



**Rescued** *is our favorite breed.*

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

# My name is Brandee

25% Golden / 25% Samoyed  
50% Teddy Bear

Age:

9.5 YEARS OLD

MEDIUM-SIZED:

65 lbs.

Fuffy brown-eyed girl



**Best friends** come in all shapes and sizes.  
Some have four legs – some have three.  
Some are blind, and some can see.  
Some are big or tall; some are barely there at all.  
Some are gold or golden mixes.  
And some are plain just gold at heart.

## Good dogs. Great dogs.

We rescue them, and they rescue us.  
No matter how lost we find ourselves,  
they are always there – loving, caring, welcoming, loyal – there.

**Best friends** come in all shapes and sizes,  
but their hearts are all the same – full of love.  
No matter what happens in 2018, let's be more like our dogs.  
Let's be more loving, caring, welcoming – always there.

**Mix two parts adorable** with  
one part insecure. Find me a canine  
companion to hang with and a human who  
is not gone too long. But whatever you do,  
don't leave me home alone or I will likely  
redecorate. Don't call it separation anxiety.  
Call it a very strong desire to be with you!!

**Certified cat-hater** – but what's  
wrong with that?





No matter their breed, dogs hearts are all the same - full of love. We reSCue them, and they reSCue us.



## To Old And New Friends Of Homeward Bound

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jody Jones  
President

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TO SAY THAT 2017 was a busy year is a bit of an understatement. While helping 302 dogs on their journeys home, we completed the Sugar Shack Acres project providing a lush new yard and accommodations for our sanctuary dogs. We introduced playgroups to our enrichment program, instituted a weekly communication to keep all volunteers on the same page, and along the way – we got a bit buried in puppies!

We accomplished all despite changes in two key team lead positions. One, overseeing volunteer recruitment, trained and passed the baton to another. The other is recovering from a serious medical emergency. We are grateful to her teammates who stepped in and made the transition seamless. That we can pull together and forge ahead despite inevitable changes is a testament to our focus on succession training as well as the dedication of our all-volunteer team.

As we closed the book on 2017, we couldn't help but notice that more than a few of our faces had taken on a decidedly different look. Thanks to education, more effective spay and neuter programs, and a better economy, the number of homeless Golden Retrievers has been steadily decreasing the past few years. While some rescues turned to other countries with mixed results, we opened our doors whenever we were able to more Golden mixes, Labs, and some just gold-at-heart dogs that need our help here at home. Initially, we worried that people would think we had lost our way. But we should not have been surprised that our adopters

opened their hearts and homes to those in need. While Golden Retrievers will always be our priority, we are blessed to know you whose hearts extend to dogs from all walks of life. It's true: best friends come in all shapes and sizes.

Since our founding in 2000, we have rescued, healed, placed, and provided sanctuary to more than 8,800 dogs – saving canine lives while transforming human ones. There is a saying that “rescue is not a verb; it's a promise.” The truth is – it is both. Rescue requires the tireless effort of volunteers who bring dogs to safety, feed, bathe, walk and train, heal emotionally and physically, and offer kindness and love. Countless unseen faces keep our operation running while our supporters ensure that we can keep our promise of safety and sanctuary or home.

No matter their breed, dogs hearts are all the same – full of love. We rescue them, and they rescue us. Their enormous capacity for forgiveness provides a powerful example in an often troubled world. They don't forget – but when they are shown patience and kindness, they can move forward with trust and hope. Trust and hope are the foundation of everything we have built and accomplished at Homeward Bound. Hope for those in need, and trust that you will be with us to make it happen. All of you make a life-changing difference for an animal in need – by volunteering, fostering, adopting, and championing our effort. We cannot do it without you. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

Jody Jones, President

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary, Inc.

**Our Mission.** Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and 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.

## 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# A Look Back

*Playgroups have been genuinely transformative – for the dogs – and for our understanding of them.*



### Dogs Playing For Life

Play helps with socialization and enriches the dogs' time with us, improving their mental and physical health. It also helps us to learn more about them and their true personalities. And better assessments make for better matches. At the urging of our volunteers we brought the nonprofit "Dogs Playing for Life™" to Homeward Bound. Their training taught us how to safely match dog play styles and conduct playgroups that have been incorporated into our daily routine.

### Sugar Shack Acres

With an engineering plan donated by graduate students from UC Davis, our yard regrading was completed, a pergola built, and a combination of fresh and artificial turf laid providing proper drainage, high ground for wet days, and plenty of relaxing shade for the hot, sunny ones. Our sanctuary dogs give the project two paws up!

### Tuesday News

To improve team communication and keep everyone on the same page, we launched a weekly volunteer newsletter. In Tuesday News, we share medical, behavioral and dog training updates, new arrivals and "going homes," essential procedures, and successes to keep everyone motivated.

## Puppies!

While not all Golden, the long list of families waiting for puppies shrank as one batch of little fluff balls followed another in 2017. Puppies are a lot of work (and expense!), but it is a joy to watch them grow. Best of all – many of them make their way back to puppy class or play reunions.



## 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*Because life is predictably unpredictable, we are committed to succession training to ensure we will always be here for the dogs.*



### Major Medical

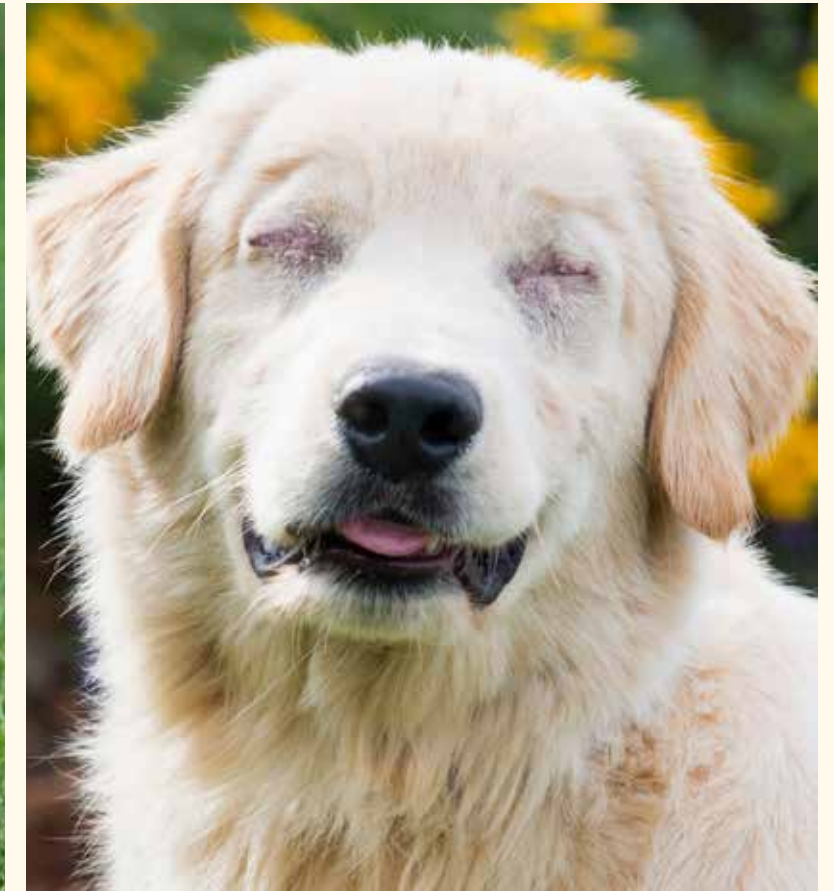
While our total intake dropped -15% from 2016, our medical costs grew as we continue to accept dogs with significant needs. Eyesight was restored, hips and knees replaced, masses removed, chronic ear infections banished, and more. As long as there are happy days ahead, we will continue to work to ensure them.

### Succession Training

Because life is predictably unpredictable, we committed ourselves to strengthening our bench with training and greater independence for our team leads. Letting others take the reins not only tests our mettle but inspires fresh ideas and approaches. Our ability to carry on through an unexpected position change and some medical leaves proved that our training paid off.

### Facilities Upgrades

In addition to the constant mending of fences and sprinklers, additional shade structures were erected in the dog yards, gutters were added to the barn to move water away from the foundation, and catch pens were constructed in the yards for increased safety during playgroups. The entire facility was painted to protect it from the elements. Finally, our well pump had to be replaced, taking a chunk of space out of the Puppy Palace area and creating a fresh new project for 2018. There's always something!



## Eddie & Milo

At only six months of age, Eddie arrived from China with a badly damaged and improperly healed front leg. As he continued to grow, the painfully angled bones were guaranteed to snap. It's hard to put such a young boy through a traumatic surgery, but a few weeks later he was running and playing with the big dogs – and finally found his smile.

Milo, was born without eyes – but don't tell him he cannot see. Milo sees with his heart: welcoming dog, human, and even cat friends! We had surgery performed to close his eye sockets preventing dirt and infection. In Sugar Shack Acres, this one-year-old ran wild and free while waiting for his forever home.

Today, both Eddie and Milo are the well-loved pups of people who don't see special needs – only specialness.



# Our History and Facility

Homeward Bound was founded on a promise made to our founders' beloved Golden Chelsea – that if she would answer their prayers and recover from a life-threatening accident, they would devote their lives to rescue. She did. And they did – founding Homeward Bound in 2000.

*Our sanctuary allows us to provide support to dogs in immediate need who might not otherwise be saved.*



Their pledge took physical form with the creation of Homeward Bound's sanctuary and adoption center in Elverta, CA near Sacramento. To have a facility is uncommon among rescues that typically rely solely on foster care. Our sanctuary allows us to provide support to dogs in immediate need who might not otherwise be saved.

Homeward Bound's short-term visitors are housed in a large barn which has been converted into a climate-controlled kennel, kitchen, grooming station, and laundry area. Here, dogs are safely lodged as they undergo assessments and await their forever homes. They are visited daily by feeders and walkers who ensure that they get exercise, clean facilities, and love.

Some dogs with extraordinary needs remain in our care. Our sanctuary dogs are housed in separate lodging affectionately known as "Sugar Shack Acres." Their home-like accommodations include a large, attached yard so the dogs can come and go at will, visited and cared for by our volunteers.

A separate, on-site veterinary clinic is fully outfitted for blood testing, minor emergencies, basic care, and weekly house calls by our devoted volunteer veterinarian, Dr. Justina Codde. Our ability to blood test and transmit results to her nearby veterinary hospital saves time and expense and aids tremendously in managing medications for dogs with diabetes, thyroid, seizures, and other on-going chronic care needs.

The secured, eight-acre property includes ten large yards, a puppy palace, a training pavilion, and two half-acre parks for daily exercise, socialization, and meeting prospective adopters. For those with mobility or weight issues, a donated heated swimming pool provides on-site water therapy – and a choice cooling off spot on those hot summer days.

Finally, our Memorial Garden offers a refuge for volunteers and dogs to spend quiet time together. It is the perfect place to celebrate adoptions with "going home" pictures shared with the families and friends over social media.



I got this!

# Our People and Programs

## Our Team: All-Volunteer Powered

*Volunteers are truly the heart of Homeward Bound.*



As an all-volunteer organization, we can devote 86% of our resources to the direct support of the dogs. It takes many hands and skills to sustain our operation. More than 200 volunteers across the state contribute their talents, time, and passion. People from all walks of life come together with a shared love of dogs and a desire to help them on their journeys home.

Guided by our team leads, volunteers are involved in every aspect of our operation. The list is endless: transport and intake, feeding, cleaning, grooming, walking and socialization, veterinary transport, fostering, training, home visits, adoption counseling, undertaking facilities projects and maintaining our grounds, fundraising, events, marketing, office administration, and more.

Volunteers are truly the heart of Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue, continually demonstrating their dedication to the dogs and our mission. Our gratitude is boundless.



## Our Programs

### Golden Touch

Homeward Bound established the “Golden Touch: A Senior-to-Senior Connection” program to match our “Golden Oldies” with retired persons and couples who are at least 60 years of age, not working, and on a limited income. We believe that a retired person can devote more time to these dogs — walking, brushing, petting, and loving them while dogs make wonderful companions giving life purpose and meaning.



### Sanctuary

For dogs that are unlikely to be adopted due to age, illness or extraordinary need, Homeward Bound offers permanent sanctuary, making our rescue unique. For those placed in permanent foster, we cover all of the dog’s medical and special diet needs for life. Others remain with us in a dedicated house and yard affectionately known as Sugar Shack Acres.

### Foster

Foster plays an important role in Homeward Bound’s ability to rescue and place hundreds of dogs each year. Dogs and fosters are vetted and matched to ensure that the dog not only receives safe haven, but the individual attention it needs (medical, social, training, etc.) to help it become ready for adoption. Each dog fostered also makes room for new dogs to be rescued. While Homeward Bound covers the dog’s medical and supply costs, fosters provide selfless love.



### Education & Outreach

Armed with knowledge, people can make and influence decisions that reduce the numbers of abandoned animals. Successful beginnings and strong bonds are created with our four-legged companions through proper training. Homeward Bound offers a free training resource library on our website as well as classes at our facility provided by Golden Rule Training to ensure that dogs remain in their homes.

Our education commitment extends to our own team. We are continually learning about new directions and approaches to rescue and rehabilitation. Our investment in the Dogs Playing For Life™ training this year is evidence.

For individuals who very much want the puppy experience, we offer resources on how to select a responsible breeder. By understanding and by sharing this information with others, people can still contribute to our mission even if they choose to purchase over adoption.

Finally, we continue to strengthen our network of connected rescue resources throughout the state and the country. Getting the right information into the right hands makes all the difference when time is of the essence.



## A Foster For Zeke

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™ a national 501 (c) (3) nonprofit 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.

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. But that was not an option this time for Erin and Zeke. So we put out a call 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.





## OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

# You Gave In So Many Ways

### Lasting Legacies Were Created

As time passes, we have said goodbye not only to canine friends but our human ones, as well. We are touched beyond measure that they have included Homeward Bound in their last wishes and bequests, so our work will continue long into the future. How special to share your rescue heart with the creation of lasting legacy benefitting those that follow. “The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” — Nelson Henderson.

### Doubling The Love

Every year, a big-hearted few come together to build a large Fund of Love. This fund stands ready to match the donations of many through a second campaign, the Double the Gold Challenge. The combined annual fundraising efforts provide critical support – covering a significant portion of the medical needs of the dogs whose care exceeded \$255,000 in 2017.

### A Sunset Toast To The Goldens

Party and Golden lovers sampled fine food and spirits before raising their paddles at our special 17th Anniversary Kibble & Bids™ event at the donated home of John White and Doug Alcorn on the Sacramento River. Supporters gave generously at our largest and most visible fundraising event where the surroundings were almost as magnificent as our Golden greeters. Together, we raised \$145,454 in support of the dogs.

### A Tree Bearing Gifts

Each Thanksgiving, we launch an unadorned virtual tree on our website – and hope. By Christmas, you have brought it to twinkling life, loading it with lights, presents, stars, and

snowflakes – each representing a donation made in honor or memory of a special someone. The Giving Tree has grown into one of our primary fundraising efforts – this year, raising \$84,500 – ensuring support for hundreds of dogs each year.

### You Shopped: Amazon Smiled

AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice (we’re hoping that is us!). It is such a simple way to give that costs you absolutely nothing.

### Wishes Were Fulfilled

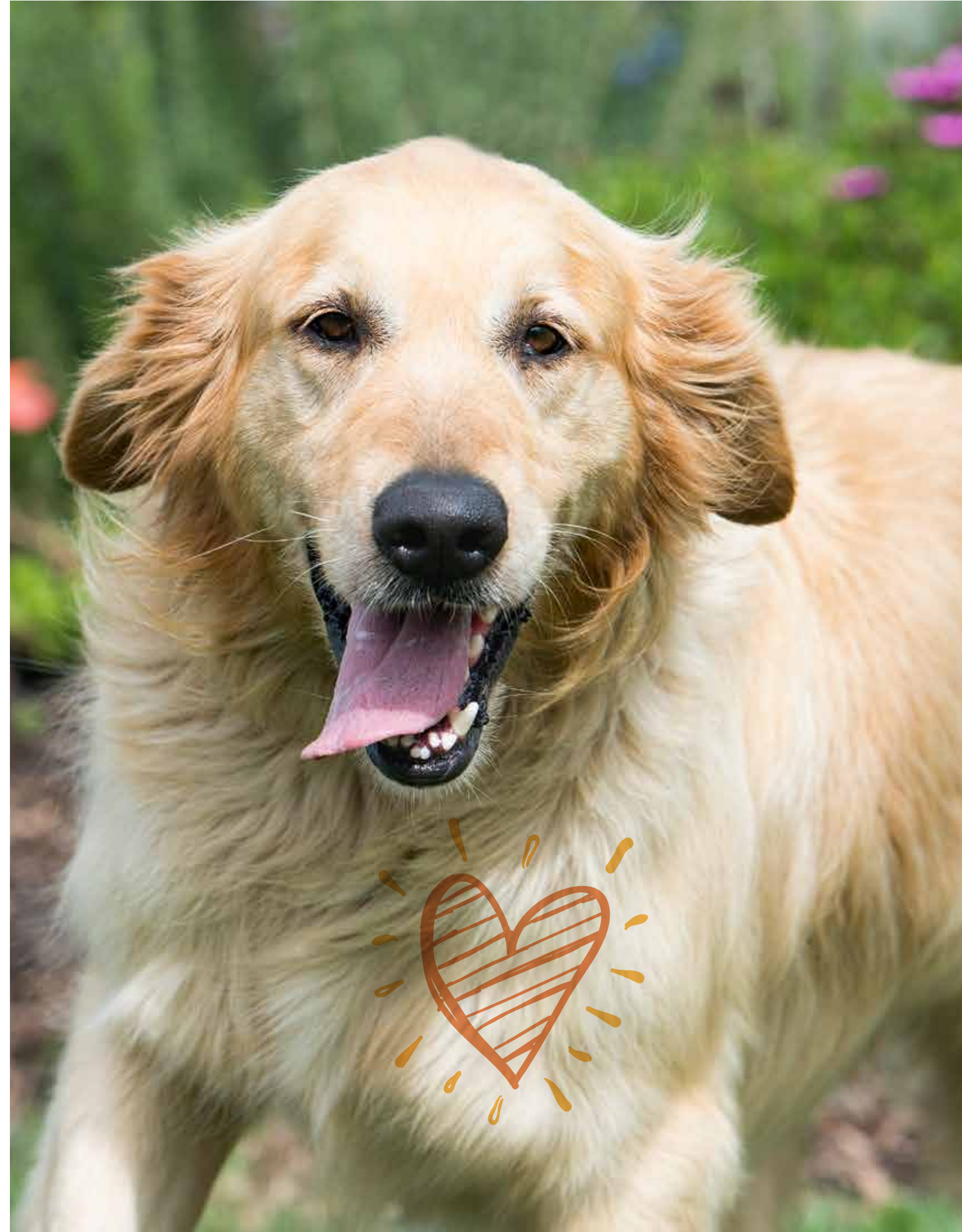
In our newsletter, on our website, and through Amazon, we maintain our Wish List of most-needed items. Boxes and bags arrive almost weekly full of leashes, toys, and treats – and pill pockets too! The dogs enjoyed comfy beds, blankets, towels, rugs, and sheets thanks to our overflowing linen closets making everyone feel at home.

### You Turned Kibble Into Cash

Thanks to our partnership with Nature’s Select, for every 30 lb. bag of kibble purchased, Nature’s Select donates \$3.00 back to Homeward Bound. This small act added up to more than \$12,000 in 2017. While you were shopping, many of you also added an extra bag of kibble, a box of cookies, or treats to be delivered directly to Homeward Bound. What a simple and thoughtful way to give.

### Gifts Given: Large And Small

Gifts today or in the future – gifts large and small – all make a difference as Homeward Bound relies primarily on the generosity of its individual and corporate donors. However you choose to give, we thank you.



# How You Can Help

Homeward Bound relies almost solely on generous contributions from individuals and corporate donors. Whether financial, material - or gifts of time and talent – there are many ways to contribute to our effort.

## Financial Support

Homeward Bound conducts three major fundraising events annually. Additional drives happen throughout the year for extraordinary needs. Follow us on Facebook, sign-up for our newsletters, or check our website for upcoming events – or just click “Donate” anytime! Your gifts are always welcome.

## Planned Gifts

A bequest is a special gift: a wonderful opportunity to ensure that your passion for rescue and Homeward Bound’s mission lives on into the future. Leave a lasting legacy that may also offer benefits to you or your heirs. You will find information on our website under “How To Help.” Your tax or financial advisor can advise you on the best approach for your unique situation.

## In-Kind Support

Big dogs have big needs, and the everyday things add up quickly. On our website, you will find our Wishlist under “How to Help.” Or just click the Amazon Wishlist link on the top of our home page for a simple way to give.

## Volunteer

Our work is not possible without the volunteer contributions of hundreds of people just like you. No matter what your special skill is - we need you! Complete an application on our website, and we’ll find the perfect spot for you and your talents.

## Foster

Do you have room in your heart and home for a dog in need of safety and love? We have opportunities for short-term fosters who can help a dog become ready for a forever home, and for permanent fosters who are looking for someone to call their own. You’ll find the application on our website.

Everyone everywhere can play a role in supporting our work. Here are just a few ways that you can help:

- Spread the word about the importance of spay and neuter.
- Educate others about puppy mills and responsible breeders. Share the information on our website under “Resources.”
- Train and socialize your dog from the very beginning; educate others about the importance of a well-socialized dog.
- Learn how to report neglect or abuse in your community (each community is different).
- Help an elderly or ill neighbor to keep their pet in their home by lending a hand.
- Donate – in whatever way works best for you.



# Etched in Our Hearts

Every dog that comes through our doors is special to us. But some stand out for their exceptional needs and the care they required. Highlighted below our most memorable tails from 2017.



**Mojo.** Firefighters arrived at a home to heavy smoke and flames. The sole human occupant climbed out through a window but was not able to carry out his dog, Mojo. Returning to the burning house, the firefighters found Mojo lying in a closet. They lifted and passed him through a window where the crew gave him oxygen and transported him to the emergency vet with sirens blaring. Their actions saved Mojo's life. There were extenuating circumstances surrounding the fire; the family thought it in Mojo's best interest to surrender him to Homeward Bound. He arrived significantly underweight, frightened, and still recovering from smoke inhalation. But he had a regular visitor who was touched by his story. He turned out to be just the cure – and the perfect forever home – for a deserving dog.



**Chief.** At the end of 2016, a frantic woman came to us for help. She had just seen a dog pushed out of a truck and dumped in the fields nearby. The poor, unsuspecting boy chased after the truck in desperation until he surrendered in exhaustion. It took our President three days to get him to come to her from the field. And it took us many months to help him rebuild his trust in people again. But our dedicated team helped the giant Chief with a heart of gold find his faith in humans – and his home – where he is adored and protected as he should be.



**Buster.** On July 4th, an emergency transport arrived from a local shelter. The dog, Buster, had been found stray and was unable to walk or stand. If left there, his chances would have been grim. Because we don't give up, we started him on medication immediately despite being told it was unlikely to help. Once his foxtails and mats were removed, he was moved by cart to the swimming pool. He had been out for days in the heat; the water would feel fine. An exhausted Buster was carried back to the office and made a bed while our remaining volunteer went to another room. Turning around, she found him standing and staring at her through the glass door. This walk was the first of Buster's miracles. Buster went home with our smitten volunteer as a permanent foster so we could see to his medical needs while she provided love and care.



**Porsche.** Porsche was surrendered to us early in the year as a failed emotional support dog – fake certificate and all. She had been loved, but she was done a huge disservice having spent her life from puppyhood in a cocooned existence. She was afraid of strangers and, in particular, men; was terrified of the leash; and feared other dogs, having had no experience with them. Covering in the back of her kennel, it took us weeks to get her to untuck her tail and become comfortable being leashed. It took months more to help her learn how to trust and to enjoy canine and human companionship. But by summer, she was running with exuberance, attending playgroup, and found her forever home with someone committed to helping her live the rich and full life she deserved.



**Lindsey, Gunner, & Humphrey.** Sometimes, you have to take on the impossible at risk to your heart. Lindsey, Gunner, and Humphrey arrived as puppies. Tiny Lindsey was born diabetic and insulin-dependent. Gunner had a liver shunt, a congenital condition in which the blood flow bypasses the liver instead of flowing through it. Because he was missing some critical blood vessels, he was not a candidate for surgery. Humphrey was born with Hydrocephalus, a buildup of fluid inside the skull. The accumulation puts pressure on the brain, causing an enlarged, dome-shaped head, seizures, blindness, and behavioral changes. We were told, “they are going to break your heart” – but we never told them that. Eventually, Lindsey and Gunner did break our hearts, but not before they had many months of love and play – as puppies should. Humphrey is home now living a near-normal life. He will need lifelong care, however – and we will see to it.



# Financials 2017

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES *Year ended December 31, 2017*

## REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT

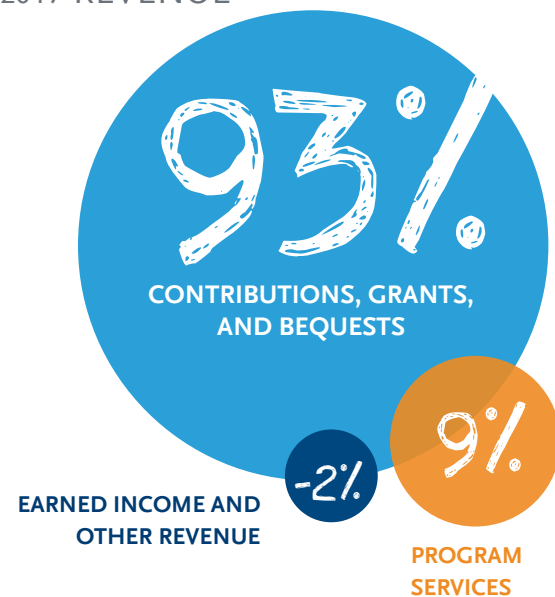
Contributions, grants, and bequests	\$ 606,901
Program Services	59,440
Earned income and other revenue*	(13,792)
Cost of good sold	1,313
<b>TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$ 651,236</b>

## EXPENSES

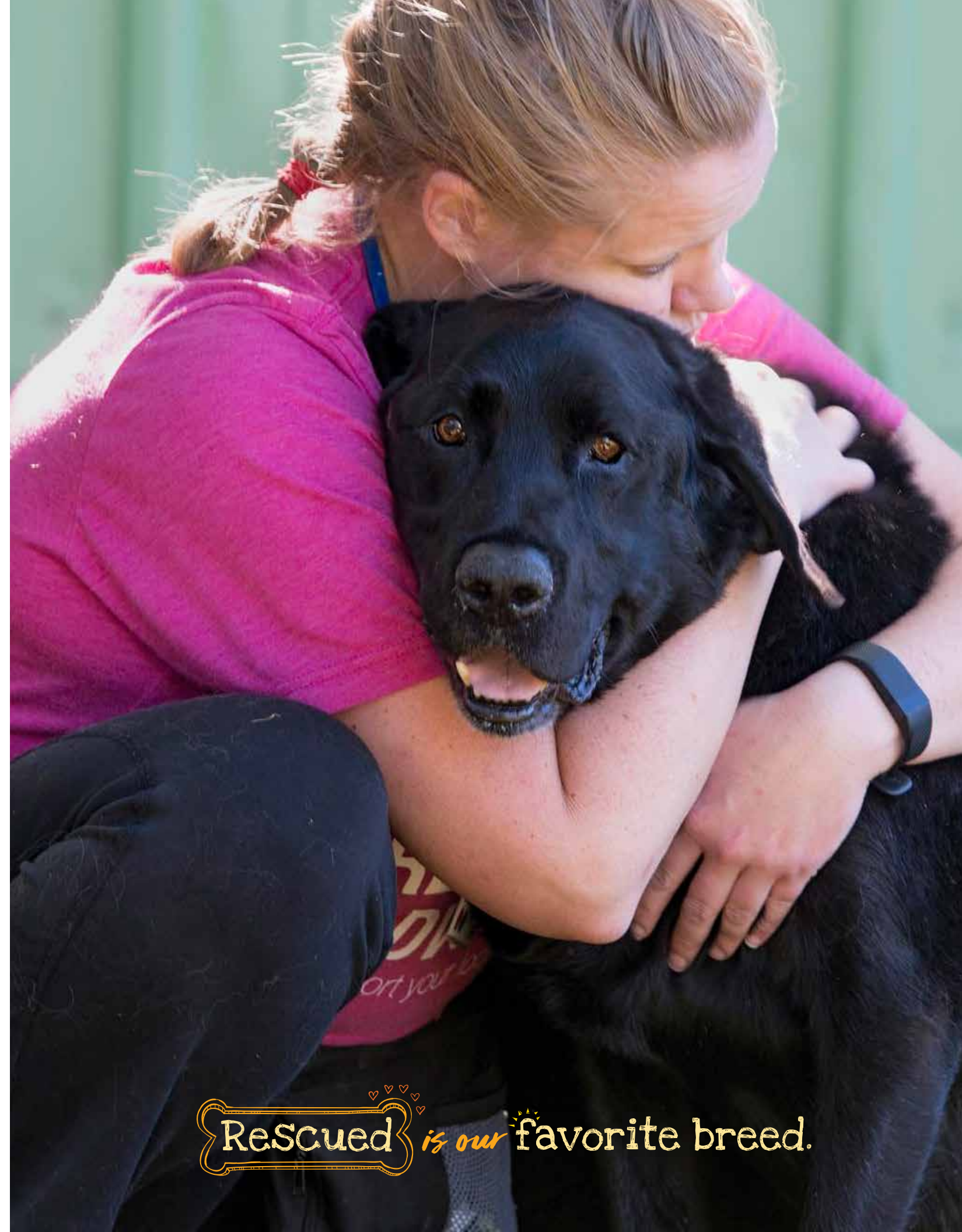
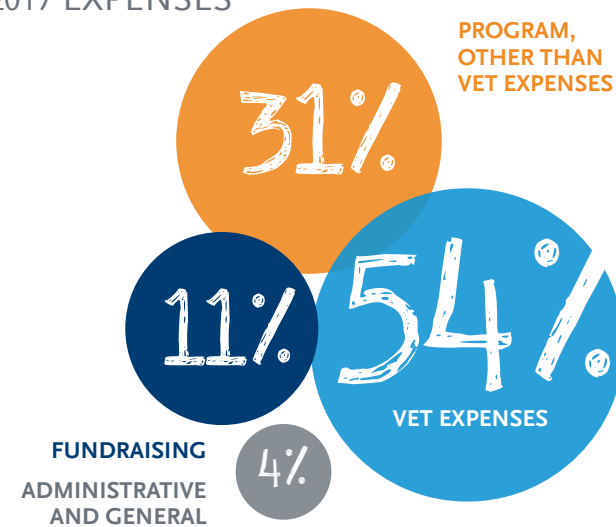
Program	\$ 473,503
Fundraising	60,219
Administrative and general	24,938
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>558,660</b>
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b>92,576</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 92,576</b>

\*Loss on Sale of Stock/Disposal of Vehicle Asset

## 2017 REVENUE



## 2017 EXPENSES



Rescued is our favorite breed.

# LOVE



**HOMeward  
BOUND** Golden  
Retriever  
Rescue

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[www.homewardboundgoldens.org](http://www.homewardboundgoldens.org)