

A photograph of two golden retrievers playing on a grassy field. The dog on the left is holding a bright yellow tennis ball in its mouth. Both dogs have long, wavy golden fur and are looking towards the right. The background is a soft-focus green lawn.

HOMeward BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER  
RESCUE AND SANCTUARY

# Our House

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



*I'll light the fire  
You place the flowers in the vase  
That you bought today.*







# Our house is a very, very, very fine house.

For people who have been involved with rescue only – or mostly – with Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary, it becomes easy to take our uniqueness for granted. Very few rescues have a facility much less the beautiful eight acres of housing and yards that Homeward Bound can offer its residents. Most rescues must rely on foster care. While foster plays a vital role in our program offerings, homes can fill up fast, and dogs risk being turned away or left behind for lack of space.

When dogs are in immediate need, Homeward Bound offers a safe place to land for medical and emotional care, safety, and support as they journey to home. When multiple dogs are involved, the benefit becomes even clearer. In 2019, 101 dogs of the 386 that came through our doors arrived in related groups ranging in size from three to 19 at a time. They came from near and far in all shapes, sizes and colors with one heart's desire: a place to call home.

Meet them on the pages within as we take you through our 2019 accomplishments and our goals for the future.



## To Old and New Friends of Homeward Bound

### 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jody Jones, President  
Carolyn Unger, Secretary  
Judy Kent, Treasurer  
Jim Bakker  
Lori Burke  
Marlene Clark  
Dr. Justina Codde  
Audrey Farrington  
Jennifer George  
Deb Haggerty  
Jaclyn Powell  
Anna Schweissinger  
Scott Wolcott

In 2019, another 386 dogs made their way to us seeking help, hope, and forever homes. The very few whose needs were extraordinary found their forever home with us – in Sanctuary.

Driving the 27% increase over last year's intake was the number of dogs that came together: 40 arrived in pairs, and another 101 arrived in groups ranging in size from three to 19. Some of these represented extraordinary rescue efforts, as you will read in the pages within.

Over and above our normal intake, were 53 Golden Retrievers who made their way to us from China. Suffice to say; you would be unlucky to be born a large dog in China. Working with trusted partners and strict program protocols to ensure the health and safety of all, these dogs found safety, second chances and waiting homes. The effort would not have been possible without the generous donations of two anonymous donors who stepped up to create a dedicated International Fund. Words cannot express our gratitude, but the faces of the dogs say it all.

Our program and medical expenses rose in keeping with the higher intake. And when we asked for help – you answered the call. Your steadfast support is a blessing we never take for granted. You make the work of saving lives possible. It is evident daily, but no more so than

*Driving the 27% increase over last year's intake was the number of dogs that came together: 40 arrived in pairs, and another 101 arrived in groups ranging in size from three to 19.*

in the beautiful eight-acre facility we have built together: the focus of this report. Without it, we would be severely limited in our ability to be there for dogs in immediate need.

As vital as your financial support is the work of nearly 300 active volunteers. It is their belief in our vision, their hard work and donated labor, and their devotion to the dogs that sustain the dream day in and day out. Together, we have created an extraordinary place of safety and refuge for more than 9,500 dogs on their journeys home. Hope, healing and transformation happen here.

"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life." – Amy Poehler

The story is now legend. Homeward Bound was born from a promise made to our beloved Chelsea. When she passed after a long and happy life, I momentarily thought that we had honored our commitment, and our journey was over. Then a call came. And another. And another. And I realized, this thing we undertook was more than a promise made to our beloved girl. It was a calling.

Rescue is a way of life.

As we round the corner to begin our 20th year, I am amazed anew each day at what we have created and accomplished together. Each one of you makes a life-changing difference for a dog in need – by volunteering, fostering, adopting, supporting, and championing our effort. Our Homeward Bound house is full of love because of you. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

*Jody Jones*  
Jody Jones, President

## 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.



# Our House and History

The journey to save 9,500+ dog lives began with a promise to one critically injured Golden girl named Chelsea. The bargain: her survival and recovery for a life devoted to rescue.



Adopted by Jody and Mike Jones, Chelsea was hit by a car at the young age of one. She was not expected to survive. Hers was the first of many miracles owing to determination, dedication, and hope. Unable to stand, she lived on Jody and Mike's bed and was carried back and forth to the yard for months when nature called. Her wounds gradually healed, and her strength was restored. Chelsea's courage and arduous recovery started her human parents on their path to the founding of what has become a nationally-recognized rescue organization.

Initially operated out of their home, the need quickly outgrew Jody and Mike's capacity. In the year 2000, they founded Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and moved to an eight-acre property in the country. All that was in place was a house and barn.



It would take years and countless hours of volunteer labor and generous donations to turn their house into our house. The barn was converted into a modern kennel and office, a section of the property was carved out for a senior sanctuary, a fully outfitted vet clinic was created from a shed, a training pavilion took shape, a puppy palace was built, and posts and fencing were installed to enclose the entire property and 13 large, grassy yards where the dogs can run and play. A walking path surrounds the property, and for those with mobility or weight issues, a donated heated swimming pool provides on-site water therapy as well as cooling relief for all on 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 extending our network and visibility.



Today, Homeward Bound's facility is the envy of many rescue organizations. Most importantly, this beautiful facility gives us the ability to say "yes" when dogs are in need.

Chelsea went on to live a good long life of 14 years with Jody and Mike. Her story was the inspiration for saving thousands more. A promise made: a promise kept.





9,500+ DOGS  
SAVED









# Come One. Come All. To Our House.

Whether they arrive individually, in pairs, or groups as large as 19, they are all welcome in our house thanks to the magnificent facility that our supporters and volunteers helped to build and maintain.

The stories that follow would not have been possible without a safe place to rest their heads and prepare for their forever families.

*Life used to be so hard*   
*Now everything is easy 'cause of you.*





# 19 PUREBRED LABRADOR RETRIEVERS

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## The Lab Lift

The call came in November as winter approached: 19 purebred Labrador Retrievers used for breeding living in mud, exposed to the elements. One owner had died. The other was medically incapable of caring for them. The dogs were in desperate need. Within 48 hours, our team had coordinated a special transport so all 19 could be lifted at once. We could not bear to leave any behind. It was the greatest single effort in our history and certainly the largest group our devoted vet, Dr. Codde had ever checked at once! Thankfully, our housing had recently been cleared out by adoptions. These amazing dogs found sanctuary, safety, health, and home because "our house" was big enough to accommodate them all.





## The Guardians

In rural areas, Great Pyrenees play a critical role in protecting livestock. Sadly, they are too often regarded as dispensable: turned out or left behind when the work is done. In July, four of these magnificent dogs were picked up as stray in Central California: three “kids” that we named Rosie, Abner and Abbey, and one six-year-old mom who we called Justice. Terrified of confinement and frightened around humans, they had never been regarded as guardians of the family. They needed patience and kindness to be ready for adoption – something that could not be afforded to one – much less four – in an overcrowded shelter. With time and care at Homeward Bound, they each made their way to forever homes. Word has spread, and Great Pyrenees now frequently find their matches through Homeward Bound.



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"FOOL'S GOLD"  
PUPPIES

## Rescued is Our Favorite Breed: Ty, Rose and Nutmeg

We got a call from a Southern California rescue asking if we could take three tiny Golden mix puppies that had been rescued from a puppy mill. They were not well and needed immediate care. No fosters were available. The little bundle that arrived on transport bore no resemblance to Golden Retrievers or anything remotely related. Would we have turned them away? Never. Rescued is our favorite breed. Sickly and underweight, it was touch and go for a bit. With medications, good food and care, they bounced back quickly. We thought we might take some time to get them adopted from a big dog rescue, but by partnering with others for additional exposure, they were scooped up quickly.





## 5♥ PUPS AND GOLDEN MOM

### The FreSno Five

We call them “oops puppies.” A Golden girl and Labrador boy living outside, never spayed or neutered, and surprise! Oops puppies. In August, the Golden mom, her four one-year-olds from a first litter, and her eight-week-old puppy from another were surrendered to a Fresno shelter as “unwanted.” They had lived a sheltered life – not from the elements, but from much human contact. Terrified to leave the only world they had known, in no way were they ready to be adopted – putting them at grave risk. We scooped them up and brought them to Homeward Bound where they could still be together as they gradually experienced more and more of the world and human kindness. It took some time, but because they had the ability to be together and help each other, they all found loving homes and happily-ever-afters.



## 13♥ BREEDER BEAUTIES

### Breeder Beauties

It is heartbreaking to us that puppy mills still exist. By simply following some basic guidelines in choosing a responsible breeder, these operations would quickly be out of business. As long as these practices endure, the parent dogs need a place of safety when their handlers consider them “used up.” Typically discarded in groups of three or four with extraordinary socialization needs, Homeward Bound can welcome them to our house where they find comfort with each other. Here, they receive long overdue medical care and begin the emotional transformation necessary to become ready for the lives they have always deserved.





## Golden Dobies

What do you get when you mix a Golden Retriever and a Doberman Pincher? A litter of pups with no place to go. Though half Golden Retriever, Gigi's litter of four looked exactly like Dobermans. We knew they would need careful placement with the right upbringing – something that couldn't be guaranteed if they went to a shelter. So, Griffin, Gracie, Garrett, and Gabe found their way to Homeward Bound, where they had room to run and grow and prove their golden hearts. They were matched to loving homes with people who see them as family members and not protectors.





# Rescue from Afar: The China Dogs

In China, it is not illegal to breed and sell adorable Golden Retriever puppies, but it is unlawful to keep them as dogs in many cities – and once they have grown to a certain size – in most. Breeding dogs from puppy mills, dogs turned out, confiscated by the police or stolen – their fate is clear – and all too often, inhumane falling victim to the dog meat market.

We know we can't change a culture; it must come from within. But while good people work to do that, the dogs need safety and permanence. The need is overwhelming.

For years, Homeward Bound has worked with trusted partners to bring these dogs to safety a few at a time. In 2019, thanks to the generous contributions of two big-hearted donors, a special international fund was established to address the growing need. Without impacting our normal intake – and while ensuring the health and welfare of all – Homeward Bound brought a total of 53 China dogs to safety, care, and forever homes.

While the dogs are medically-certified and quarantined before they arrive, they undergo an additional two weeks in our dedicated quarantine area under the care of a separate team. With a second round of comprehensive health checks, we can ensure the safety of all before adopting them out to loving homes.





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CHINA DOGS





# Hope HappenS Here

Homeward Bound offers the last hope for many Goldens that might not otherwise be rescued: very senior dogs or those with extraordinary medical needs. For cash-strapped shelters, and for small rescue organizations that lack our generous support base, the decision on whether or not to rescue a dog comes down to a painful economic choice. Because of the generosity of our supporters and volunteers, we can be there for them.

Through our Golden Touch Program, we connect senior humans to senior dogs without an adoption fee. Our Permanent Foster Program paves the way for families to say “yes” to dogs with extraordinary needs, as Homeward Bound covers their medical expenses for life. Many supporters become our Golden Angels earning their wings as supporters of these dogs. And for dogs that are unlikely to be adopted due to extreme age or special needs, Homeward Bound offers permanent Sanctuary, remaining in our care in safety and security, surrounded by love.

It should be said that hope extends to humans as well. Life takes unexpected turns. Surrendering a dog is a heartbreaking decision. Families find peace in knowing that their dog will be cared for and thoughtfully adopted to a loving home.

The bond between dogs and humans is special, indeed. Humans in need of healing often find their way to us. Paired with the right dog, you can see hope come alive. Something extraordinary happens in our house.



BORIS

TRANSFORMED  
BY LOVE



BEFORE



# Transformation Happens Here

A dog's transformation often begins with the expert care of our devoted Dr. Codde. She may enlist any number of veterinarian specialists to ensure that every dog receives the best hope for a healthy future.

In 2019 Homeward Bound took in 386 dogs – a 27% increase over 2018. Veterinary expenses exceeded \$327,000 – a 22% increase in keeping with the higher intake despite the significant discounts and volunteer hours donated by Dr. Codde.

Because we welcome dogs regardless of their age or health, our medical costs are our single largest expense. Every dog – old, young and puppies – receives basic medical care including blood work, vaccinations, dentals, and spay and neuter. Thanks to your support, we can say 'yes' to dogs with extraordinary needs as well, including orthopedic, neurological, hearing, vision, and cancer challenges.

Medical transformations are often just the beginning. Care for our dogs includes their emotional, socialization and training needs to ensure that when they go home – it is forever. So many dogs are abandoned or surrendered because they never got the right start in life.





## Foster: A Gift for the Dogs

A reinvigorated short-term foster program has made a world of difference in our dogs' journeys home. Day outings, overnight stays, and sometimes weeks-long stays all help us to learn about a dog's behavior outside the kennel, better assess its needs, and make the best matches possible. As we reinvented our foster program in 2019, the dogs' length of stay decreased an impressive 23% over 2018. Our house extends to foster homes offering gifts to the dogs.

## How We Help

### Emergency Transport

In 2019, Homeward Bound and its transport team traveled more than 75,000 miles to bring dogs to safety including trips in- and out-of-state and internationally.

### Shelter

In 2019, Homeward Bound welcomed 386 dogs into our program providing temporary housing while supporting another 100 dogs in permanent foster care or sanctuary.

### Medical Care

In 2019, Homeward Bound's medical expenses exceeded \$327,000 to ensure that essential and extraordinary needs were met.







# Learning Happens Here

Given our focus on accepting very senior dogs, you may be surprised to learn that the average age of dogs coming into our program is four years of age. This is driven in part by the increased number of dogs coming into our program, as well as the increased number of young dogs surrendered or remaining in shelters longer.

A puppy that does not receive proper training becomes a dog that can display jumpy, mouthy, and generally bad behaviors. With shelters increasingly focused on reducing euthanasia, big, rambunctious dogs are more likely to remain in shelters longer. An unfortunate by-product is the unique behaviors learned and exhibited in the shelter environment, including barrier-related barking and aggression, social hyper-arousal, and fearfulness.

In 2017, we underwent training to conduct and manage monitored playgroups. These activities play a vital role in helping dogs “unlearn” unwanted behaviors and experience positive dog-to-dog interactions. We continue to invest in our team’s education and to enlist the support and training of animal behavior experts to understand how to “read a dog.” By better understanding a dog’s triggers and instituting training protocols that can be accomplished in our environment, we can help a dog begin to regain the confidence and conduct needed to complete its journey home. By discovering and bringing forward the true dog within, we also make better dog and human matches.





# How We Help

## Short-Term Foster

Day, weekend, or weeks-long outings or stays help us learn about a dog in a home and public environment leading to better matches.

## Permanent Foster

Homeward Bound ensures the medical and special dietary needs of the dogs with ongoing needs overcoming obstacles to their selection so they can be home.

## Sanctuary

Dogs that are unlikely or unable to be adopted due to extraordinary medical or emotional needs are offered sanctuary in Sugar Shack Acres, dedicated housing and large shady yard where they can enjoy the company of other dogs and the humans who dote on them.

## Golden Touch

Making a senior-to-senior no-fee adoption connection for humans and dogs of a certain age and limited income.







# Making a Lasting Impact

We have been blessed to receive several gifts from friends who remembered us in their estate planning. Their legacy ensures that the joy they experienced from the love of a dog is shared with others and that more lives will be saved.

Our founders, Jody and Mike Jones have also planned for our future. While Homeward Bound has a 30-year lease, the Jones' have put the property in trust, giving Homeward Bound the first purchase option when the day comes. We hope it is many, many years away – and we are grateful beyond words for their generosity and the security it brings to our effort.

Legacy planning is essential to ensure that our wishes are fulfilled as intended. So is planning for our pets' future should the unexpected happen. We encourage all families to make a plan for their fur-family members. Homeward Bound stands ready to help. By sharing your wishes with your family members and us in advance, we can ease the transition for your beloved four-legged companion if the need arises.





## A Role for Everyone

On the journey home, another kind of transformation happens here – and it is decidedly human. Human lives are enhanced through the act of rescue, adoption, foster, and healing.

All along the way, people have told us that we must adopt a paid-employee model. We have resisted at every turn. Homeward Bound is an all-volunteer organization. Nearly 300 active volunteers from near and far contribute their talents, time, and passion. People from all walks of life come together, bonded by a shared love of dogs and a desire to help.

Their labor of love built and maintains our beautiful facility and programs. Our volunteers have donated hundreds of thousands of hours, saving us significant staff and administrative expense. It is one of the reasons why we can dedicate 88% of all funds raised to the direct support of the dogs.

It takes many heads, hands, and skills to sustain our operation, but most importantly, it takes hearts. And through the process of helping those who cannot help themselves, we all find purpose. Rescue is a way of life.

## How We Help

### Volunteers

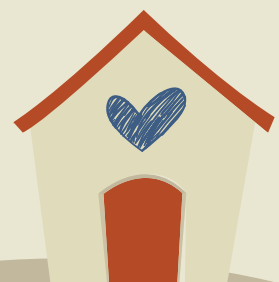
Nearly 300 volunteers have contributed hundreds of thousands of hours and talent averaging more than 30,000 hours annually.

### A Commitment for Life

Our commitment to every dog entering our program is for life. If, for any reason, a dog can no longer be in their adoptive home, they return to Homeward Bound so we can ensure their safety, health and happiness.

### A Commitment to the Next Generation

Our founders have placed the property in trust giving Homeward Bound the first right to purchase. We have begun building a reserve for this purpose so the next generation of rescue can continue our mission.





# 2019 Financials

Condensed Statement of Activities | Year Ended December 31, 2019

## REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT

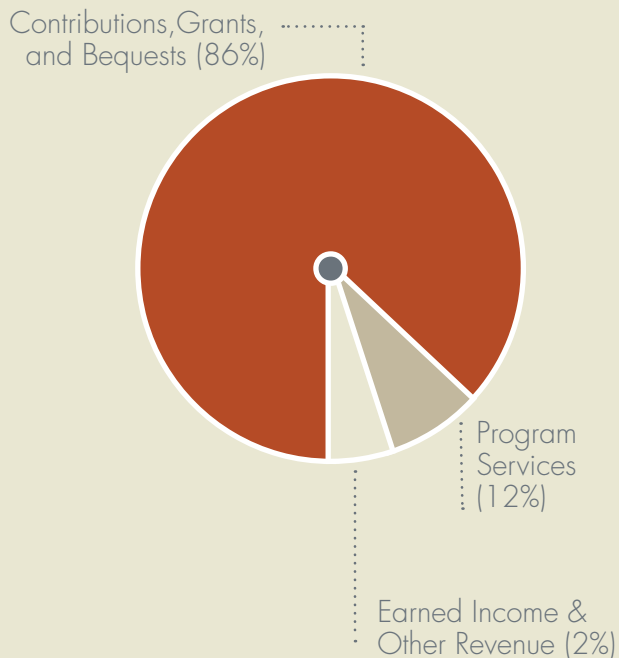
Contributions, Grants, and Bequests	\$ 725,460
Program Services	104,265
Earned Income and Other Revenue*	18,343
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>6,855</u>
<b>Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support</b>	<b>\$ 841,212</b>

## EXPENSES

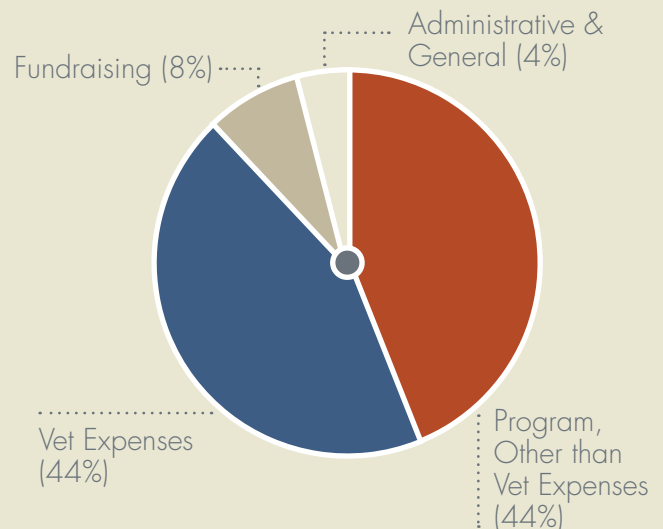
Program	\$ 658,601
Fundraising	56,555
Administrative and General	33,974
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>749,130</u></b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b><u>85,226</u></b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 85,226</u></b>

\*Stock Sale/Interest Income/Sanctuary Sales

## 2019 Revenue




## 2019 Expenses







*Our house is a very, very,   
very fine house with two dogs in the yard...*



# Our House.



**HOMeward  
BOUND** Golden  
Retriever  
Rescue

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