

HOMEWARD BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

#### What's Inside

Our 19th Annual "Kibble & Bids"™ event was a great success! Together we raised over \$131,000 for the dogs while enjoying a wonderful evening at the Pavilion at Haggin Oaks with good company, fine food and drink, and Goldens – of course! Highlights are captured on page 4.

Some dogs need a little extra assistance to get home. Short-term foster helps us to learn more about the dogs and make good matches. Jack—our cover story—is a perfect example.

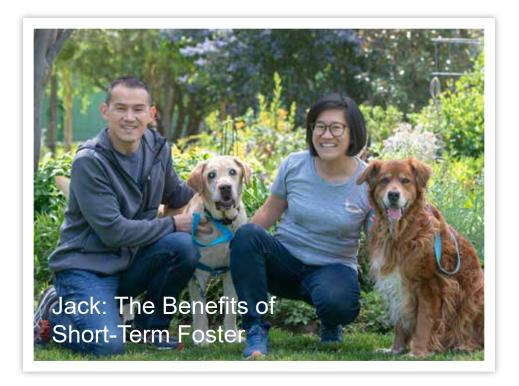
Homeward Bound alum, Baxter went on to travel the nation and world as a search and rescue dog for the Search Dog Foundation. He is remembered on page 6.

Dog walking has become part of the "gig economy," but it might not be the right gig for you and your dog. We have questions all professional dog walkers should be able to answer on page 7.

And in this season of giving thanks, the dogs asked us to share their message of gratitude for you – our volunteers, supporters, and friends on page 9. 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!



## How Jack Got Home

BY: Audrey Farrington

Ninety-eight days. That is how long Jack stayed with us before he was adopted. He arrived in early January with his littermate, Jill. Seven-year-old yellow Labrador Retrievers who lost their home due to divorce. Jack was going blind, and Jill served as his protector.

The eye specialist examined Jack and found there was nothing we could do to reverse his failing sight. Getting him home and comfortable in his new surroundings before he lived in complete darkness was our priority. They were a bonded pair, but Jill's protection of Jack was getting in the way of either of them bonding to humans. When in separate yards or walked individually, they quickly and happily turned to their handlers. Together, her focus was solely on Jack to the exclusion of all others. And so they waited. And waited.

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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 Goldens 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 2019 290

VET EXPENSES TO DATE IN 2019 \$219.100





# A Message From Our President

"Live in each season as it passes." ~ Henry David Thoreau

This is the way I have approached everything since I began my Homeward Bound journey. Taking each day – each dog – each challenge one at a time; being present in the day. It has served me well as the work of rescue can quickly overwhelm. But as our 20th anniversary approaches, I have begun to look beyond the day and to plan for the future. Don't worry; I'm not going anywhere. But I want you to know that I see ahead and that Mike and I have made important plans for Homeward Bound's future.

Part of this is building a team that can stand on its own two feet. Once upon a time, I felt the need to be in front of everything. Now, I feel proud that others can take the reins when needed.

The other is our decision to put this amazing property in a trust for Homeward Bound's future. Planning for the future is something all of us should be concerned with – especially when it comes to the fur-family members who depend on us.

But one thing remains firmly rooted in each day: gratitude. For friends, supporters, and the volunteers who make our mission possible. For good Samaritans, rescuers, and partners who bring dogs to safety. For families who entrust us with the care of their dogs when they are no longer able, and the new families and fosters who open their hearts and homes to give them a second chapter. And for the miracles – large and small – that transform a lost, abandoned, injured, or sick dog and give it fresh hope.

Each day, and this season, in particular, I am living gratitude for all you do in support of Homeward Bound and the dogs that need us. My heartfelt thanks and best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Jody Jones, President



Continued from page 1

Finally, we made the difficult decision to let them go to separate homes. It turns out; it was precisely what was needed.

Jill was scooped up almost instantly. Jack would need a little more assistance. Out of this need—and our flat out love of this special, now-solo boy—we wanted to get him to foster. Foster would help us answer potential adopters' questions about Jack's ability to navigate a new environment and enjoy the company of dogs other than Jill.

Fortunately, our short-term foster program was concurrently being reinvigorated as new foster coordinator Joanna Hook assumed the reins. Homeward Bound has had a long-time successful permanent foster program, but short-term foster needed new volunteer leadership. Working with vice president, Lori Burke, Joanna helped to promote and coordinate short-term foster opportunities including

day outings, overnight, weekend, and week-long stays.

Dogs from shelters or the streets arrive with little information. Other dogs, like Jack, change over time. In these cases, short-term foster gives us insight into how the dog behaves out-and-about or in the home. We had seen successes over time and we knew that a structured program could help more dogs get to well-matched homes faster.

Jack went home with one of our volunteers, Nash Cooper. He was comfortable immediately, including with Nash's two small dogs. "He figured out the yard and half of the downstairs in less than a day," Nash wrote. "No issues with the little dogs except that Rusty (the Dachshund) wants his squeaky toys!"

This brief foster test turned out to be just what Jack needed. Within a couple of weeks, he was adopted thanks to the in-

formation learned by his foster team. Jack got home before he lost his sight completely. He goes back and forth between his two homes in Mendocino and San Francisco – living a great life and navigating with no issue.

And Jill? She has put her helping skills to great use! Her dad has diabetes, and Jill alerts him and others to changes in their blood sugar by smelling their breath and alerting when she feels they are at risk. Jill recently passed her CGC test and is looking forward to expanding her role as a therapy dog.

Interested in short-term foster? Day, overnight, and week-long fosters are needed. Complete a foster application on our website. Joanna will be in touch!

#### Short-Term Puppy Fosters Also Needed

Puppies arrive with little or no notice. We have good, separate facilities for them, but they need dedicated puppy volunteers for thrice daily feedings and care to ensure that we don't pass nasty germs or disease to the unvaccinated little ones. If you are interested in learning more about joining the puppy care team (on-site, or by fostering in your home), please let Joanna know by emailing fostering@homeward-boundgoldens.org.





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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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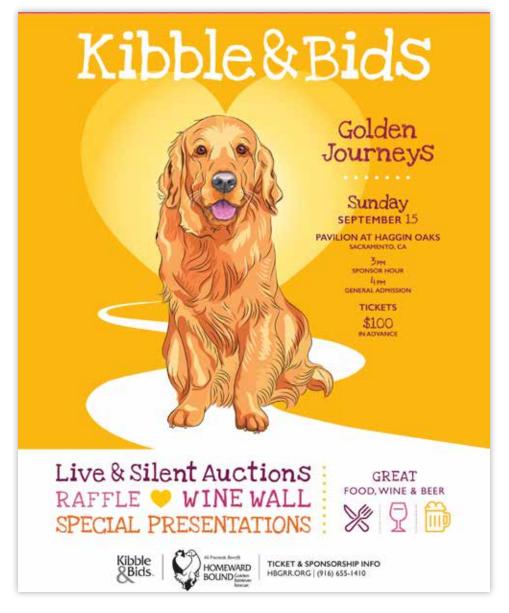
# Kibble & Bids™ 2019: It's A Wrap!

We could not have asked for better weather as good friends and our Golden Greeters came together for the 19th annual Kibble & Bids™ event at the Pavilion at Haggin Oaks. Together, we raised more than \$131,000 in support of the dogs — thanks to your incredible generosity. It was a late afternoon and evening of fine food and drink in the shade of trees and tents overlooking beautiful greens.

Our silent auction bidders plotted and positioned to take home the win on an amazing selection of must-haves. Old friends were reunited, and new friends made - exchanging photos and stories of their own beloved fur companions.

All of this led up to a special program with our president, Jody Jones, leading a parade of dogs and recounted their special stories while little Johnny stole the show with his special talent! We asked for your support for our special project: artificial turf for our most used yard for the safety and health of dogs and adopters when winter rains come. You gave generously and from the heart to help us reach our goal. Thank you!

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our auction item donors, vendors, partners and – of course – our sponsors and volunteers for helping us to put on such a memorable event benefitting the dogs.



Canine and human lives are touched and saved as you partner in our mission. Since our founding, more than 9,400 dogs have passed through our gates on their journeys home. This event is one of three critical 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™ 2019 a great success. 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. Find him at: https://michaellong.smugmug.com/





# Remembering Baxter: A Search and Rescue Hero

What do you do with a large two-year-old Golden with too much exuberant energy? Put him to work!!

In late 2005, Search Dog Foundation (SDF) volunteer, Jeff Pepper, introduced SDF to Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary. It was a natural alliance – finding purpose for highly intelligent and exceptionally fit dogs who thrive on work instead of lounging on the couch.

Weeks earlier, a two-year-old Golden Retriever named Baxter found his way to Homeward Bound. SDF volunteer Jessica Drew noticed Baxter's extraordinary drive and strength. Baxter was evaluated for SDF's program and immediately proved himself a candidate for a career in search and rescue.

After eight months of formal training, it was time for then-Lead Trainer Pluis Davern to match handlers with their new canine partners. When the new handlers were introduced to the dogs, Baxter ran straight over to Gary Durian of the Los Angeles County Fire Department and lay down by him. The partnership had begun. "Baxter is phenomenal," said Gary's Training Group Leader, Marc Valentine. "He's steady and dependable on rubble, and dynamic when searching."

That dependability and teamwork took Gary and Baxter far. In February of 2007, Baxter and Gary attained FEMA Certification - a rigorous national certification in urban search and rescue. The canine must be at least 18 months old to attempt the test; most test after the age of two and prove themselves physically and emotionally mature enough to do the job. Canine/handler teams must be re-certified every three years.



In September 2008, they went on their first deployment to search for survivors in the wake of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. In addition to local and national deployments, Gary and Baxter were called to one of the largest international disasters: a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that rocked the island nation of Haiti on January 12, 2010.



Gary and Baxter were deployed to Portau-Prince with Los Angeles County Task Force 2. They searched for 16 days, combing the wreckage in search of victims still alive under acres of concrete and debris. Together with six other Canine Disaster Search Teams trained by the Search Dog Foundation, Gary and Baxter helped bring 12 people to safety.

Gary and Baxter's amazing teamwork and dedication serve as an inspiration to everyone involved with Search and Rescue. Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary recognized Baxter as their Dog of the Year for 2010. Receiving their award in Sacramento, Gary said, "It's a huge honor to be recognized by the people responsible for finding Baxter in the first place."

On March 11, 2011, Gary and Baxter were again deployed internationally to Japan with Los Angeles County Task Force 2. They were one of six SDF Canine Disaster Search Teams installed following the magnitude 9.0 undersea earthquake and ensuing tsunami. The 72-member Los Angeles-based task force was mobilized by USAID and sent into the disaster zone along with Virginia Task Force 1 to comb the wreckage in search of live victims. Canine teams helped rescuers throughout the weeks-long mission, searching many homes along the coast destroyed by the tsunami.

After four years of hard and dangerous work, Baxter was retired in late 2011. Rather than have to leave him at home alone all day while he was at the station, Gary unselfishly requested that SDF find Baxter a good home. Baxter found a loving Ojai couple who were thrilled to welcome this canine hero. He also he found a new Golden sibling to help him expend his energy. For the next eight years, Baxter enjoyed swimming, playing fetch and other adventures with his Ojai family.

# How to Choose A Dog Walker

BY: Audrey Farrington

Recently, an off-leash dog came careening through our neighborhood. Behind it was a young woman in pursuit by car. The dog stopped briefly, curious about my onleash dog. The woman got out of the car, raced toward the dog shouting - without a leash or treats – and the dog took off. She yelled out that she worked for one of the on-demand dog walking services, the dog got loose, and the owners were going to kill her - as she repeated these chase steps, pushing the panicked dog ever closer toward a busy street. I wish I could tell you that this ended happily, but I do not know as both she and the dog quickly vanished from sight.

Dog-walking as an on-demand service is growing rapidly as part of the gig economy. While it may be a great way for someone to earn extra cash, it may not be the right gig for your dog's safety.

Professional dog walkers have standards of care, specialized knowledge, skills, and ethical business practices to ensure the safety of the dogs in their care as well as the safety of other dogs and humans sharing the trails, parks, and sidewalks. What are the requirements of these new on-demand services? That you are 18 years of age or older, pass a general background check, and, in some instances, pass their internal training quiz. You can view some online. Some companies



license, bond and insure their walkers; others leave that to the walkers, which potentially leaves the owner with significant liability risk should something go wrong. Here are questions anyone should ask of the company or person hired to walk your dog.

#### What is your experience and training?

A love of dogs or past ownership is not enough. You want anyone caring for your dog to be well-versed in dog behavior and to know sound, humane training methods. They should know how to read dog body language and take appropriate steps to prevent fights (and properly break them up when need be); judge which dogs to place together for maximum compatibility for those walking multiple dogs; and handle issues like quarrels over toys, space, or play styles. Your walker should have the professional knowledge and skills to keep a single or group of dogs under control while everyone has a great time.

#### How many dogs do you walk at once?

Each dog added to a group increases the potential for conflict, injury, lost dogs, and distraction – even when the dogs are "siblings." It also makes individual attention more difficult.

#### Do you walk alone and undistracted?

A walker's job is to keep the dogs safe while providing them with a positive experience. This means keeping vigilant focus. Teaming up with a friend reduces attention. Going out with another walker and combining two sets of dogs likely makes the pack too large for safety. For similar reasons, cell phones, ear plugs, and other potentially distracting devices should be turned off during dog walks.

#### Who does the walking?

If your chosen service has multiple employees, you should know how the employees are selected and trained. By the same token, if the company is using

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#### 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 with a minimum purchase. 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

independent contractors (on-demand services), be sure to investigate the eligibility standards. You would not hand over the keys to your home to a total stranger; are you comfortable handing over your keys and your dog?

#### What size dogs do you walk together?

Small dogs should be grouped with other small dogs and the same for big ones. It's too easy for small dogs to be injured while playing with and among their larger peers. There is also the risk of predatory drift, in which one dog suddenly sees the other dog as prey instead of playmate.

#### How much time is guaranteed on the walk?

The time quoted should be for the actual time spent caring for the dog, not the transport time to get to and from an appointment.

#### What kind of training methods and equipment do you use?

A walk should be a welcome experience for your dog employing positive reinforcement. Your walker should know how to keep dogs under control and safe without the use of choke, prong, and shock collars much less hitting, shoving, or yelling. If the walker cannot manage a dog without the use of negative reinforcement, pass.

#### Are you licensed, insured, and bonded?

Any walker using the word "professional" should carry dog-walking insurance and have a business license. Any employees or independent contractors should be bonded and have workers compensation as added protection for you and your home.

#### Do you have a professional service contract and references?

You should be asked to sign a contract to help avoid later conflicts and clarify the walkers' responsibilities as well as yours as a dog owner. Check references. They matter.

#### What are your first-aid and emergency protocols?

Does your walker know at what temperature it is unsafe to walk the dog? What will your walker do if a dog is injured or becomes ill in their care? My walker saved my dog's life when she noticed an enlarged stomach, pale gums and shortness of breath and rushed him to the vet. What if the dog gets loose? Or your house becomes unsafe to leave the dog? Your walker should always have your emergency information and know the fastest route to the emergency veterinary clinic as well as a clear plan and level head for the unexpected.

Answers all good? Great. Set up a meet and greet with your dog to ensure that your dog is comfortable with the walker. Agree on what communication method and information you expect. You are entrusting the care of your fur-family member to another. Choose your walker as wisely as you would choose a child's babysitter to relieve worry—not add to it.

## **Planned Giving:** A Gift For Life

If your heart has belonged to a rescued dog, 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 Goldens 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 Goldens in our care.

# **Letters From** Home: JayJay



JayJay came to Homeward Bound after being hit by a car. Instead of being put down as the owner requested, the vet suggested surrender to Homeward Bound, giving JayJay the chance he deserved. We covered JayJay's \$4,000+ medical bill, saw him through recovery, and helped him pick out a great family. It was a perfect match! They wrote:

We adopted JayJay about a week and a half ago, but it honestly feels like it's been a lifetime! The words I would use to describe him are gentle giant! He absolutely loves laying in our laps and getting his belly rubs from the kids. He is having so much fun with our puppy, Choc, and he can't wait to run full speed with her. JayJay sleeps in our room next to our bed every night, anytime he hears a noise, he is very aware; he seems to be very concerned about his humans' safety!

We were having trouble keeping him confined to a crate or a doggy room because he would cry or push the gate down, so we decided to give him free roam of the living room. Sure enough, he just wanted a little more space. We watched him on the doggy cam, and he just slept his sweet heart away patiently waiting for us to come home!

Now that we have JayJay, we can't imagine our family without him. He's the perfect big piece to the puzzle we've been missing! We are so grateful for him and to Homeward Bound Rescue for giving us the opportunity to give him the loving home he deserves! ~ Courtney M.





# Giving Thanks For You

With grateful hearts, the dogs asked us to translate their Thanksgiving message to you. Delivered in woofs, wagging tails, offered paws, and kisses they would like you all to know how thankful they are for the long list of humans who make their second chapters possible. In their "words:"

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

For humans who make sure we are in Homeward Bound's good hands when faced with having to say goodbye; it's hard for both of us and we're glad you cared enough to get us to a good place.

For every volunteer who frees us from a shelter; we know your heart breaks that you can't take each and every one.

For every transport team member who brings us to safety and reassures us along the way.

For every placement team member and adoption counselor who helps us carefully pick out our new two-legged companions to make sure it is a fur-ever fit.

For the foster families who open their homes and hearts – sometimes for a short time – sometimes for a lifetime. We don't forget you.

For the feeders, walkers, trainers, and evaluators who give so unselfishly and with such devotion. We know we can sometimes be messy and unruly. We appreciate your patience and care.

For the humans who keep Homeward Bound's office running, facilities functioning, yards and garden ready for play, technology humming, books kept, donors recognized, and coffers filled with fundraising so others can follow.

For the supporters, friends, and partners who make our rescue, rehabilitation and new homes possible.

For the early mornings and midnight oil and countless hours dedicated by our beloved President and dear Doc (even when you poke and prod...we know it's because you want the best for us).

For the humans called Jody and Mike who founded this special place called Homeward Bound so dogs like us could be safe and loved on our journeys to forever homes.

We cannot speak your words – but we wanted you to know that we give thanks for each and every one of you!

On June 15, 2019, at nearly 15 years of age, Baxter crossed the Rainbow Bridge. His human mom said, "He was pure love and devotion. He and I were inseparable. He was a hero for the SDF and continued his service as a cherished protective pal to me and Ted—especially me. It was an honor to provide a home for sweet Baxter for eight years. The time went so fast and the years - way too short."

SDF has shared his story with us and expressed incredible gratitude for the opportunity to work with Baxter and watch him at work as an urban disaster search and rescue canine. "He was a very special pup, and we are so grateful to have had the honor of knowing and working with him," said Denise Sanders, SDF Director of Communications.

Thank you, Baxter, for your service to the nation and world. You will not be forgotten.

And thanks to SDF for sharing his (slightly adapted) story here. You'll find the original through this link: https://searchdogfoundation.org/in-loving-memory-of-baxter/



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

# Light Up The Homeward Bound Giving Tree!

The 9th Annual Homeward Bound Giving Tree will be ready to decorate online beginning Thanksgiving weekend!

It's the perfect gift to remember a loved one (canine or human), honor someone close or a dedicated volunteer, or just demonstrate your shared passion for rescue. 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 posted message. You will warm the heart of the honoree while helping Homeward Bound continue to take in, provide medical care, and place hundreds of dogs each year.

The Giving Tree is the last of our annual fundraising efforts and represents a third of the funds we raise in support of the dogs. The 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 bare tree into a bright light every 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.



#### Cherry Creek Veterinary Hospital

7955 Watt Avenue, Antelope, CA 95843 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.





# Santa Photos Are Coming To Town!

Santa Photographer Eric Schuman is back for photos - just in time for the holidays!

Dates: Friday-Sunday, December 6th-8th, 2019 Location: Homeward Bound, 7495 Natomas Rd., Elverta, CA Time: 10AM-2PM each day

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

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

Schedule your Santa Photos today! Slots go quickly. Drop-ins accommodated but there may be a wait. To schedule, email: goldentraining@homewardboundgoldens. org

#### The Homeward Bound Calendar

The 2020 Homeward Bound Calendar makes a great gift for any dog lover. Hot off the presses and full of beautiful Goldens! Every purchase benefits the dogs of Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary.

Look for the link on our website at: www.homewardboundgoldens.org - or pick yours up at the rescue!

## 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 Goldens 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/Memorial Garden Sponsorship."

#### 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:

Adoptions and Surrenders &
Sanctuary Development
Mike and Jody Jones
7495 Natomas Road
Elverta, CA 95626
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Fax: 916-655-3410

jjsgoldens@homewardboundgoldens.org

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# Dates To Remember

The Giving Tree - Begins Thanksgiving Weekend Santa Photos - December 6th, 7th and 8th

# 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.
- **Fosters:** Short term foster is a gift for the dogs and helps us make the best matches possible.

### 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

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