

FOR THE LOVE OF DOGS

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**HOMEWARD BOUND
GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE & SANCTUARY**



For the Love of Dogs

Why would people toil in mud, sweat, and poo? In freezing rain and broiling sun? In organized chaos, clamoring and commotion, and sometimes heartbreak? **For the love of dogs.**

At Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary, more than 250 volunteers from across the state work together to give second chances to dogs in need: Golden Retrievers, Golden mixes, and golden-hearted dogs. Our volunteers arrive in teams from sunrise to well past sunset to clean, feed, walk, train, and oversee the myriad of tasks needed to keep our operation running. They build, mow, and repair to keep our grounds and facilities welcoming and safe. They travel thousands of miles across California and beyond to bring dogs to safety. They are tethered to phones and computers, searching posted dogs, connecting with shelters, and making love matches with adopters. They bring the very young, the very old, and the recovering home as fosters. And they provide permanent sanctuary within our program to those unlikely to be adopted.

Our all-volunteer team has created an eight-acre sanctuary for dogs on their journeys home. Their love of dogs runs deep. Their results are seen in the faces – and the numbers: more than 10,750 lives saved and transformed.

The pandemic and economy have changed life for too many dogs. They are being surrendered, abandoned, and left behind in numbers not seen since the Great Recession. Puppies purchased early on have grown into rebellious teens without guidance or attention. Adult dogs have found themselves homeless along with their humans. Long-overlooked health issues have become too burdensome to bear. Seniors are displaced by their longtime companions' disability or death. Puppy mills and backyard breeders who have found the market changed have given up their dogs as unprofitable. And something else: People seem to have come to regard dogs as disposable. Brought home on a whim and surrendered when the need for time, attention, training, or care becomes too real.

In our world, dogs are not disposable. Our doors were open to them all – as many as we could welcome. For the love of dogs.



To Old and New Friends of Homeward Bound

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Audrey Farrington, Board Chair

Scott Wolcott, Treasurer

Dr. Marlene Clarke, Secretary

Jim Bakker

Lori Burke

Judy Kent, President

Deb Haggerty

Eva Kwong

Jaclyn Powell

Anna Schweissingner

Dr. Tatia Taylor

Carolyn Unger

It felt like we climbed a mountain together in 2022. Four hundred dogs came through our doors, a 15% increase over our previous five-year average as we responded to overwhelming need: surrenders, overflowing shelters, and puppy mill survivors. The number challenges each of our teams to step up for the transport, care, training and assessment, medical care, and adoptions.

We saw the retirement of our beloved Dr. Codde, who sold her medical practice. After nearly 20 years of dedication, she turns her attention toward her elderly parents now. She will stay with us as a volunteer to see the dogs on-site until June. But the loss of our close connection with her private practice has created its own challenges at a time when veterinary resources are scarce everywhere. We have thankfully pieced together a network of support. Still, it has difficulties in scheduling and in costs which have skyrocketed.

These demands converge at a time when backyard breeders and puppy mills are shutting down their operations – at least temporarily – as the market for expensive puppies has changed. Grateful for the shuttering and the chance to give these mistreated dogs new lives, we have joined a network of rescues that reach from California to the Midwest. As one of the few rescues nationwide with a facility, we can take dogs that foster-based rescues cannot accommodate.

Together, we have created an extraordinary place of safety and refuge for more than 10,700 dogs on their journeys home.

In the midst of all of this, we became property owners. After a year of legal machinations and delays, we completed the purchase of all eight acres, left in trust by our founders, Jody and Mike Jones. In keeping with their wishes, Homeward Bound will be home to dogs in need – forever.

The generous financial support of our donors and the gifts of time and talent of our volunteers made it possible to meet the need. Those gifts will be critical moving forward, as this year's demand already outstrips 2022.

As we looked into the eyes of dogs who asked for our help on their journeys home, we didn't ask for their pedigrees. With your support, we just said 'yes.' Every one of you makes a life-changing difference for a dog in need – by volunteering, fostering, adopting, and championing our effort.

On behalf of the dogs, I sincerely thank you.

Judy Kent, President



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.



Our History

The story is now legend: Homeward Bound was founded on a promise made to our founders' beloved Golden, Chelsea—that if she would answer their prayers and recover from a life-threatening accident, they would devote their lives to rescue. Chelsea pulled through and lived a long and happy life. Jody and Mike Jones made good on their promise and founded Homeward Bound in 2000.

Their pledge took physical form with the creation of Homeward Bound's sanctuary and adoption center in Elverta, California, near Sacramento. To have a volunteer-built facility is rare in rescue, with organizations typically relying solely on foster care. Our beautiful eight-acre sanctuary allows us to provide immediate support to dogs who might not otherwise be saved.

Jody and Mike's vision, countless hours of volunteer labor, and the generous donations of friends and supporters have transformed the barren farmland into a welcoming sanctuary. Homeward Bound's facilities today include a modern kennel and office, senior sanctuary, fully outfitted vet clinic, puppy palace, training pavilion, and 14 grassy yards where dogs can run, play, learn, and meet their potential adopters. A walking path surrounds the property. For those with mobility or weight issues, a donated heated swimming pool provides on-site water therapy and 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 going home days with photos shared with family and friends over social media extending our network and visibility.

Chelsea's story was the inspiration for saving thousands more. She was reunited with our founders at the Rainbow Bridge. A promise made: a promise kept, thanks to the vision of Jody and Mike Jones – and good friends like you.



A Lasting Legacy

Homeward Bound Forever

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary was born of the vision, blood, sweat, and sometimes, the tears of our founders, Jody and Mike Jones. When they moved to the bare property in 2000, only they would have imagined what it would become. But as people viewed the incredible facility and operation that blossomed, the question most frequently asked was: “What happens if...”

While Homeward Bound had a long-term lease, the Jones’ answered this question with unbelievable generosity, putting the property in trust and giving Homeward Bound the first purchase option when that day came. It came sooner than any of us had expected.

We began building a reserve for the purchase in 2018 when the gift was first announced. The Jones’ dream was that Homeward Bound would always be here for dogs in need. Thanks to generous donations and bequests, we were in a position to see their wish realized when Jody passed in October 2020 and Mike in January 2022.

After a year of legal delays, we closed on the property in February 2023. Much work is ahead as we become landowners and landlords to our onsite caretaker. But Jody and Mike’s generosity gives us peace of mind knowing that all that has been invested will support our mission for years and years to come. **Our gratitude is boundless.**



400

The number of dogs rescued, healed, and helped on their journeys to home in 2022.



Welcome Here.



Our faces are gold, white, red, brown, yellow, black, and spotted. They are young and old. Scared and happy. And sometimes, downright silly. **All are welcome here.**



How We Help

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:

Transport: The Golden Taxi

Homeward Bound's Golden Taxi team traveled more than 50,000 miles to bring dogs to safety, including trips in and out of state. With two vans well exceeding 200,000 miles, we welcomed the Gummo Mobile to our fleet this year, named in memory of the beloved Buddy and Max Lau.

Shelter

Our eight-acre facility provides immediate support to dogs in need. In 2022, we welcomed 400 dogs into our program while supporting another 80 dogs in permanent foster care or sanctuary.

Short-Term Foster

Our foster program has grown significantly, expanding our capacity. Day and weekend outings and weeks-long home-based care help us learn more 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 lifelong 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 – their own dedicated housing and large shady yard where they can enjoy the company of other dogs and the humans who dote on them.

Golden Touch Program

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

Medical

Because we welcome dogs regardless of age or health, our medical costs are our single largest expense representing 49% of all costs in 2022. Every dog receives primary medical care, including blood work, vaccinations, dentals when needed, and spay and neuter. Others require much more, including orthopedic, neurological, hearing, vision, diabetic, and cancer challenges.

In 2022, Veterinary expenses exceeded \$418,000—a 17.6% increase over the prior year, driven in part by the change in veterinary care and an increase in dogs with extraordinary needs.

Since 2004, Dr. Justina Codde, DVM, has volunteered her time to see the dogs weekly while providing a significant discount for her services through her practice, Cherry Creek Veterinary Hospital. Over 19 years, thousands of dogs have benefitted from our "Doc's" care, knowledge, and passion for rescue on their journeys to health, healing, and home. Always there for us, she has been an invaluable member of the Homeward Bound family.

Now, with her own family to care for, Dr. Codde has sold her practice in preparation for full retirement. We offer our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to this amazing woman who has impacted countless lives and contributed greatly to our success.

She will continue with us in her volunteer role until June 2023. Duplicating her care and the significant discounts offered through her practice is one of the many challenges facing us in the year ahead.



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HOW WE HELP

Education and Training

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 2022, 59% of our intakes were two years or under.

Playgroups help with dog socialization. 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.

Youth engage with us through unique volunteer efforts and through individual fundraising efforts across the communities we serve.

HOW WE HELP

A Commitment for Life

When a dog enters our program, our commitment to that dog is for life. If, for any reason, a dog can no longer be in its adoptive home, it returns to Homeward Bound so that we can ensure its safety, health, and happiness.

In 2022, that commitment extended to our own founders' dogs after they passed, including special needs boy, Johnnie. Born without knees, he was lovingly raised by Mike Jones. Johnnie found a perfect match. He was adopted by the woman who sold the property to Jody and Mike Jones in 2000. *Life comes full circle.*





A Role for Everyone

Homeward Bound is an all-volunteer organization. More than 250 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.

Guided by our team leads, volunteers are empowered and involved in every aspect of our operation. The list is endless: transport and intake, feeding, cleaning, grooming, walking and socialization, veterinary transport, fostering, training, home visits, adoption counseling, undertaking facilities projects and maintaining our grounds, fundraising, events, marketing, office administration, and more.

Our all-volunteer model is unique for an operation of our size. While it has challenges, it has also been the key to our longevity. There is power in passion and purpose. Volunteers are truly the heart of Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue, continually demonstrating their commitment to the dogs and our mission. Our motto is: "It's All About the Dogs." Our ability to work together as one is daily proof.

Our volunteers' donated time saves us staff and administrative expense. Their labor of love allows us to dedicate 92% 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.**

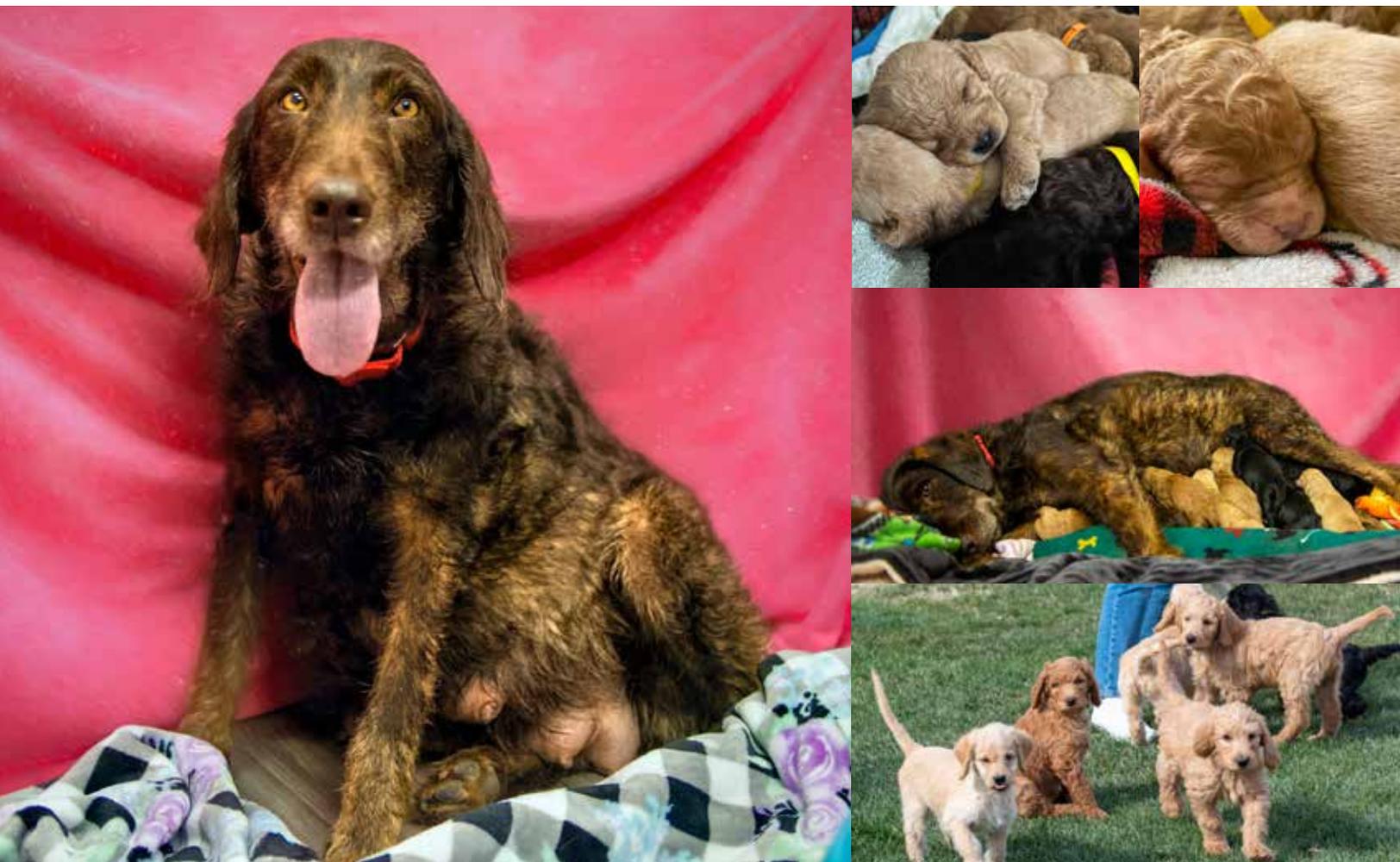
250+
active volunteers

50,000+
hours dedicated to
rescuing, healing,
fostering, and
helping dogs on
their journeys home

80 dogs
were supported in
Permanent Foster

Etched in Our Hearts

Every dog that comes through our doors is special to us. But some stand out for their exceptional needs and the care they require. In 2022, puppy mill survivors were high on our list.



SNICKERDOODLE



In mid-December, we received an urgent plea for help. Thirty dogs and 15 puppies were being surrendered by a puppy mill breeder in Ohio. Many of the puppy mills in Ohio are considered among the worst of the worst. Golden and Lab rescues across the country offered their help, including Homeward Bound. Our girl, Snickerdoodle, a very pregnant four-year-old Doodle, arrived in the wee hours of the morning on December 23rd after a three-day journey. Her litter was born on Christmas Eve day. Sadly, two were lost, but 11 thrived and grew strong and adorable under the watchful eyes and care of their very experienced mom (with a bit of help from us!).

But these dogs would only be the first. Of course, there were more. As of this writing, more than 100 have been rescued and 15 dogs and 11 puppies have found new lives and second chances in our care.



WILLOW

“No one wants that puppy. Give me a hundred bucks and get her out of here.” Found sitting in a crate in her own filth at a puppy mill in the Midwest, Willow was five months old and not destined for a happy ending. The Good Samaritan that accidentally found her drove Willow across the country to California. Willow was completely shut down – frozen at human touch. Realizing she was in over her head, the woman surrendered Willow to us. Lifted from the transport into her foster’s waiting car and into their home, where she was greeted by three Golden Retriever foster brothers. It was precisely what Willow needed. All that fear vanished.

We quickly learned why “no one wants that puppy.” Willow had epileptic seizures. You might think that finding a home for a dog with her condition would be extremely difficult, but we have learned that there is a match for everyone. A low dose of medication kept Willow’s seizures at bay, and she found the perfect home with a woman whose own mother had epilepsy. From unvalued and discarded to adored and loved. She was renamed Gia. **It means ‘God is Gracious.’**





BRIDGET'S BROOD

At only one year of age, Bridget was surrendered by a high-volume breeder from the Central Valley. They operate differently than Midwest puppy mills that house dogs in small cages or runs, often stacked. Out of sight in remote parts of California, these breeders treat dogs more like cattle. They are kept in outside pens through blazing heat and freezing rain, producing litter after litter until they are no longer useful. They typically arrive terrified and completely shut down. Bridget was lucky. Still just a puppy herself, she was surrendered for her inability to conceive. That was a surprising miss; she was already one-month pregnant. She gave birth to ten puppies four weeks after her arrival. Two were lost, but eight were strong and healthy – bringing unexpected joy to waiting families while Bridget earned spoiling as a loved family dog.



THE PARVO LITTER

One of our volunteers intercepted the posting: "Golden Retriever puppies for rehoming." Further discussions revealed what was suspected... they were simply for sale. We don't purchase puppies from puppy mills or backyard breeders, so we were surprised when she reached out a few weeks later to say she wanted to surrender them. Not long after she arrived, we noticed two of the ten puppies seemed lethargic. More suspicions confirmed: they had Parvo. Parvovirus is deadly to dogs, but especially to unvaccinated puppies. The fatality rate exceeds 80%. She knew what she had delivered. And since Parvo remains on a property for a year or more, we figured she had done this to unsuspecting families before. The battle was on. In the end, seven of the nine puppies were saved, beating all odds. And, in the process, our dedicated puppy palace became unusable for a year due to parvo infection.



THE OKLAHOMA KIDS

A rescuer who has devoted her life to saving puppy mill dogs reached out. Five puppies from Oklahoma were at risk of being destroyed for being "too old" and unsold at four months of age. We were delighted to welcome them. They arrived terrified and skittish – unfamiliar with human contact. Tulsa, Norman, Shawnee, Enid, and Bethany took over our senior housing and yard, which suddenly became filled with the sound of puppies at play. It took a little bit of time, but soon they were carefully approaching. Within three weeks, they were delighting in cuddles and love. Each found loving homes. **One breeder's trash is our treasure.**





23%

The 2022 intake percentage of breeder or puppy mill surrenders.



Safe Here.

Transformations take many forms. Some medical, some emotional and behavioral.

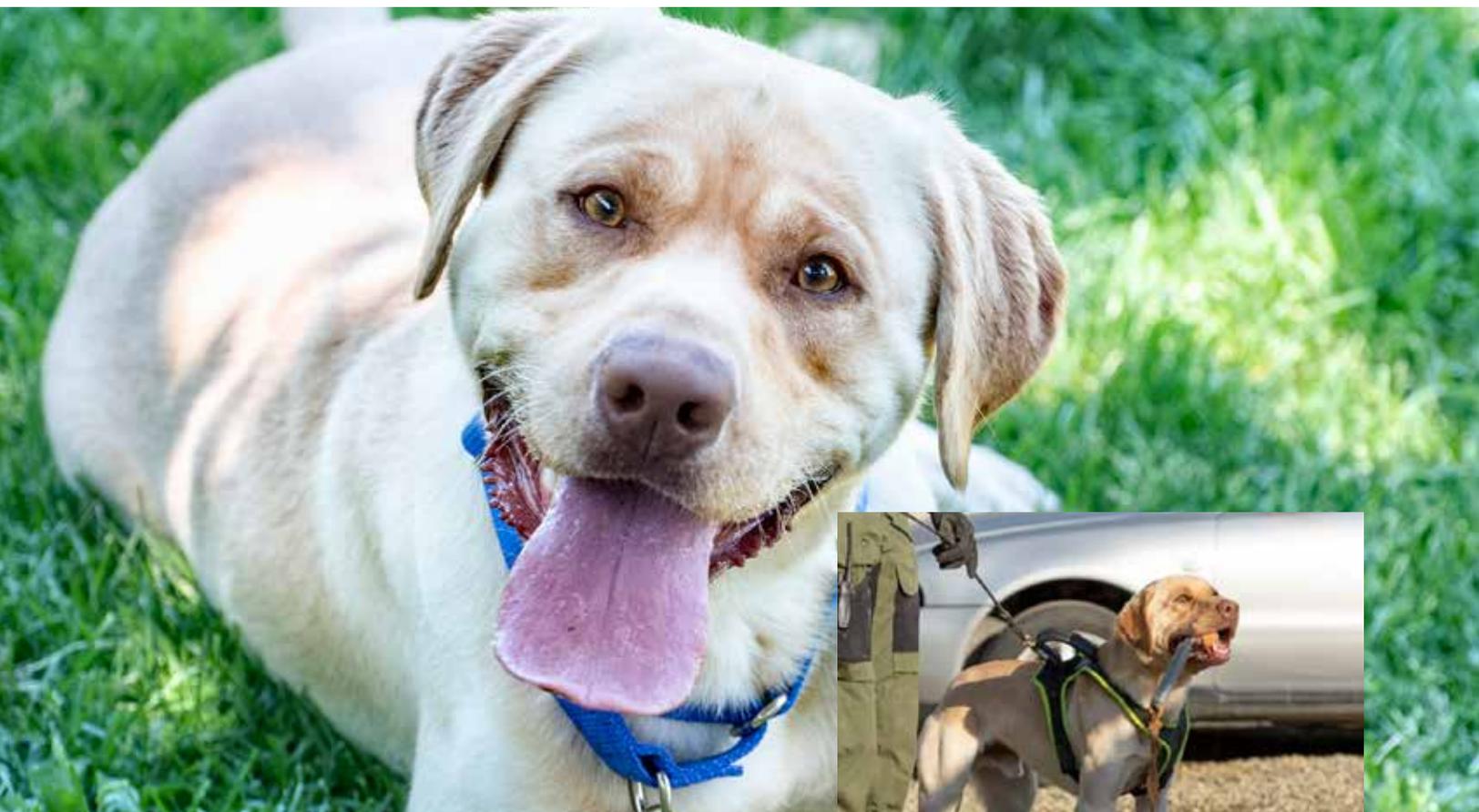


JELLY BEAN

San Francisco Animal Control was called to pick up a dog; the owner surrenderer said she couldn't drive her to the shelter. When the officer arrived, she was greeted by one of the saddest dogs she'd ever seen in her many years on the job. An underweight, almost hairless dog, with just a bit of yellow on her ears and a face that hinted at a once beautiful Labrador Retriever. The owner told the officer she had Jelly Bean for "I dunno, ten years" and that she "hated" her. She left Jelly in the backyard to quite literally rot. The officer scooped her up and brought her to the shelter where the staff immediately got to work. Soon after, she was transferred to Homeward Bound.

As it turns out, Jelly Bean is around five or six years old. She is sweet as the day is long and she was a mess! She had chronic arthritis, auto-immune skin issues and yeasty skin, ear infections, and hypothyroidism which were being treated medically, plus chronic entropion that will be repaired surgically. The list of ailments was long, but fixable - and Jelly Bean's heart is pure gold. It only took a few months of good medical care, quality food, and lots of love to complete her transformation. **One person's trash is another's treasure.**





TANK

Tank arrived in May 2022. At 18 months, he was yet another pandemic puppy purchased without a commitment to the training required to raise a puppy into a good canine citizen. Kept outside; he was starved for attention. When a new baby moved in, Tank got moved out. Filled with youthful energy and might, he was inexhaustible – always on the move, never at rest. He was adopted and returned for his inability to settle. In the kennel, he was stressed. This boy needed purpose well beyond a game of fetch or a hiking adventure. Repeatedly overlooked by adopters, Search Dog Foundation (SDF) partners saw Tank’s relentless drive as a clear positive.

In Santa Paula, California, SDF rescues and recruits dogs to partner with firefighters and other first responders to find people buried alive in the wreckage of disasters, nationally and internationally. Tank flew through his evaluation. Enrolled in their program, he progressed rapidly to become a team favorite. He is expected to complete his program in Spring 2023. He will go on to live with his handler 24/7, finding both the home and purpose that make him fulfilled. **Each dog’s needs and journey are unique.**





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 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 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 “Donate.” 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 Amazon Wish List and Chewy Wish List under “Donate.”

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 looking for someone with special needs 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. There is a role for everyone, no matter your particular skill. 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.



Planned Giving

Bequests played a significant role in our 2022 fundraising success, leaving a legacy of support and care for our mission. These gifts ensure that the joy our benefactors experienced from the love of a dog is shared with others - and that more lives will be saved.

Last year, we established the **Homeward Bound Forever Fund** in anticipation of the property purchase. These funds are over and above our day-to-day expenses - set aside for the purchase, maintenance, development, and care of the entire eight-acre property. Bequests formed the foundation of the Fund. We simply would not have been able to complete the purchase without them.

A planned gift is one of the most impactful ways to support Homeward Bound's work, ensuring rescue resources and quality care for future generations. Legacy planning is essential for everyone to ensure our wishes are fulfilled as intended. So is planning for our pets' future should the unexpected happen. We encourage all families to prepare 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 needed. Look for additional information and resources on our website.

2022 Financials

Condensed Statement of Activities | Year Ended December 31, 2022

REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT

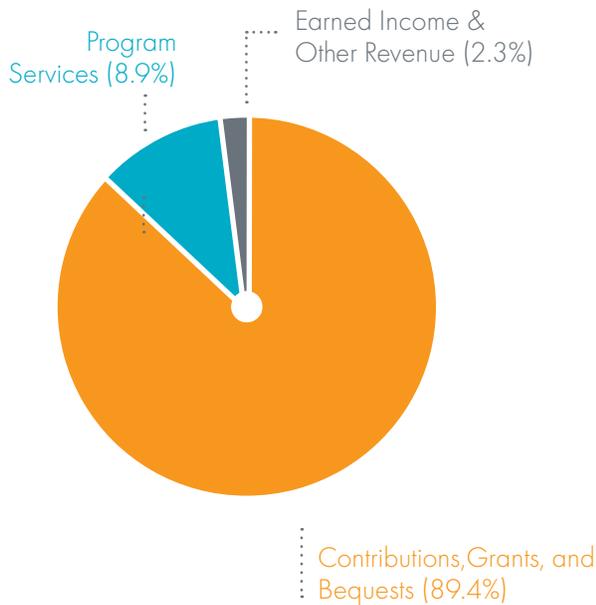
Contributions, Grants, and Bequests	\$ 1,224,718
Program Services	122,020
Earned Income and Other Revenue*	31,316
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>7,663</u>
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	\$ 1,370,391

EXPENSES

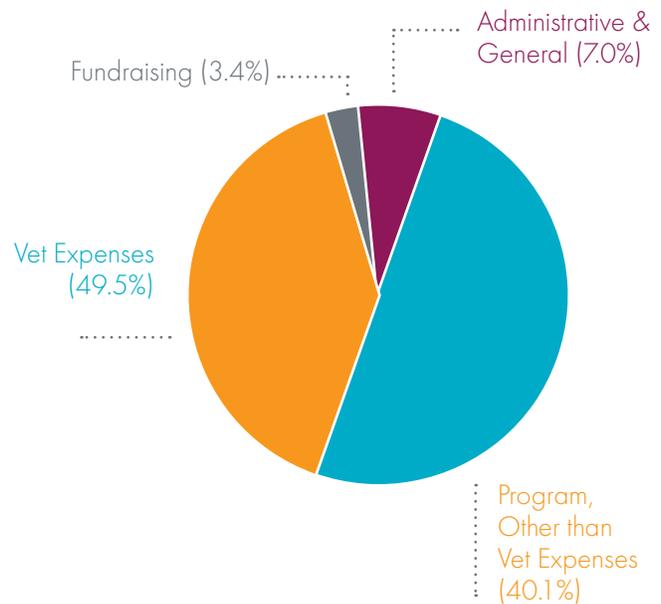
Program	\$ 761,611
Fundraising	\$28,584
Administrative and General	59,501
Total Expenses	<u>849,695</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>520,696</u>
Net Income	\$ 520,696

*Stock Sale/Interest Income/Sanctuary Sales

2022 Revenue



2022 Expenses





A Place of Safety and
Comfort on the Journey
to Home.



**HOMeward
BOUND** Golden
Retriever
Rescue

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www.homewardboundgoldens.org

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization | Tax ID #68-0442702