



HOMeward BOUND
GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE

20 Years of
Rescued Love

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



The Year of the Remembered

Most refer to 2020 as a year to be forgotten. While we too are happy to have it behind us, we see things a little differently.

When the pandemic hit, shelters closed and people's generous first response was to foster. As time went on, it became clear to the fosters that this would not be a temporary arrangement. Looking for answers, many were told to do what they could to find the dog a new home. Meanwhile, people hoping to surrender found dogs or those they could no longer support, discovered closed shelter doors.

We opened our doors

Heartbreakingly, we heard repeated reports of shelters advising people to just let stray dogs go. Those that did make it to shelters were on highly borrowed time; the sick, injured or behaviorally challenged were let go. We took all we could save and rushed them to safety.

In the Central Valley, we saw large numbers of Great Pyrenees abandoned. These gentle giants deserve better. We opened our doors. We opened our doors to Pyrenees, Labs, Doodles, and mixed breeds in need. Golden retrievers will always be our mission and priority, but in this unprecedented year, we needed to help wherever we could.



Jody Jones. Gone, but never forgotten.

What should have been our celebratory 20th year was marked with challenges; the pandemic was only the beginning. In August, our co-founder and president – our heart – Jody Jones suffered a fall. Triggered by underlying health issues, the situation became increasingly grave. Jody's heart had always been full to the brim with rescue joys and sorrows. It gave and gave for more than twenty years – until October 5, 2020 when it finally gave way.

To live a life of meaning is what we all hope for. Jody lived that and more. Through the act of rescue, Jody Jones not only led us in saving nearly 10,000 dog lives, she touched thousands of human lives as well. Jody taught us about compassion, hope, acceptance, and forgiveness and that a promise made is a promise kept.

We will keep that promise by ensuring her legacy lives on at Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary. Far too soon before her time, Jody became part of our year of the remembered.

A new leader has stepped forward from our ranks. Our board and team have risen to the challenge. Out of tragedy comes opportunity. Mike and Jody Jones had put the property in trust to Homeward Bound. Several years ago, we began pinching pennies to build a reserve for this purpose. It will be the Jones' lasting legacy someday.

If 2020 was the wish-to-be-forgotten year, there is much to be remembered about strength, resilience and promises.

Out of the challenges and darkness of the year, there is a bright, shining star leading us down the right path. She asks us to remember one guiding principle that carries us forward: *It's All About the Dogs*



The pandemic brought closed shelters, operational challenges, and abandoned and surrendered dogs. We kept our doors open.



To Old and New Friends of Homeward Bound

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

The year 2020 marked 20 years of rescued love for Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary. It did not go as planned for any of us – but despite all, 326 beautiful dogs made their way to us seeking help, hope, and forever homes. Another 85 were supported in permanent foster. The most important lesson that we learned through a pandemic, loss, and upheaval was perseverance.

“Old times” never come back...What comes back is a new morning every day in the year.”

~ George E. Woodberry

The loss of a beloved founder and leader has shuttered many rescues. We began succession planning several years ago, strengthening our teams and our resources for the distant day. The day came sooner than anyone expected. Until the future arrives, you never know exactly how you will greet it.

We were tested, and we learned that we are resilient. Our team leads and volunteers stepped up and I stepped forward. Reluctantly at first – still grieving the loss of my good friend. But now with passion and enthusiasm for the future. With the support of our team, Board of Directors, dedicated volunteer veterinarian, Dr. Codde, – and Jody whispering in my ear – we are forging a new path forward.

Together, we have created
an extraordinary place of
safety and refuge for nearly
10,000 dogs on their
journeys home.

The pandemic brought closed shelters, operational challenges, and abandoned and surrendered dogs. We kept our doors open. An eviction moratorium softened the blow, but the economic hardships continue and with them, impossible decisions for families. We are steeling ourselves for the year(s) ahead.

We anticipated difficulty in fundraising; donor giving represents 90% of our annual revenues. We tightened our belts and we got creative about our outreach efforts including a virtual Kibble & Bids event and auction; our supporters amazed us. Your steadfast support is a blessing we never take for granted. You make the work of saving lives possible. We ended the year in a strong financial position which is vital to the effort ahead: the eventual purchase of the property securing Homeward Bound's future.

Our volunteers kept coming. With extraordinary measures in place, we saved lives while protecting our own and others. It is their belief in our vision, their hard work and donated labor, and their devotion to the dogs that sustain us day in and day out. Together, we have created an extraordinary place of safety and refuge for nearly 10,000 dogs on their journeys home. Hope, healing and transformation happen here.

"And in today already walks tomorrow. ~Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Twenty years. It is only just the beginning. I am amazed and endlessly grateful for what we have built, accomplished, and uphold together. Each one of you make a life-changing difference for a dog in need – by volunteering, fostering, adopting, supporting, and championing our effort. With appreciation for the past and hope for the future – we walk forward together.

Thank you.

Judy Kent, 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 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.



Our History

Homeward Bound was founded on a promise made to our founders' injured dog, Chelsea: recover, and we will devote our lives to rescue.

Nearly 10,000 dog lives later, what we have built from eight acres of barren country and tens of thousands of volunteer hours is the envy of many rescue organizations.

Our facility includes a modern kennel, a senior sanctuary, a fully outfitted vet clinic, training pavilion, puppy palace, 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 on hot summer days. Finally, our Memorial Garden offers a refuge for volunteers and dogs to spend quiet time together, remember those who have been loved and lost, and celebrate adoptions. Most importantly, this beautiful facility gives us the ability to say "yes" when dogs are in immediate need.

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



Safe Here.



20 Years of Rescued Love



20 years. That's a long time for a rescue organization to endure. Many milestones mark our journey and the growth of our operation. But it takes more than bricks and board to build an organization nationally recognized within the rescue community for the quality and depth of services and care it provides. It takes guiding principles and more. Read on.



Celebrating the Journey

To grow from a small home-based operation to where we are today takes determination, heart, and endurance. We have learned many lessons along the way. Here are a few:

Follow your dream.

Homeward Bound was founded in the year 2000, based on a dream and a promise made to our founders' beloved Golden, Chelsea: her miracle recovery for a life devoted to rescue. With the help of countless volunteers, we have made this dream a reality. From eight acres of countryside, we have carved out a peaceful sanctuary where the dogs can run, play, train, and be loved on their journey to their forever homes. For those whose special needs or health issues make them unlikely to be adopted, they are welcome to live out their lives with us in security and dignity.

Believe in your vision.

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. People are here for their passion and devotion to the dogs and our mission. It's as simple as that. Their labor of love has built and maintained a beautiful facility that is the envy of many other rescue organizations. Our volunteers have donated hundreds of thousands of hours and, in doing so, have saved us significant expense. It is one of the reasons why 90% of all funds raised in 2020 went to the direct support of the dogs.

Greet each new challenge with optimism.

You get nowhere believing you can't. Every single day brings a fresh challenge. When we think we have seen it all, we are

surprised by something completely unexpected. A pandemic. The passing of our beloved President. It doesn't mean that we always succeed in the way we set out, but we are committed to doing our best and, most importantly, to try. With our volunteers raising us up and our supporters backing, we are able to say, "yes, we can." That ability has made all the difference in nearly 10,000 dogs' lives saved.

Follow the Golden Rule.

Treat others as you want to be treated. It's how we work together; how we teach respect for the dogs and allow them to tell us what they need and want; and it is how we deal with every surrender. Life takes unexpected turns. People make bad choices or are faced with impossible decisions. Instead of judging, we say, "thank you." Thank you for entrusting your dog with us. Thank you for the opportunity to help. Thank you for letting us give this dog a chance at the life it needs and deserves.

Celebrate.

The bonds created by our shared love of dogs grow deep and strong. Every "going home" photo is cause for celebration. Every step forward for a dog with extraordinary medical challenges is an opportunity to cheer. Every barrier we break through for a dog with emotional or behavioral challenges is a chance for hope. And, as the years roll by and we say goodbye to dogs and people we have loved and lost, we have another reason to lean on each other, shed tears, and celebrate the joy that brought us together.



In 2020, we marked our 20th year of helping dogs on their journeys home. We celebrate you – our volunteers, supporters, and friends for making this dream a reality. Thank you.



A Promise of Rescue, Health, and Sanctuary

Homeward Bound's Area Coordinators and **Golden Taxi Team** reach across the state to safeguard dogs and bring them to safety.

Our **Short-Term Foster Program** provides temporary respite for dogs that don't do well in our "dorms" and a chance to learn more about a dog's needs to ensure a perfect forever home match.

A Permanent Foster Program allows families to say "yes" to dogs with extraordinary needs, as Homeward Bound covers their medical expenses for life.

Through the **Golden Touch Program**, we connect senior humans to senior dogs without an adoption fee.

Many earn their wings as financial supporters of special needs dogs – becoming our **Golden Angels**.

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. Truth be told, we have a hard time keeping them in this program as big-hearted people keep finding a way to bring them home.

Our primary veterinarian, Dr. Justina Codde, dedicates countless volunteer hours and deeply discounts her fees to ensure that every dog receives the medical attention it deserves and needs.

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 the generosity of our supporters, we can welcome dogs with extraordinary needs as well, including orthopedic, neurological, hearing, vision, and cancer challenges; dogs that might not otherwise be saved.

326 dogs
were rescued by
Homeward Bound
in 2020

\$267,000+
spent on Veterinary
expenses with many
of the dogs' medical
needs having been
neglected for years.

85 dogs
were supported in
Permanent Foster



A Promise to Educate and Lead

Medical transformations are often only the beginning. Care for our dogs includes their emotional, socialization and training needs to ensure that when they go home, it is forever. Too many dogs are abandoned or surrendered because they never got the right start in life. In fact, in 2020, nearly half of our intakes were under two years of age. One of our greatest concerns about 2020 are the large numbers of purchased pandemic puppies that we expect to be surrendered as out-of-control youngsters.

Certified trainers and behaviorists craft plans for dogs that need skills and boundaries before being placed. Their instructions and tools help humans to think like a dog and set both adopter and dog up for success.

Our social media, website, newsletters, and outreach materials provide education on how to spot and avoid puppy mills, choosing responsible breeders, the importance of spay and neuter, the bond created through training, and the importance of responsible pet ownership.

We were especially delighted when our Youth Program found a new leader this year. With a revitalized plan and fresh dedication, we have introduced a new generation to rescue.



Welcome Here.



When other doors closed in 2020, we opened ours. While Golden retrievers will always be our priority, 'rescued' is our favorite breed. When we have the capacity, it would be shameful not to help. Those in need are welcome here.

The Faces of the Remembered

People often ask where all the Golden retrievers are on our website. First, we have so many waiting families that Golden retrievers are adopted before they ever get to the website. Second, thanks to education and a shift in America's favorite breeds, there have been fewer homeless Golden retrievers nationwide for several years now. This can all change in a heartbeat and one of the trends we saw in 2020 were Golden retriever puppies with significant health issues resulting from bad breeding – undoubtedly inspired by the combined need for new sources of income and a public yearning for a pandemic puppy companionship.

In 2020, our faces were golden, brown, black, red, white, and spotted. Here are just a few:

MAYA – A 13-year-old Lab left behind in a shelter closed to non-essential staff and volunteers.

JOURNEY – who had been living in the streets, was terrified of humans, and was transformed over months of support in our care.

MURRAY – who had been abandoned and left chained through the winter and summer heat – only alive because a kind property manager brought him food and water. Healed, restored, and home.

REMINGTON – a giant Golden retriever with a degloved leg that all other rescues turned down. Jody changed his bandage twice daily for months to allow his skin to grow back, saving his leg and his life.

LAILA – A young blind Golden retriever with Hydrocephalus (water on the brain) who brings laughter and joy to her new home.

BONNIE AND BRIE – one-year-old Golden retriever girls with ectopic ureters – the result of poor breeding – that others gave up on.

DEXTER – who had been rehomed four times and got himself a job with the Folsom Police Department and a family with Detective Somerset.

MORE THAN 60 GREAT PYRENEES from the Central Valley including two moms and their abandoned litters – and an adorable blind one-year-old named Louie.



LAILA



REMINGTON



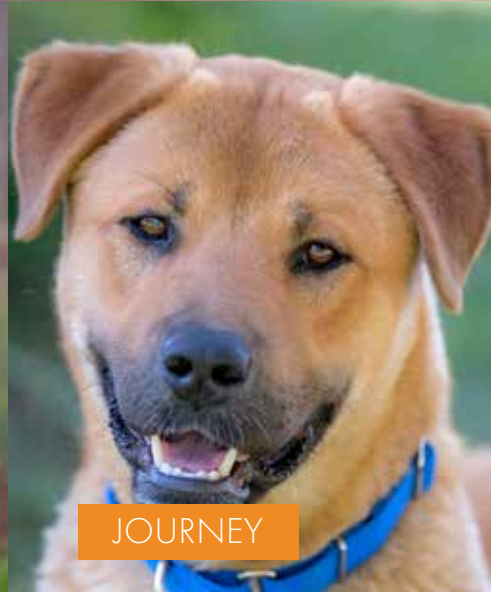
MAYA



MURRAY



DEXTER



JOURNEY



BONNIE & BRIE





SHELTER. *Despite the pandemic, Homeward Bound remained open, welcoming 326 dogs into our program and providing temporary housing while supporting another 85 dogs in permanent foster care or sanctuary.*

How We Help

EMERGENCY TRANSPORT. 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.

MEDICAL CARE. Homeward Bound's medical expenses exceeded \$267,000 to ensure that essential and extraordinary needs were met.

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 requirements of the dogs with ongoing needs overcoming obstacles to their selection so they can be home.

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

VOLUNTEERS. Hundreds of thousands of hours and talent have built and sustain our programs and facility, averaging more than 30,000 hours annually.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION. Our Youth Program educates and introduces young adults to the mission of rescue so our work can continue into the future.

A COMMITMENT FOR LIFE. When a dog enters our program, our commitment is for life. If, for any reason, a dog can no longer be in its adoptive home, they return to Homeward Bound so we can ensure its safety, health and happiness.



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 included us in their plans as well – putting the property in trust and giving Homeward Bound the first purchase option. Their extraordinary generosity makes our current effort to complete the purchase of the property possible today – securing our future.

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 with us in advance, we can ease the transition for your beloved four-legged companion if the need arises.



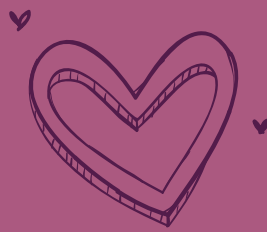
A Role for Everyone

Homeward Bound is an all-volunteer organization with over 200 active volunteers from near and far. People from all walks of life come together, bonded by a shared love of dogs, to contribute their talents, time, and passion. While we save lives, our lives are enhanced through the act of rescue, adoption, foster, and healing.

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. Join us.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

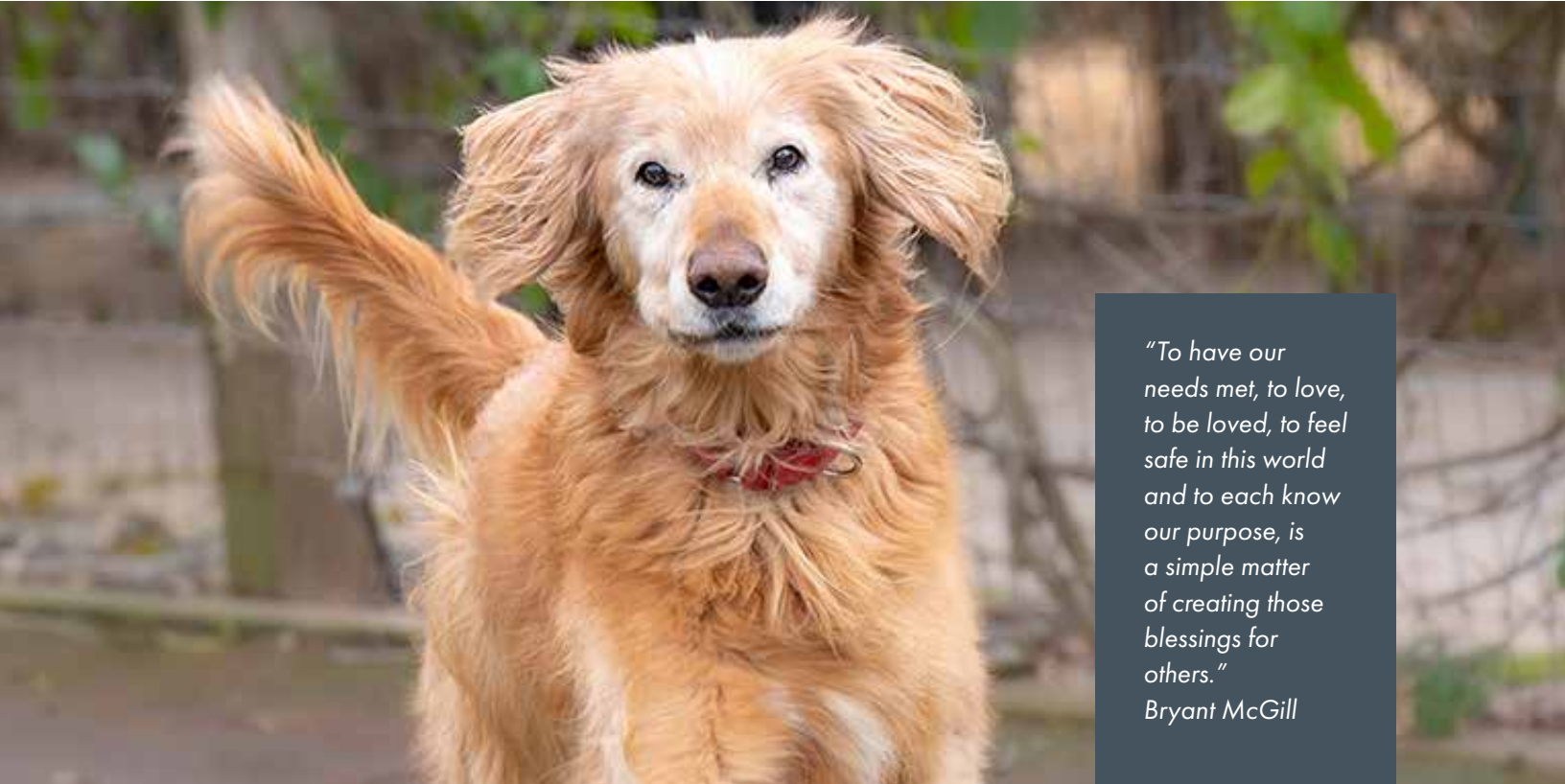


Loved Here.



Etched in Our Hearts

Everyone – dog or human – that comes through our doors is special to us. They become part of our family. But some stand out as extraordinary – etched in our hearts.



"To have our needs met, to love, to be loved, to feel safe in this world and to each know our purpose, is a simple matter of creating those blessings for others."

Bryant McGill

The Once-and-Forever Feral, Red

Red, a beautiful Golden boy, came to live in our Sanctuary in 2012. He and his posse had been living feral on a large rural property. When he was seven, he and his band were rounded up and roped by cowboys on horseback. They were taken to a barn and adopted out to a public unaware of the challenges of turning a feral dog into a family dog. Reports are that most disappeared again. The woman who adopted Red quickly understood what she had gotten herself into. Realizing that she could not keep this terrified dog safe, she surrendered him to us.

Red immediately took up residence in our senior house and yard, affectionately known as Sugar Shack Acres. He felt safer there in

the company of other dogs. Still, always on watch, he rarely slept deeply and burned nervous calories furiously.

For his own good, we had to trick him into getting his basic checkup and vaccinations done. It took many months of tiny baby steps with a leash left on him full-time before we could even approach him.

Over the years, Red developed trusted but cautious bonds with a few select and special humans. He relaxed enough to gain much-needed weight and trained his human friends to fill their pockets with cookies and dried bagels. When he turned 15, he lost his hearing – a blessing as he was no longer alerted to every sound and slept soundly and peacefully for the first time.

Red passed at the age of 16 – a few weeks before Jody. It was good that he went ahead so he could welcome her at the bridge. Here he was safe. Here he was loved. Here, he is remembered.



John, the Rocket Scientist

Our work saving dog lives transforms human lives as well.

Just as 2020 began, an elderly man appeared at the rescue looking a bit frail, sad and lost. He had let his Golden girl go a week earlier; he had just returned from picking up her ashes. She was 11-year-old Emily. He had her from a pup. When he noticed that she was not wanting to get up one morning, he rushed her to the local vet and then a specialist. Her heart was enlarged; she was bleeding internally; fluid was pooling around her heart as quickly as they could drain it. It was a painful but clear decision – perhaps influenced by the man’s own battle with cancer; a fight he believed he was losing. He let Emily go peacefully. Her ashes were in a beautiful, inscribed wooden box in his truck. Her paw print immortalized with it.

He wasn’t looking to adopt. He thought his own time on this earth was short. He was just in pain and wanting some Golden love.

“I’m here as a total stranger, just hoping to be able to pet a few dogs and share a moment with them,” he said.

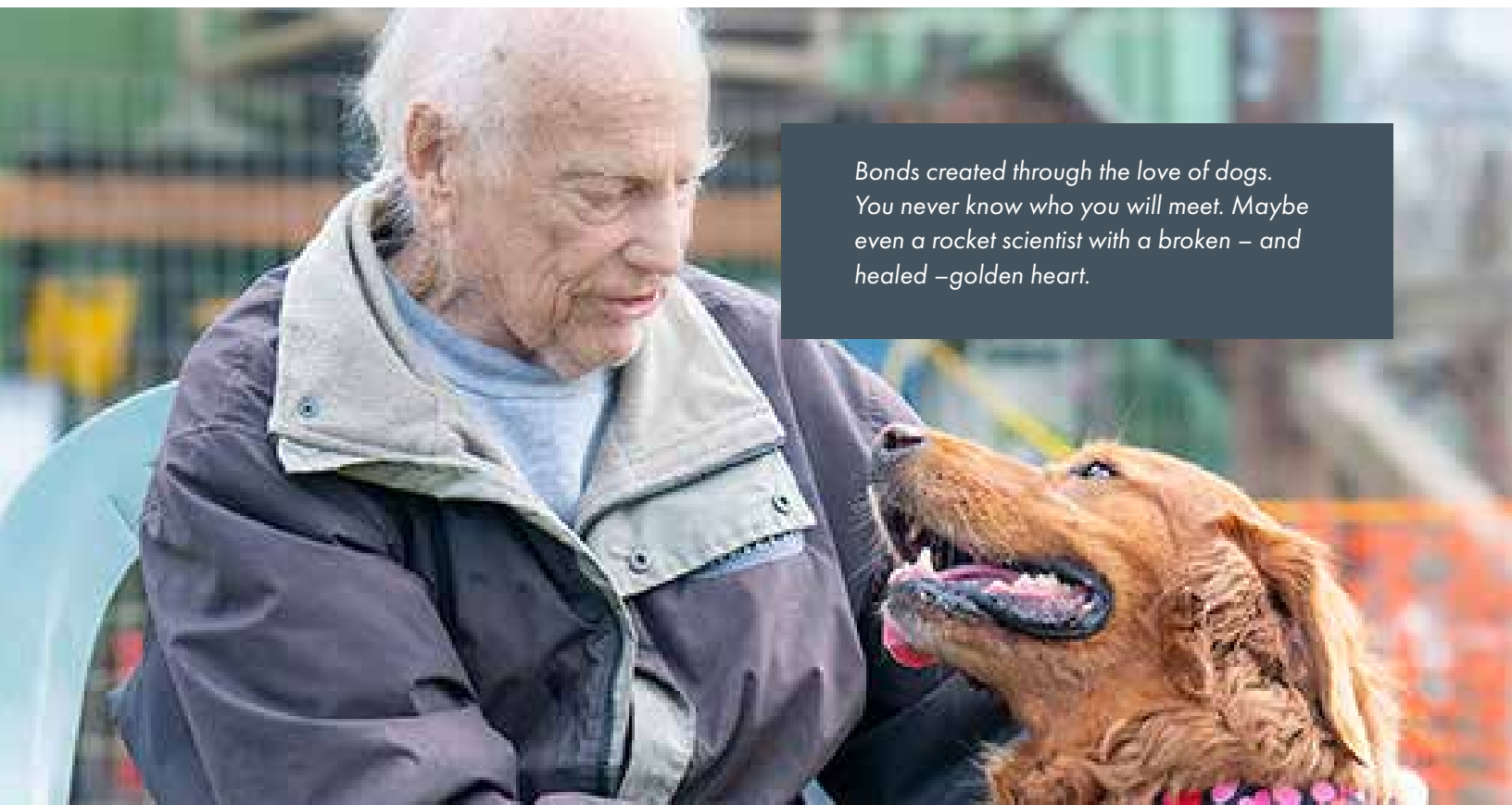
We allowed him to sit and love on some sweet Golden retrievers. One beautiful girl sensed his need and buried her head in his lap; that was enough to send the tears gushing. He shared photos and stories and asked about the dogs: how they come to be with us, how we find them homes, how anyone could ever give up their beloved companion.

We gave him a tour and told him our story – about our founders, their inspiration, their vision, and how it had come to life through the dedication of hundreds of volunteers. We watched the youngsters in training class; we greeted the seniors at the fence.

As he was departing, he asked if we had ever met a rocket scientist. We thought it was a setup. But he said, “Well, now you have.” He had helped to design the heat tiles for the space shuttle so it could withstand reentry. When Congress failed to fund the development of an emergency vehicle to return our astronauts from a planned space station, he was part of a group that went to Russia to negotiate the use of their Soyuz vehicle in exchange for shared ownership of what became the International Space Station.

He may not have come to adopt, but he touched our hearts. He was matched to a big, beautiful red boy named Kobe who had recently lost his senior owner. It was love at first sight. Kobe gave John a reason to go on and provided desperately needed companionship during the pandemic as John was isolated from his family while still undergoing treatment.

In fall of 2020, John was lost to us as well. His generosity contributed to countless dogs’ medical care. His family and friends remembered us in his passing as well. Kobe found a forever home that will be long-lived and where he is well-loved. John would approve.



*Bonds created through the love of dogs.
You never know who you will meet. Maybe
even a rocket scientist with a broken – and
healed – golden heart.*



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 annual fundraising events. Additional drives happen throughout the year to address extraordinary needs. You may also choose to donate in-honor or in-memory of your special someone at any time. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, sign-up for our newsletters, check our website for upcoming events – or just click “Donate” anytime! Your gifts are always welcome and appreciated.

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 everyday things add up quickly. On our website, you will find our Wish List under “How to Help.” Or, click the Amazon Wish List link on the top of our home page for a simple way to give.

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.

VOLUNTEER

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

REACH OUT

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.

2020 Financials

Condensed Statement of Activities | Year Ended December 31, 2020

REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT

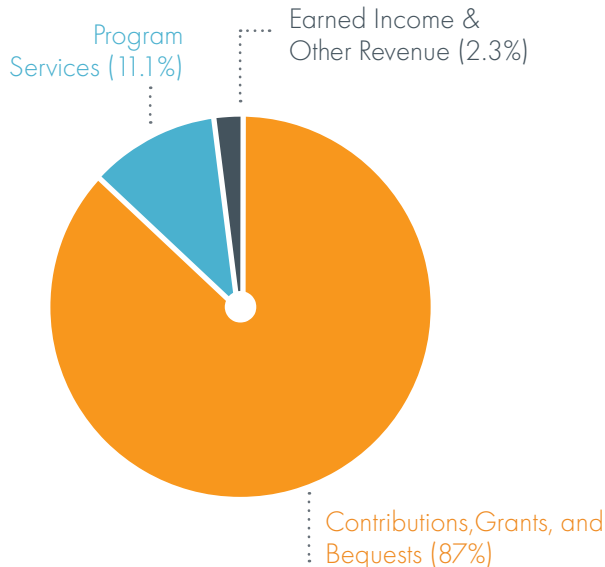
Contributions, Grants, and Bequests	\$ 772,065
Program Services	98,356
Earned Income and Other Revenue*	20,562
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>3,431</u>
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	\$ 887,552

EXPENSES

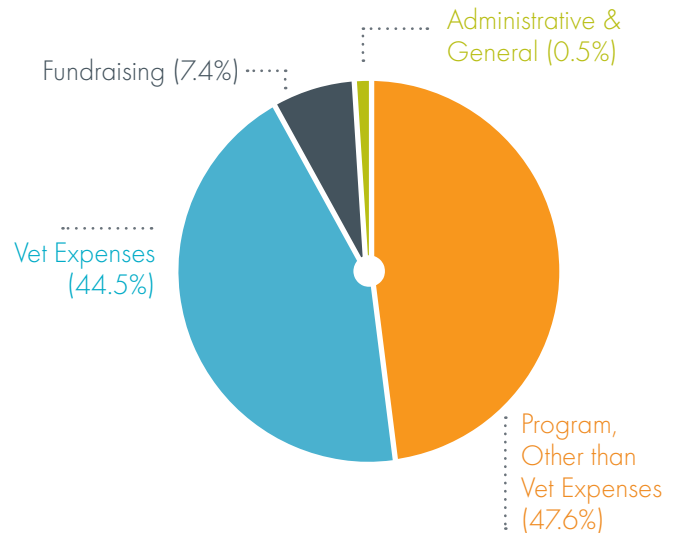
Program	\$ 578,774
Fundraising	3,224
Administrative and General	46,334
Total Expenses	<u>628,333</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>259,219</u>
Net Income	\$ 259,219

*Stock Sale/Interest Income/Sanctuary Sales

2020 Revenue



2020 Expenses





We Opened Our Doors
and Our Hearts. 



**HOMeward
BOUND** Golden
Retriever
Rescue

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www.homewardboundgoldens.org

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