our dear Doc and beloved President.

For Mike and Jody's vision in founding Homeward Bound.

For all you do to speak and care for those who cannot speak and care for themselves – we give thanks for you.



Planned Giving: A Gift For Life



Chances are that you already understand the impact that our mission of rescue and adoption has on Golden lives and families. Estate or planned gifts to Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue are excellent opportunities to create a legacy ensuring that more Golden lives are saved.

There are many options from which to choose in your estate planning. Naming us in your will or trust, for example, is one of the easiest ways to ensure that future generations of Golden retrievers in need will find a second chance at life.

Download our website Guide to Giving under "How to Help" to determine the right approach for you - providing current or future benefits to yourself, your heirs, and to the Golden retrievers in our care.



We put out the call on Facebook and within 48 hours, 15 families had raised their hands. The hardest part was choosing between them. Ultimately, we decided that the Greenhaws, long-time volunteers and supporters of Homeward Bound, would be the perfect place for Zeke to rest his paws for the next year. Their daughter, Sierra, who is closet in age to Erin, has taken the lead and stays in near daily contact with Erin.

"Zeke is doing great; he has fit right in," says Jim Greenhaw. "He is great with the kids and with Zoe, our seven-year-old Golden. He is a very playful dog. It's obvious he was a loved dog and went everywhere with Erin. He loves the car and wants to go for a ride whenever we leave. He sleeps at night with Sierra and likes to get her up by pulling her covers off."

What will Erin miss most – and what does she want for him while she is away? "I will miss everything about him. He is my best friend and makes me laugh every day (he has a lot of personality). I just hope while I'm gone he will be able to play, be loved, get belly rubs, and meet new dogs he can become friends with." That he will, Erin. And as we well know: dogs can adjust, but they don't forget. See you in a year, Erin! God speed.

Continued from page 7

It's Quality, Not Quantity That Counts

No matter how much we humans age, we always feel younger inside. In the same way that we don't want to be defined by or discounted due to our chronological age, senior dogs should be valued for what they still offer: love, companionship, and joy.

And, as our president frequently reminds us, dogs do not come with an expiration date. A senior dog can still have plenty of healthy and happy years to give as your loving companion.

The Feeling You Get Inside

There is an entirely different level of connection that adopters experience when adding a senior to the family. They know that they are truly saving a life that someone else turned away from when the dog needed that help most. Many adopters sense a deep level of gratitude from their adopted senior creating a very special bond. They know that a dog taken in and given comfort in their senior years is often so grateful, they treat their humans like heroes.

Adopting an older dog can come with unique health challenges. That's why Homeward Bound offers two programs that support families who want to bring home a senior dog.

Permanent Foster

For dogs with known, on-going medical needs, Homeward Bound will make the

dog eligible for permanent foster. You and the dog are forever companions. However, the dog legally remains in Homeward Bound's program with all of its medical needs met by the rescue. Certain geographic restrictions apply to ensure that care.

Golden Touch Program

This program helps individuals of a certain age and limited income make a senior-to-senior connection. People aged 60 years of age, not working, and on a limited income are eligible as we believe they have a great gift to contribute to the dog: quality time. You can read more about this program on our website.

How have we been fortunate enough to have so many adopters of seniors? After 17 years, our adopters know: once you go senior, you may never go back to young whippersnappers! Celebrate Adopt a Senior Pet Month by bringing one home!



Turn KIBBLE INTO CASH for the pups at Homeward Bound!

For every large bag of Nature's Select Premium Pet Food purchased, Nature's Select will donate \$3.00 back to Homeward Bound. Nature's Select provides FREE HOME DELIVERY in the greater Northern California area. It's all-natural, holistic pet food from a local, family-owned and operated company.

"We love the convenience of having this quality food delivered to us, as well as the generous donations the 'Kibble Into Cash' program provides."

- Jody Jones, President, Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary



Holiday Gift Ideas • For Every Human, Dog & Budget!

Light up the Homeward Bound Giving Tree!

The 7th Annual Homeward Bound Giving Tree will be ready to decorate online beginning Thanksgiving weekend!

It's the perfect gift for a dog lover, a last-minute shopper, or the special people in our lives who don't care about receiving more "things." When you donate to the Giving Tree – in honor or in memory of your special someone – you're giving a gift from the heart that benefits all the dogs who need our help on their journeys home.

For donations of \$10 or more you can help us decorate our Giving Tree. Place a virtual light, ornament, or package under our tree in honor of - or in memory of - friends, family, or pets. The honoree will receive a beautiful certificate from Homeward Bound telling them of your gift and where to view the online tree with your recognition of them. You will warm the heart of your honoree while helping Homeward Bound continue to take in, provide medical care, and place hundreds of dogs each year.

Our Giving Tree will be ready to light and decorate on Thanksgiving weekend. Look for it on our website at www.homeward-boundgoldens.org. It's incredible to watch



your gifts turn our tree into a bright light each year during the holiday season. Just look at last year's tree below!

Please join us in making this the most memorable year ever!



Don't Forget: Shop & Donate At No Cost With AmazonSmile

Designate Homeward Bound as your charity and do all your shopping on AmazonSmile. You get the same great Amazon experience and prices - and the doggies earn 0.5% on each purchase! Find all the details on our website.

amazonsmile

Cherry Creek Veterinary Hospital

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Phone: 916-349-2755 | www.cherrycreekvet.com
Justina Codde, DVM, MS

A full-service veterinary medical facility, providing excellent medical, surgical and dental care to our patients while promoting responsible pet ownership, preventative health care and health-related educational opportunities for our clients.



How to Reach Us

Your help and ideas are always welcome! Contact team leaders below if you are interested in helping in any of these areas:

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Kibble & Bids™ Fundraising

kibbleandbids@homewardboundgoldens.org



Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa Photos are Back!

Santa Photographer Eric Schuman is back for photos - just in time for holiday mailings!

Dates: Friday-Sunday,
December 1st, 2nd and 3rd
Location: Homeward Bound,
7495 Natomas Rd., Elverta, CA
Time: 10A-2PM each day

(Except between 12N-12:30P when Santa and his elves load up on cookies.)

For \$20, we provide Santa, the photographer, a winter backdrop, doggie scarves and holiday gear, hot apple cider and hot chocolate, plus homemade cookies for dogs and humans! You provide the dog(s)! Your Santa Photos will be available online for download - with super speedy turnaround.

E-mail us to schedule your Santa Photos today! Slots go quickly.

E-mail: goldentraining@homewardboundgoldens.org

The Homeward Bound Calendar

The 2017 Homeward Bound Calendar makes a great gift for any dog lover. Hot off the presses and full of beautiful Golden Retrievers! Every purchase benefits the dogs of Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary.

Look for the link on our website at:
www.homewardboundgoldens.org

Commemorative Bricks in our Memorial Garden Path

A commemorative brick in our Memorial Garden Path is a unique way to memorialize a special companion while supporting resident Golden Retrievers in our care. Your personalized brick will be placed in the pathway as a thoughtful gift or loving tribute.

Look for details on our website under "How To Help"



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Dates To Remember

The Giving Tree - Begins Thanksgiving Weekend
Santa Photos - December 1st-3rd

Help Wanted

Volunteer Positions Currently in High Demand:

- **Feeders:** A dog's best friend. Physically demanding, but so rewarding!
- **Walkers:** Build bonds of trust through walking, playing, training, and grooming. Help prepare the dogs for their forever homes.
- **Adoption Counselors:** Match great dogs to good families to help them get home!

Our Golden Wish List

You can also shop our **Amazon Wish List**. You'll find the link on our website!

For Our Goldens:

Nature's Select Dog Food (donate with your online purchase)
Large Pill Pockets
Dog Cookies
Rubber-backed Rugs
Petco & PetSmart Gift Cards

Office Supplies

Postage Stamps
8 1/2 x 11 Copy Paper
Professional Printing Services

General Maintenance & Laundry

Paper Towels
Garbage Bags (heavy duty & extra heavy duty)
Pooper Scoopers

Facilities Supplies

Lowes or Home Depot Gift Cards

For Landscaping & Our Memorial Garden

Green Acres Nursery Gift Certificates
Shredded Cedar Bark/Mulch