

THE heart



SEPT 2021 / VOL 22, ISSUE 3

HOMeward BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

What's Inside

The challenges have been many this year; moving forward under new leadership; a pandemic; and, because this is California – fires. When dogs are in urgent need of help, read how a team of dedicated rescuers come together to act in “It Takes a Village,” our cover story.

Have you considered fostering but were unsure? “Fostering is a Gift” may address your questions or concerns. Your home could be just the thing a waiting dog needs on its journey to a forever home. Read about it on page 4.

Ever wonder how a dog's contract for humans would read? Read “If the Tables Were Turned” on page 7.

Planned Giving ensures that your final wishes are honored. A gift to Homeward Bound leaves a lasting legacy. Learn what inspired Scott and Carma on page 8.

And – your immediate help is requested to help us replace our well-worn and now unreliable Homeward Bound van. Freedom rides should not end by the side of the road! Please help us “Fund a Van!” Details can be found on page 6. **Thank you!**

PLEASE PASS ALONG!

You can help us to expand our reach by sharing our newsletter with friends, family and co-workers! Thank you!



Jimmy and Johnny:
French Fire Dogs

It Takes a Village

The call for help: The French Fire in Kern County was closing in on Lake Isabella where a rescuer had been working with an elderly couple to rehome their two beautiful Golden Retrievers – a father and son – Johnny and Jimmy. Planning to move across the country, there had been discussions about sending the dogs to Homeward Bound, but the move was still in its infancy. Then, disaster struck. The couple fled their home, and the dogs went to foster. The couple's house burned to the ground. Then the foster's home came under evacuation orders. The dogs needed safety, and fast.

Denise Derrico of Kern Valley Rescue is a one-woman, life-saving phenomenon in a rescue desert. Most people know Kern County for Bakersfield, but beyond that is a vast rural region with high levels of poverty. People love their animals, but care is hard to come by or afford. Travel times to services can be an hour or more. Denise has

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Our Mission

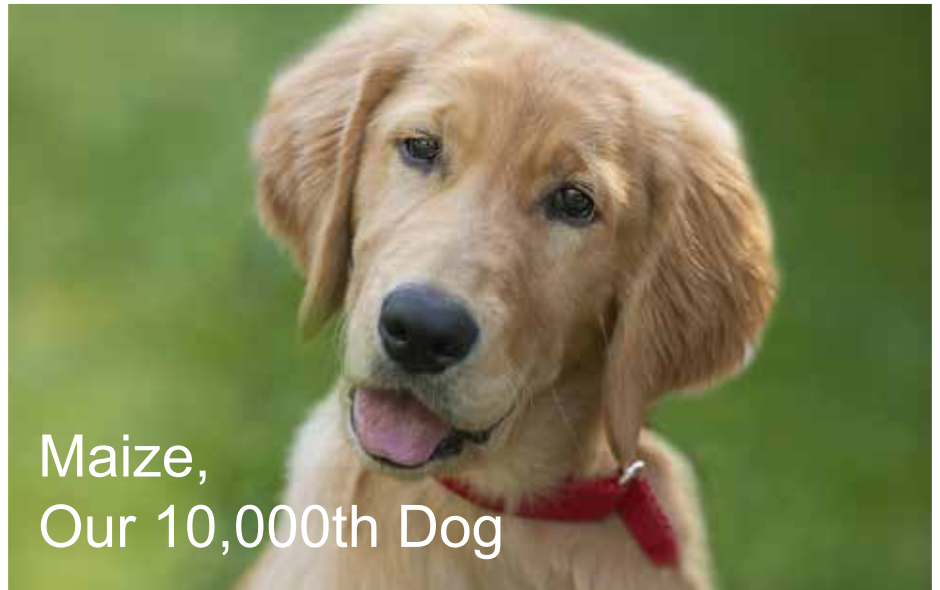
Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization which rescues and heals displaced, abandoned, and homeless Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes, regardless of their age or health. Homeward Bound secures safe, loving homes through a comprehensive adoption program, and also provides lifetime sanctuary for 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.

DOGS RESCUED TO DATE 2021
302

VET EXPENSES TO DATE 2021
\$213,961



Maize,
Our 10,000th Dog

A Message from Our President

To say that this has been a challenging year is a bit of an understatement. While we find our way forward without our founder and leader of 20 years, we find ourselves swimming in dogs! As I write this, we are brushing up against last year's intake total – and there are four more months to go in the year.

They are coming from everywhere – shelters, surrenders and even fires. We passed a milestone this year: 10,000 rescued dogs. The biggest trend in 2021 is the number of young dogs ages one and under. These are the dogs we expected after 2020 when people rushed to purchase a pandemic companion – many of them puppies. They are full of potential but largely untrained, exuberant and in need of good canine and human leaders. It is quite a change from years past when our crew was comprised of mostly sugar faces. It has meant changes in how we work, train and support the dogs to match them to families who understand the commitment that comes with teaching a young dog foundational lessons.

There have also been major medical needs: Too many strays with vehicle close encounters, horrible skin issues resulting from neglect, and genetic issues in puppies and young dogs from inbreeding to meet the pandemic demand. At the same time, both COVID and rising costs made our usual Kibble & Bids™ event impossible. Now, more than ever, we rely on your support – including the purchase of a new transport van as you will read within.

I have not stepped into Jody's shoes, as much as I walk in her path. She whispers advice to me that sustains me, and sometimes I quietly curse her for leaving us so soon. But all around me, a new team is emerging. Volunteers who bring passion and commitment – and represent our future. Things are different and challenging – but they are also good. We are forging a new path together. I am grateful to each one of them, to our dedicated vet, Dr. Codde, and to you – our supporters and friends. You are indeed the heart of Homeward Bound.

With heartfelt thanks and appreciation,

Judy Kent
President





Mike and the Boys

Continued from page 1

coordinated low cost spay and neuter clinics and visiting vet trips to make these services accessible and affordable. In 2020, when their remote county rescue was facing closure due to budget concerns, she activated the community. They rose up, and the shelter was funded.

Tatia Taylor, a long time Homeward Bound volunteer and recent addition to our board, moved to the area for a work project in 2018. She was immediately impressed with Denise's work. "She makes me think of Jody," Tatia says. "She puts people together, creating networks to keep dogs out of harm's way. Her work has helped to dramatically reduce euthanasia at the local shelter."

Denise needed help for Johnny and Jimmy, and she needed it quickly. She contacted Tatia – herself evacuated –

who coordinated with our Golden Taxi transport team. On a moment's notice, one of our dedicated transporters, Mike Long, hopped in the ancient Homeward Bound van and put in a 13-hour day - driving down and back to Lake Isabella through thick smoke and traffic to bring the boys to safety at Homeward Bound. Their quick action brought peace of mind to a family that had already lost too much.

Homeward Bound stands ready to be a bridge to dogs impacted by the fires. Whether for temporary housing or surrender, our doors are open.

To learn more about Kern Valley Rescue and Denise's good work, visit www.facebook.com/KernValleyRescue.

Youth Program Leaders Needed

Our Youth Program was dormant for a couple of years for lack of adult leadership. In Fall of 2020, volunteer Paula Ramirez, a 28-year veteran teacher, took charge. The initial "class" of 10 students was directly tied to a senior project at Inderkum High School. The pilot called for students to volunteer for 30 hours which were briefly interrupted when COVID spiked around the holidays. They completed their requirements in February.

Paula stands ready to help train a new group of volunteer youth program leaders. Working with students and dogs while promoting safety requires some managing but Paula says that it has been a positive and growing experience for all – herself included. "The most rewarding for me is seeing the compassion from the students." This program plays a vital role in teaching the next generation about rescue.

If you are interested in becoming a youth program leader, please submit a volunteer application on our website at www.hbgrr.org. Thank you!



**HOMeward
BOUND** Golden
Retriever
Rescue

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Elverta, CA 95626
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homewardboundgoldens.org



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Fostering is a Gift

BY: Audrey Farrington

For many years, Homeward Bound relied primarily on housing dogs on site. The thought was that they would be readily available when people came to meet dogs. This is true, but it's also true that dogs in foster create more room for dogs in urgent need of help. There are other benefits: Medical foster helps dogs heal better; we learn more about a dog's experience in the home and gaps we may need to fill; hospice foster provides comfort and care when needed most; and puppies grow strong and healthy while having an opportunity to be socialized to healthy and vaccinated family dogs – not to mention getting a head start on potty training!

While we have always maintained a robust permanent foster network, we set about revitalizing our temporary foster program two years ago. Under the leadership of Joanna Hook, it has grown strong and wide. In fact, we have more willing fosters than dogs sometimes! What to do with all those offers of kindness? We grew a day-out foster program where dogs in our dorms get to spend a day away, decompressing and gaining valuable exposure to potential adopters.

Many people worry about the risk of "foster failure" – falling in love with every dog and ending up with an overflowing home. In truth, fosters quickly learn that they are an invaluable bridge on the dog's journey to home. I speak from experience: My husband and I have fostered more than 40 dogs - mostly puppies – at what we lovingly refer to as Camp Yogi. Yogi is a boy that Jody matched us to when we lost or beloved Bella to cancer. This one-year-old wild child came with high prey drive, leash reactivity, and no house skills. But it turns out he had one special power: puppy raising. Since bringing him home in 2016, our home has been a revolving door of adorable puppies. And we only succumbed to one.



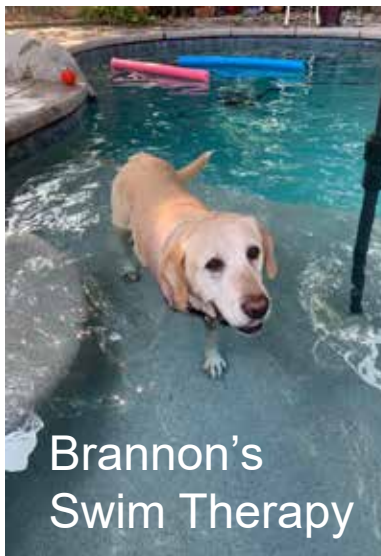
Skye King was rescued as a puppy in China. Diagnosed with severe hip dysplasia, he spent many months in foster until he was old enough for the flight and surgery. After seeing him through two FHO surgeries and five months of recovery, we could not imagine him being uprooted again. His new job: helping to raise foster puppies, of course! Since his recovery in June, he has helped little Aiden recover from a broken leg; gave comfort to three surrendered puppies, Aiko, Marley and Hannibal; and is currently host to Miss Mabel, an adorable little English Cream Golden Retriever with ectopic ureter(s). Simply put: she leaks pee.

Volunteer, Dee Hook knows the call of foster failure. She is a long-time permanent foster who found herself with an empty dog bed and took one-year-old Happy home for medical rehabilitation after her face-first run in with a car. Dee fell in love... "hard." But she knew that she could not give Happy the life she needed. "The heartbreaking lesson I learned with my first temporary fostering assignment is to be more "mindful" and logical than "heartful" and emotional... meaning, think about what is best for the dog and guard yourself from falling in love with a dog you cannot keep."

Linda Sekany is another permanent foster who recently joined the ranks of temporary foster provider. "Just recently, I stepped out of my comfort zone and started fostering a young guy. His name is Brannon.

His leg was amputated to remove a cancerous growth, and I brought him home to recover. The news isn't good. The cancer has spread. He has only months to maybe a year or two. And I LOVE him! He has already changed my life in the few short weeks he has been with me. Can I love him enough to extend his life? I don't know, but you can be certain that I will try. He knows he is loved and cherished. Right now, that is enough for both him and for me."

Susan Wanken became a temporary foster in February of 2021. "I volunteered to foster a one-year-old mother and her six two-week-old puppies - my first time fostering! Watching Annie's puppies grow from "little sausages" to rambunctious puppies was so rewarding. Initially, I thought fostering would be such a selfless gift to give back to Homeward Bound for all they do to rescue so many dogs. Little did I realize that I would personally receive a greater gift in return. Knowing that I was their sole caretaker created a heightened sense of responsibility that I was so willing to provide. There were challenges, like staying up all night with a sick puppy many nights and rushing to the vet, not to mention loads of laundry and constant cleaning. But I relished it. I looked forward to seeing them every day and giving them all the physical and emotional love they needed so that they would grow up to be well-rounded and loving dogs. I watched them as they reached many milestones in their short lives and was a proud "parent."



Brannon's
Swim Therapy



Jocko's
Day Out



Susan with
Annie's Pups



Skye and Recovering
Foster Aiden



Dee and a not-so-happy
Happy post-surgery

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I must say that now that they're seven months old, I have accomplished that, as their adopters have attested in recent text messages. I have since fostered three other puppies and have stayed in touch with almost all. I am truly lucky indeed."

Jennifer Bercutt focuses on day-foster, particularly for dogs whose stays have been more extended. She knows that getting them out and about relieves kennel stress while giving our team an opportuni-

ty to understand how they behave in different settings. Many times, she helps others see a dog in a new light resulting in the dog's adoption. "I enjoy taking the dogs on outings because it lets me spend lots of one-on-one time with the dogs to really get to know them. It is amazing to see how often they are a completely different dog outside of the shelter environment. It also makes me feel good that I can provide extra information about the dogs to help them find their forever homes."

These are the rewards of foster: supporting a dog's emotional and physical health while acting as a bridge to their forever homes. Foster – whether for a day, overnight, a few weeks or months – is a gift for the dogs on their journeys home. It is also incredibly fulfilling.

If you are interested in joining our foster team, complete an application on your website at hbgr.com. We look forward to welcoming you to the Homeward Bound family!

PLEASE HELP US...FUND A VAN!

When dogs need to get to safety, the Homeward Bound van is headed out to the rescue. Only lately...it is not reliably so! Our well-worn 2006 van has traveled more than 200,000 miles up and down California providing freedom rides to thousands of dogs on their journeys home. These days, it is just as likely to be broken down on the side of the road or in the shop when needed most. With repairs costing more than the value of the vehicle – and the safety of the dogs and our volunteers on the line – it is time to retire the old beast!

Please help us fund a new van for the dogs of Homeward Bound! Not only will a more efficient vehicle save money on gas and repairs, but a new van will come equipped with safety features to keep our precious cargo safe: stability control, pre-collision assist and a rearview camera.

Every gift, no matter the size, helps move us closer to our goal and ensures the safe travels of the dogs and their dedicated Golden Taxi transport team!

Donate by check mailed to:
Fund a Van
HBGRR
7495 Natomas Road
Elverta, CA 95626

Or donate securely online now at:
homewardboundgoldens.kindful.com/?campaign=1148183



If the Tables Were Turned

Our “dorms” are overflowing with post-pandemic dogs: adopted or purchased in 2020 – some as puppies for a pretty penny – and surrendered, left in shelters, or abandoned. Some are the result of people losing their homes through no fault of their own. Our hearts break for these families. Others were purchased or adopted without an understanding of the commitment that comes with a dog family member – or worse, were no longer convenient. Regardless, we were just happy to be able to get them to families who understand the promise that comes with adoption – or purchase – of a dog of any age.

We have an extensive application process and contract, but it got us to wondering what the dogs would put in a canine contract for people if the tables were turned. It might go something like this:

- You realize that I am not a shiny penny or an impulsive decision. You have thought through the choice to add someone to your family and the time and expense that goes with it.
- You promise not to treat me like that fancy bike you got that sits in the garage. I am not a toy to be played with for two weeks and forgotten.
- You know that neither one of us is perfect. We all come with some baggage. I



will try to leave mine behind if you will do the same, and we can make a fresh start together.

- I promise to be patient with you when you leave things out that could get me in trouble, and you promise to be patient with me when I chew them up. We will both agree that it is better and safer not to do either.
- You know that training is a lifelong commitment – and that the training is not just for me. You are half the equation. If you do your part, I will do mine.
- If you have little humans, you will remember to watch out for them AND for me, and you will help to raise us together with respect and kindness.
- You understand that I am not a cat. No offense – but I am not happy living a solitary life. I need human contact and friends to be a well-rounded canine.

- If you got me as a puppy or youngster, you recognize that I WILL grow up. And you will promise to still love me when I am old and grey or, heaven forbid, sick, injured or disabled – and need you most.

- You commit that if – for any reason – you can no longer keep me, that you will not dump me at a shelter, turn me out, or sell me to the highest bidder. You will take as much care in finding me a good, safe and loving home or reputable rescue as I take in being your loyal, trusting companion.

If you agree to the above, by all means... please bring me home. I would like to be yours. All others need not apply. Thank you.

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 resulting in thousands of donated dollars each year. Nature's Select provides FREE HOME DELIVERY in the greater Northern California area for purchases over \$39.

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."

- Judy Kent, President, Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary



916-480-0900 www.natures-select-of-norcal.mybigcommerce.com/

Planned Giving: A Golden Legacy

We recently received a generous and unexpected legacy bequest. The donor had adopted two Golden Retrievers from Homeward Bound including Penny, the 53rd dog in the year of our founding, 2000, and Lelani, who came to us in 2005 from a rescue group in Maui. Clearly, our work touched his heart. His gift will support hundreds of dogs that need our help on their journeys home.

Sharing your intent to include us in your estate plans allows us to properly acknowledge your lasting legacy. And don't forget your own beloved dogs. Providing for them in your estate plan is an important consideration for all of us. Entrusting your dogs' care to Homeward Bound if you or your family member can no longer be there for them ensures their health and happiness. Advising us in advance gives us the opportunity to learn all about them and their needs.

Homeward Bound's Board Treasurer, Scott Wolcott and his wife, Carma Hatch, have included Homeward Bound in their estate plan. They wanted to share their reasons with you:

How did you first connect to Homeward Bound? We were referred to Homeward Bound in 2008. Jody and my wife bonded instantly, and a few months later we got a call from Jody about a group of puppies that had been seized from a Southern California puppy mill. We immediately adopted "Ernie," and without comparison, he has been the sweetest (90 lb!) dog we have ever owned. He's a bit slower, but he's still with us.

What about Homeward Bound strikes you as unique or special? The obvious answer is the commitment to the absolute best care for every dog. But since I have become more involved with the organiza-



tion, the level of commitment from the volunteer "staff" and the organization's donors is humbling. Many of these folks work full-time jobs but commit 10-30 hours per week at the Sanctuary.



What special connection do you feel now? In an "ideal" world, it's the goal of every nonprofit to work itself out of existence because the organizational goal or mission has been satisfied. But in the real world, we know that's not feasible, and we want to support the people, and the sanctuary, that provides these irreplaceable services.

Why did you choose to include Homeward Bound in your plans? To keep Jody's vision alive.

In what way do you hope/believe that your gift will have a meaningful impact? It's a challenge, and a lot of work, for every nonprofit to organize fundraising events. The results are often variable, depending on the economy, and it puts a lot of stress on the organization over an annual fiscal cycle. Planned Giving can provide a level of financial stability in the form of cash reserves and facility upgrades so the team can focus more on the mission and worry less about the budget.

We are grateful to Scott and Carma, and for the generous gift of our departed donor. Our mission of rescue, adoption and sanctuary changes Golden and human lives. By including Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary in your estate or planned giving, you create a legacy ensuring that more Golden lives are saved – helping to keep alive the vision of our founders.

Examples of estate and planned giving instruments include wills and living trusts, life insurance or retirement beneficiary designations, or gifts of appreciated stock. There are many options from which to choose. Naming us in your will or trust, for example, is one of the easiest ways to

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ensure that future generations of Golden Retrievers in need will find a second chance at life. You can download our Guide to Giving to help you determine the best approach for your unique needs—providing current or future benefits to yourself, your heirs, and to the Golden Retrievers in our care. You can also download our Pet Guardianship form, entrusting your dogs' care to Homeward Bound if the need arises. You will find both on our website at www.hbgrr.org under "How to Help."

International Rescue in Limbo

In June 2021, the CDC put a temporary ban in place for dogs imported from high-risk countries for dog rabies. The genesis of the ban was the illegal importation of puppies for sale in the U.S. – many too young to leave their mothers and all too young for valid rabies vaccinations. Unfortunately, legitimate rescue efforts were caught up in this attempt to stop the illegal trafficking. While well intended, the ban is overreaching and puts millions of dogs that might be saved at risk.

For many years, Homeward Bound has worked with rescuers in China and Taiwan to save dogs from the horrors of the meat markets there. We agree that implementation of all safeguards necessary to protect humans and dogs from rabies is paramount. All dogs rescued by our trusted partners are fully vaccinated for rabies and DHPPI-L. Tests are conducted

for brucellosis, canine distemper and canine parvovirus, with complete blood counts and biochemical profiles on the dogs. The paperwork documenting all of this, in keeping with USDA requirements, accompanies the dogs to the U.S. Once at Homeward Bound, the dogs remain in quarantine for another two weeks as an additional safety precaution.

The CDC has stated that the ban will be reevaluated in a year, and that in the meantime, exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis. Such exceptions, however, are extremely limited and expressly prohibit the ability of any rescue group to apply for an exception to this ban. The few available exemptions include only dogs imported for science, education and exhibition. Even returning service members' pets have been caught up in this broad action.

Our efforts to rescue dogs from overseas never interferes with our work to save dogs here at home. But our mission is Golden Retriever rescue. And when a life is at stake, we provide safe haven and loving homes while those on the ground work to change a culture of inhumane treatment from within.

We join in supporting other rescue groups in working to achieve the CDC's public protection goals while leaving the door open for lawful and genuine rescue efforts.



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.



Chelsea's Chapel Dedication

Chelsea's Chapel was our founder's dream. Jody envisioned a chapel housed near her peaceful pond to house the returned ashes of Homeward Bound dogs. Some had lived with us in Sanctuary; some were given the gift of being freed from suffering when quality of life was irreparably compromised. For them, Homeward Bound was home.

Jody had long ago picked out a chapel kit that she found online. She was always dreaming up something! When she left us too soon, we knew that we had to make this dream come true for her.

It was lovingly built by her siblings. We named it Chelsea's Chapel after our founders' beloved Golden girl whose adoption and recovery inspired the vision for Homeward Bound.

On evenings, as the sun set and the breeze blew in, Jody could be found sitting on the small dock overlooking the pond, feeding her Koi fish, and reflecting on this place she called home.

We hope you will join us for a virtual dedication of Chelsea's Chapel – built in Jody's honor and memory – on Sunday, September 26th at 6PM via Facebook Live. We also invite you to send ahead your cards and notes to Jody. They will be

placed in a handcrafted box and housed with the dogs' ashes.

There was nothing more special to Jody than a fall evening at the rescue – the temporary home to more than 10,000 dogs on their journeys home. And there is no place on earth to be closer to Jody's heart than on Goldens' Pond at Homeward Bound.

Chelsea's Chapel



ON GOLDENS' POND

**Chelsea's Chapel Dedication
Sunday, September 26, 6PM
Facebook Live**

[www.facebook.com/
HomewardBoundGoldens](https://www.facebook.com/HomewardBoundGoldens)



How to Reach Us

Your help and ideas are always welcome!

Reach out to team leaders through the information below if you are interested in helping in any of these areas:

Adoptions and Surrenders & Sanctuary Development
Judy Kent, President
7495 Natomas Road
Elverta, CA 95626
916-655-1410

judy@homewardboundgoldens.org

Foster Families
fostering@homewardboundgoldens.org

Placement Team
Lynn Pihera, 916-428-2718
homevisits@homewardboundgoldens.org

Golden Taxi (Transport)
goldentaxi@homewardboundgoldens.org

Events Planning
events@homewardboundgoldens.org

Volunteering
volunteering@homewardboundgoldens.org

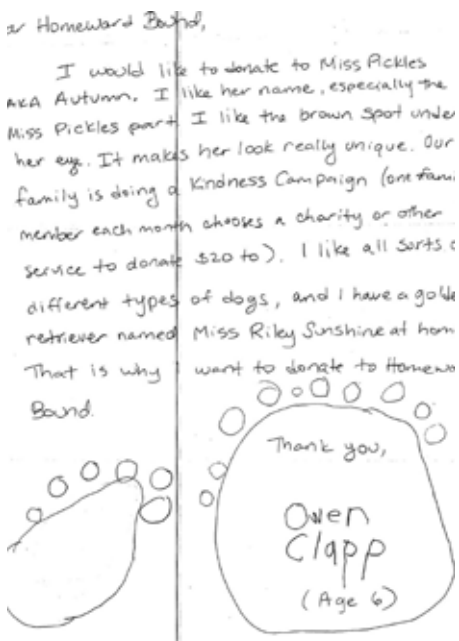
Newsletter & Marketing
Audrey Farrington
audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org

Training
Kathryn Baines, 916-300-9415
grdogtraining@gmail.com



We love receiving your cards and notes and share them with our team members in our weekly volunteer communication. You inspire us to keep going when the work gets difficult. Please keep them coming!

This note from six-year-old Owen was so heartwarming, we had to share. Miss Pickles, aka Autumn, was one of our Angel Fund dogs who recently passed. She touched Owen - and his note touched us.



Shop & Donate at No Cost with AmazonSmile

Consider designating Homeward Bound as your charity as you do all your shopping on AmazonSmile.

You get the same great Amazon experience and prices - and the doggies earn 0.5% on each purchase! What a simple way to give at no cost to you!

This simple act has generated more than \$10,000 for Homeward Bound in the past two years.

You will find all the details on our website under "How To Help." Thank you for remembering to AmazonSmile!





Homeward Bound Golden Retriever
Rescue and Sanctuary, Inc.
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email: admin@homewardboundgoldens.org
www.homewardboundgoldens.org

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Dates to Remember

Chelsea's Chapel Dedication: Sunday, September 26
The Giving Tree: Launches Thanksgiving Weekend

Help Wanted

Volunteer Positions Currently in High Demand:

- **Feeders:** A dog's best friend and so rewarding!
- **Walkers:** Build bonds of trust through walking, playing, training, and grooming. Help prepare the dogs for their forever homes.
- **Event Support:** Having fun while helping the dogs!
- **Youth Leaders:** Train the next generation of rescue!

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
Amazon 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