

HOMEWARD BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

What's Inside

This is a very difficult newsletter to write. The news of Jody's passing is still fresh as this edition is drafted; the sorrow deep. The outpouring of love and remembrances has been astounding. To live a life of such meaning and impact is what we all wish. In these pages, we reprint a portion of a chapter from "Chelsea's Tales," written by her beloved Golden Chelsea with an assist from her husband and our co-founder, Mike Jones. It is a touching tribute to her strength and commitment.

We also share a couple of notes that stand out as reminders that Jody was not alone in her devotion to those who cannot help themselves. There are other angels among us.

The best way to honor Jody is to continue her work. Inside, we share the steps we are taking to move forward.

Many have asked about a Memorial Fund in Jody's honor. We have created the Jody's Heart Fund supporting extraordinary rescues. Donate in her memory to our Giving Tree beginning this Thanksgiving and help us light up its heavenly sky with remembrances of the true 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!



The Straw That Stirs the Drink

In 2003, our co-founder, Mike Jones helped Chelsea – the beautiful Golden inspiration for Homeward Bound's founding – pen "Chelsea's Tales; Memoirs of a Rescued Golden." They wrote this passage together. Dad is Mike; Mom is Jody. Today, it serves as a tribute and a reminder of all Jody stood for and instilled in us.

"You might notice me continually ranting about Dad's rescue antics, but Mom is really the "straw that stirs the drink." Don't get me wrong. Dad loves all of us and would defend us to the death. His personal sacrifices for this cause are the stuff of legends. (He plied me with a bag of doggie jerky to write that.) However, it is Mom who feeds us and cleans up our messes. If one of the Goldens is near death from an untreatable illness, it is Mom who volunteers to be with the Golden as his/her suffering is ended.

It is Mom who fields the bulk of the phone calls and emails and responds to the inquiries. She rises at 5:30 AM to feed her hungry brood. The noise can be deafening. I will bark

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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 2020 256

VET EXPENSES TO DATE IN 2019 \$220.100





A Message From Our President

For many years, as your editor, I have had the privilege of working closely with Jody to help her form the words that were in her head and heart. It was an honor to work with her on these communications and to help her express her thoughts to you.

Here is what I believe she would say to us now:

For several years, we have been preparing for this time. I wish it had not come so soon; I didn't plan it that way. But life has its own plan. And here we are. You are an amazing family of people dedicated to our shared vision of rescue – regardless of age or health – providing sanctuary to those who are unlikely to be adopted. To our supporters and friends, I am forever grateful. I hope you will continue to be there for the dogs who depend on you.

To the volunteers, I have taught you everything I know. It may have seemed easiest sometimes just to ask me, but if you dig deep inside yourselves and rely on each other, you will find that you have the answers.

I want to remind you to be kind and grateful and to not judge – even when you are rightly tempted to do so. Our goal is to save lives. Even under the most difficult circumstances, we say "thank you for letting us help."

I want to remind you that we don't just save dog's lives; we transform human lives in the process. Not the least of which are your own. The act of rescue changes a person. You learn compassion, hope, acceptance, and forgiveness – and that a promise made is a promise kept.

Keep the promise. It is yours to carry now. And I will always be by your side to guide you. There is no Homeward Bound without you all.

Sincerely,

Jody Jones, President



Continued from page 1

if I need to do a potty run or go for a ride, but some of these fools simply bark to hear themselves bark. While Mom is slaving over the dog dishes, Dad, who is not exactly a morning person anyway, is still in the bedroom trying to catch up on his sleep. At 11:30 in the evening, Mom is still tucking us in for the night, administering a myriad of pharmaceuticals for our various ailments, and giving us a nighttime snack. All this and a full-time job, too.

Mom has been described by fellow volunteers as our "guardian angel." She is that and more. She is our tireless advocate, fighting for our very lives at every turn. She refuses to give up on us, no matter what the behavioral problem or physical malady might be. She must endure the insults and ignorance of those who don't share her compassion for the welfare of Goldens, or dogs in general. She must reign in Dad, the volatile one, when he is poised to say or do something that all but

Dad might live to regret. No matter how tempting it might be to speak out when she encounters an abused or neglected Golden, she must maintain her silence to ensure successful rescue of the dog. She has fought through her own physical pain to maintain the high level of care we Goldens have come to expect. There will be those who say this is all just a bunch of biased hyperbole. I would say to them "walk a mile in her shoes." Actually, a single day would undo all but the most hardy.

Stories about Mom's heroics could be a book in and of itself. I can recall her lying on the kitchen floor all night long and into the next morning with a poor Golden dying of irreversible liver disease. At the behest of local shelters, she has rescued Goldens from their facilities that were truly at death's door from illnesses such as heart disease or cancer. She would take them to Dairy Queen for a cone, then to a local park, and would remain by their side so they did not have to die alone. She has

nurtured the blind and the amputees, the mauled and the mentally traumatized.

Mom refers to her charges as her "kids." You could literally fill a lake with the tears she has shed for those of her "kids" who are no longer with us. However, their spirit lives on inside her and that is what drives her to continue, even though the stress at times is simply unbearable. After all, she is the straw that stirs our drink. What is our drink? It is a rescue cocktail. It consists of two parts compassion and two parts dedication, with a splash of fanaticism to add flavor."





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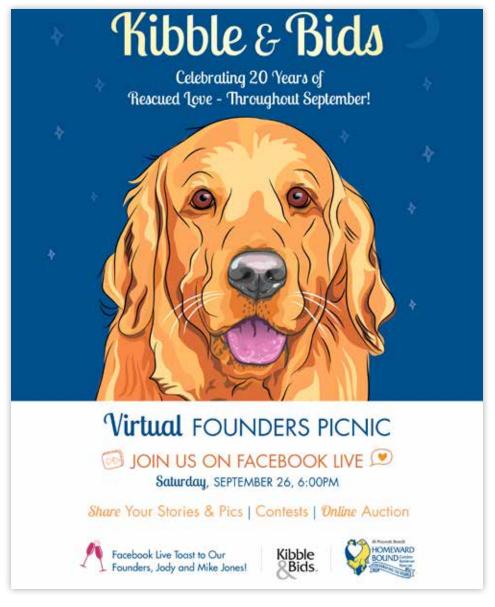
Kibble & Bids™ Thank You!

It was our most unusual Kibble & Bids™ event ever and still a huge success! Bowing to the reality of the pandemic, we had to forgo our usual in-person gathering and switch to a virtual meeting of friends. Throughout the month, you shared your memories and stories as volunteers, adopters, fosters, and friends and helped us celebrate 20 Years of Rescued Love. Together, we raised \$110,000 in support of the dogs – thanks to your incredible generosity.

Through sponsorship, our online auction, support of our special project, conducting your own Facebook fundraiser, or just giving, you gave from the heart to help us reach our goal. And while we could not be together in person, we raised our glasses virtually in a Facebook Live toast to our founders, Jody and Mike Jones, that reached over 18,000 viewers.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all our auction item donors, partners and – of course – our sponsors and volunteers for helping us to put on such a memorable and unique event benefitting the dogs. It is our sincere hope that we will be together again next year at this time.

Canine and human lives are touched and saved as you partner in our mission. Since our founding, nearly 10,000 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 participated, donated, and supported

to make Kibble & Bids™ 2020 a great success. And a very special thanks to the amazing volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring this event together.







The View From the Other Side

Alex Russell is a longtime volunteer of Homeward Bound but her rescue work extends beyond our sanctuary. She has also devoted years to working with the Sacramento SPCA. Alex shared this note from one of the former rescue coordinators there, Elizabeth Thompson. It is a view from the other side and a reminder not only of Jody's impact but that we are all cogs in this life-saving wheel we call rescue.

I'm having trouble finding the words for this post. I am so sad to hear of the passing of this phenomenal woman. Jody Jones was an inspiration and truly one of my favorite people to EVER work with in rescue. I believe I first met her in the early 2000's while working at the Sacramento SPCA. I had the honor of working with her for many years after that. Jody was the kind of gal I could call about ANY special dog...it didn't have to be a golden, although I think her love of them rubbed off on me a bit (I've had two adopted Goldens now). One of my favorite first memories of her was when I called her and told Jody about an 18-year-old Golden with three legs and one eye that had just been dropped off by his owners.



Jody was there within the hour. I called Jody for every needy Golden after that and she ALWAYS showed up in one way or another.

I called Jody a lot over the years. She always did her best - and her best was awesome. She showed up for me (and the dogs) more times than I can count. I called her once on a foster pup of mine, a big, goofy, Newfie mix that had a skull fracture and concerning resource guarding issues. Jody saved me and that pup from certain heartbreak. Jody saved me and countless dogs from heartbreak many, many times. I loved visiting the sanctuary in Elverta, CA. I loved being tasked with calling because I knew she

would respond and she'd show up or send her amazing friend - and my friend too, Alex Russell.

Jody was a straight-shooter, reliable, honest, and she worked so hard for the dogs. Every. Single. Day. She was amazing and I'm sad to know she's no longer here on Earth, but the work that she has done and her legacy will continue. I know her friends, family, shelter folks, and dogs will miss her endlessly. I also know she's joined so many of the dogs she's lovingly helped cross the rainbow bridge when it was their time.

The rescue world will never be quite the same.

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.



There Are Angels Among Us

BY: DARLEEN BRINK NEWLIN

Darleen Brink Newlin has been a volunteer area coordinator for Homeward Bound in the Central Valley for over a decade. She wrote this to help people understand the lifesaving and sometimes heart-breaking role of a coordinator. Across the state, there are people like Darleen who are our eyes, ears and rescue angels looking out for dogs who would otherwise be beyond our reach. They connect to us through another army of transport (taxi) volunteers. When you read this, you begin to understand the enormity of the effort inspired by a tiny woman named Jody Jones who made her dream a reality by always saying "yes, we can."

As I reflect on my crazy last few days rescuing, I thought I would share what it is like being a volunteer area coordinator for Homeward Bound. I love what I do and love being part of Homeward Bound. Everyone works tirelessly in this organization. But dogs don't magically appear. I am not looking for kudos, I just wanted to share some insight into what we do. I will continue to happily do this because as Jody says: It is all about the dogs. I work with 13 shelters - some as far away as an hour and a half from me. They all have different rules. Some work well with rescues; some not so much. I have bad experiences and can get frustrated. However, I am forever mindful that I represent Homeward Bound and I want to get dogs out, so I am always respectful - even though I sometimes want to scream. I wait until I get into my car for that.

We take in owner surrenders sometimes from great situations; sometimes not so great. When it is a bad situation, I kill them with kindness and focus on the prize: getting the dog out of a bad situation. I am just grateful they are giving the dog to rescue. I once paid people \$150 to



get a dog off the property. When I loaded her up, I told her to not look back - that it was only getting better from now on. I have taken in many dogs because life circumstances changed, and the people are putting their own feelings aside to do what is in the best interest of the dog. This is very unselfish of them. It is the hardest thing for an owner to do but I ap-



plaud them for it. We always assure them we will find the dog a loving home. I follow up with these brave owners to let them know their doggie was adopted. They are always so happy and grateful to know their dogs are in a much better situation. Then there are dogs that we agree to take and truly need to be with us, but the people don't show or change their minds. It is frustrating, but you dust yourself off and move on to the next dog that needs you. There are also people that try to mislead you because they are desperate to place

their dog. I had an experience one time where a dog bit me when I was attempting to take it from the owner. There were more signs of this dog's aggression. I did not take that dog because I was not going to risk another volunteer being injured by him. Sometimes shelters mislead us, not to be malicious but out of wanting something more for the dog and not bearing to euthanize. It happens and they do have a really tough job.

As an area coordinator, you build relationships with other rescues and shelter staff. There is a strong rescue community out there and when we all work together, it is extremely rewarding.

When dogs need us, we don't sit and wait. We jump on things quickly because the most important thing is keeping dogs safe. We drive many miles to help dogs. I thank Jody for her compassion and willingness to help all dogs but more importantly, seriously injured dogs that need us whether Golden or not. We do what we can, so they don't die on a shelter floor. The heartbreaking part of our job is having to review rescue and euthanasia lists daily and going into shelters - some of which are not so nice. Walking to the kennel to pull a dog and purposely not looking into the other kennels because you know many of those won't make it out. Walking into shelters on a euthanasia day is heartbreaking. But sadly, it is reality. I feel for the shelter staff because it takes

What The Future Holds

With Jody's passing, there have been lots of questions posed—not all of which have answers yet. But we will do our best to address them here.

How We Move Forward

Since Jody took ill, the Homeward Bound board has been meeting to address this issue. In fact, the planning started several years ago under Jody's leadership as we all knew that a succession plan was paramount to ensuring Homeward Bound's future.

A few years ago, Jody and Mike put the property in trust to Homeward Bound; an incredibly generous gesture. We have a long-term lease in place and have been working for several years to build a reserve to pay off the property mortgage when that day comes.

Filling the leadership void is a harder issue; Jody was our 24/7 top dog for twenty years. As an all-volunteer organization, this gets more complicated. Our Treasurer, Judy Kent, graciously stepped into the role of interim Executive Director as we solidify our structure for the future.

Each of our operational teams have one or more strong leaders. The board is weighing multiple scenarios. Nothing will be decided without the input and support of the team leads as they are the backbone of our organization. In the



meantime, they have all stepped up and are working well together assuming new responsibilities and establishing new lines of communication. Our structure will likely look different moving forward but our commitment to continuing our mission is unwavering.

A Memorial for Jody

COVID-19 makes this question hard to answer. Those who would want to attend a memorial for this incredible woman would fill a small stadium. With restrictions on gathering sizes and the current resurgence of the virus, it has been difficut to answer this desire to recognize a life of such great impact.

Yellow roses were Jody's favorite. The week before Thanksgiving, we will create a giant heart from them in the dog park that she loved so much. We hope that she will see this gesture of love from the heavens above and we will fly a drone

over the heart and share the video with you all of you.

Separately, a small chapel will be built this coming Spring as she wished to house the ashes of Homeward Bound dogs who either lived with us in Sanctuary, were helped to the bridge to relieve their suffering, or found their way back to us because this was where they wanted to be remembered. She had been keeping them close all these years. We invite you to send your letters or cards. They will be housed there as well. And a special fund has been created in her honor-Jody's Heart Fund will stand ready to support extraordinary rescues. You will find a new ornament for this fund on this year's Giving Tree: a golden heart in her honor and memory.

When it is safe, we will gather together—human and canine—and plan a celebration of Jody's life and all those touched by her. It will not be forgotten.

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

If Love Could Have Saved You

BY: JUDY KENT

What kind of people take home dogs when they know their days are short? Our kind. Maddie found her way to us at the age of 10. A sweet, old girl with some concerning symptoms. She could have stayed with us as a Sanctuary dog. But a couple of our angel adopters with a heart for our special needs dogs had other ideas.

I was with Dr. Codde when she first examined Maddie. She looked in her eyes; she looked at her gums and her teeth. And then she looked at me and said, "how much do you want me to do?" Her gums were pale, almost gray and as Doc continued her exam, she gave me "the look" over the top of her mask. I know that look—it's the one that says cancer. She had a mass on her spleen.

How much did I want her to do? Everything, but I knew there was nothing to do. Her blood work confirmed that she had a small bleed, but she was a sweet, happy old lady who didn't know she was sick. We vaccinated her so she could be handled by the volunteers and took her over to the senior yard with a sign that said, "no walks, no swims, no play, just a lot of loving." Two



days later we took her home so she would have a family and dogs and a whole lotta loving!

I knew the time was short. Dr. Codde told me she had days, not weeks, not months, just days. As it turned out-eighteen of them.

We named her Miss Marple. We try to use a detective theme when naming our dogs and we wanted her to be a true part of our pack. She was a delight. She had a contented smile that went from ear to ear when we scratched her, and she loved being scratched. She learned to follow the boys through the dog door, and she took pleasure in carrying a tennis ball in her mouth. She also enjoyed unstuffing toys,

much to our boy Barnaby's dismay. And in the dark of night, she managed to very quietly shred every foam rubber bed in the house. She was a busy girl!

The cancer caused her to be slower and more deliberate in her movements. She watched the others go for walks but when offered, did not want to go out the front door. Maybe she was afraid she would get lost again. But she learned the routine at feeding time with no problem (typical Golden) and lined up with the others as we cut up chicken for dinner. She really enjoyed her food!

We knew from the beginning that our time was short, but the end came sooner than we expected and much sooner than we hoped. Doesn't it always?

Our hope is that love will be the cure for anything and everything and it never is. But loving them enough to help them have a good end of life and a peaceful journey to the bridge is our gift to them. Allowing us to do that is their gift to us.

"If love would have saved you, you would have lived forever."







Finding Gratitude in 2020

How do you find gratitude in a wish-to-beforgotten year?

2020 has been a year full of challenges. A pandemic, economic uncertainty, isolation, the loss of jobs, health and homes for many. Divisive politics turned friends and family against each other; social unrest opened our eyes and shook us,

too. Worst of all, the loss of so many loved ones.

It seems hard to find the silver lining—to find the true meaning of these holidays upon us. Most of us spent the better part of the year wishing it would end. But the loss of good friends and family mem-

bers reminds us not to wish our days away. How do you give thanks in what feels like a thankless year? We start by looking around us. Despite all, we are still here. We are surrounded by people who share our love of dogs and passion for helping those who cannot help themselves.

In a year when shelters closed to dogs in need, our volunteers and supporters made it possible for us to stay open. We remained safe and dogs displaced, hurt, surrendered, or abandoned found fresh hope, healing, and forever homes.

Instead of worrying about what we could not control, we shifted our focus to what we could create: a future for Homeward Bound despite the loss of our leader. We have leaned in – and we lean *on* each other. We are finding strength together.



How do we find gratitude in 2020? We look into the eyes of those who have come to us for help...and we begin with thanksgiving.

its toll. I also realize, sadly, we cannot save them all.

I am grateful to our Taxi Team for driving to us to get these doggies to Homeward Bound. What they do is so important. It does take a village. Often, we are housing overnight guests while we wait for transport. You try not to get attached; but it happens, and they truly take a piece of your heart with them.

I try and bathe everyone, so they are fresh when they get to Homeward Bound. My hat goes off to you folks at Homeward Bound that care for puppies when we get them. I have never cleaned up more poop and pee in my life. Regardless of what I dd, they always manage to be covered in it.

We move on quickly to the next dog that needs us. I check Pet Harbor daily as well as the shelter websites in my area. It is a juggling game we play but we do it for the dogs. Hopefully, this provides some insight into area coordinators do. I am thankful to Homeward Bound and all the volunteers because you all work tirelessly making this happen.



Holiday Gifts & Fun • For Every Human, Dog & Budget!

Light Up The Homeward Bound Giving Tree!

The 10th 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 are 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.

This year, you will note an extra special ornament: a golden heart. Donations of any amount can be made using this ornament and all benefit a very special cause: **Jody's Heart Fund** in memory of Jody Jones. This fund will be dedicated

to extraordinary rescues so we are always in a position to say "yes, we can" whether the request is for a \$5,000 surgery, taking in dogs left homeless by

fires, or getting large groups of dogs out of puppy mills and into loving homes.



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

Here's another way to contribute to Homeward Bound through Amazon: You shop – Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice (which we hope is Homeward Bound!).

Simply do your Amazon shopping through the AmazonSmile site. You receive the same Amazon pricing and service while the dogs benefit - at no cost to you! Just enter this address in your browser and start shopping! smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0442702





Santa Photos...For A Pandemic Year!

Even Santa is being careful about COVID this year. To ensure that he can deliver toys around the world on Christmas Eve, he is not making any personal appearances. Which sadly means no on-site Santa Photos this year. But we can still share and spread some much-needed good cheer!

Watch for your call for submissions post on Facebook after Thanksgiving. When you see it, post your own photo

of your pooch(es) – with, or without Santa – dressed for the holiday season in the comments.

Be sure to get your comment photo up NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15th. Then we will turn all of them into a video montage to share on Christmas Day. (Hanukkah dogs welcome too!)

No videos please...just photos.

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:

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Dates To Remember

The Giving Tree - Begins Thanksgiving Weekend Virtual Santa Photos - Share on Facebook when you see our post after Thanksgiving; post your photos in the comments by December 15.

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