

NEW BEGINNINGS

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**HOMeward BOUND
GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE & SANCTUARY**



New Beginnings

In 2023, we saw an unprecedented number of puppies and young dogs in need. Seven litters were born and raised at the rescue – their pregnant moms had been discarded, regarded as excess inventory in a soft puppy market. **More than one third of our 573 total intakes were puppies or dogs under the age of one.** Sadly, in our throw away world, dogs are no longer considered members of the family by many. Impulse buys of purchased puppies too often lead to surrender – some as quickly as two weeks after purchase, others after several months.

To get very young dogs off to the right start in life requires significant effort. Litters born on site need ten weeks of care with volunteer teams working three shifts per day to feed, clean, and socialize the puppies providing the vital foundation for a well-adjusted dog. Surrendered puppies and very young dogs require foster homes as they cannot safely be housed with our adult dogs. Their worlds have been turned upside down at a young age. Frequently neglected and lacking vital human and canine interactions at critical phases in their young lives, our dedicated fosters work to catch these kids up, build trust, and set them up for lifetime success.

Puppy mill moms come from a wide range of circumstances – from outdoor-only livestock lives to living in cages producing litter after litter. Almost all have had very limited (and mostly unpleasant) human interactions. Depending on their previous circumstance and personal resilience, some bounce back quickly while others take months or years to build trust with humans. They arrive from throughout California and from distant states. Their new beginnings start with an open van door leading to a grassy yard and volunteers who move with patience, understanding and acceptance.

Because Homeward Bound accepts dogs regardless of age or health, we see more than our share of dogs who have suffered medical trauma – dogs that otherwise might not be saved. From shattered bones to degloved legs or severe burns, they find new hope and second chapters thanks to our network of expert veterinarians and volunteer nurturing.

Puppy mill dogs, dogs from shelters, dogs who have lost their homes through no fault of their own, very senior dogs who have become too burdensome – **they all find new beginnings, safety, security, and love at Homeward Bound.**



To Old and New Friends of Homeward Bound

The theme of this annual report is new beginnings – and we saw many in 2023.

In March, we closed on the purchase of the property. Capping a year of legal delays, we finally ensured our founders' legacy and wish that Homeward Bound would forever be here for dogs in need. The purchase was made possible by generous donations, bequests, and a reserve we had begun building several years ago when Jody and Mike Jones let it be known that Homeward Bound would have the first option to purchase the property for the mortgage balance. The purchase came with unexpected surprises and significant costs related to improvements necessary to remove years of accumulated "treasures" and to make the caretaker's residence habitable – not the least of which were major repairs to the septic system and drain lines.

At the same time, we began negotiating for a levee project that will take a portion of our frontage, and implemented a five-year capital plan. We cleared the way for new adoption and agility yards, a medical ward for recovering dogs, and remodeled office and vet clinic spaces to accommodate both. We also completed an upgraded puppy palace, which became a top priority. We never saw so many abandoned pregnant dogs or birthed so many litters: seven pregnant moms and 67 puppies were welcomed and birthed in 2023. Sixteen more were born in the first week of 2024. At one point, we had four simultaneous litters in our care!

The burden of caring for so many puppies was added to a 43% increase in intakes over the prior year. In all, 573 dogs entered our program. Sixty-four percent were Golden Retrievers, 17.5% were Golden mixes, and 37% of the dogs were puppies or dogs under the age of one. This rise in intakes is about more than the economy or the lack of vet resources. We are battling a throwaway society of impulse buying and planned obsolescence where animals are now considered disposable - just like the goods we buy and discard. With breeders facing a soft puppy market, and shelters and rescues overflowing, helpless animals are simply abandoned. And the trend shows no signs of letting up. With the support of our volunteers and unwavering contributors, we continue to offer new beginnings to dogs in desperate need.

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Audrey Farrington, Board Chair
Scott Wolcott, Treasurer
Dr. Marlene Clarke/Eva Kwong, Secretary
Jim Bakker, Board Member
Judy Kent, Board Member and President
Deb Haggerty, Board Member
Jaclyn Powell, Board Member
Anna Schweissinger, Board Member
Dr. Tatia Taylor, Board Member
Carolyn Unger, Board Member

We are battling a throwaway society where animals are considered disposable.

We also began work on two new programs:

The **Leadership Development Team** is a group of dedicated volunteers who have begun training on all aspects of nonprofit management and Homeward Bound operations. We want to build a strong bench of future leaders to ensure knowledge transfer, leadership succession, and Homeward Bound's future.

The **Compassionate Care Program**, which will begin in 2024, has two components to keep beloved dogs in the homes of their devoted families when financial burden is the only obstacle to an extraordinary need. The first provides veterinary care support for dogs with unexpected medical emergencies who might otherwise be surrendered. Examples include trauma resulting from a car accident, obstructions, orthopedic surgery, severe allergies, seizures, and more. The other provides hospice and end-of-life support. The financial cost can be more than some families can bear, leading them to seek surrender or a shelter's support in euthanizing the dog – a terrifying and horrific ending for a beloved family companion.

Other new beginnings were not by choice. We lost two beloved team members to cancer this year: Carla McCreary – the voice of the dogs for 20 years, and Marlene Clark – our operational glue. Both are irreplaceable, yet we must forge new ways to fill the void.

For the sake of the dogs, we carry on. Your support makes that possible. 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 Story

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary was founded in the year 2000 based on a promise made to our founders' beloved Golden, Chelsea. Since then, we saved more than 11,200 dog lives through comprehensive rescue and adoption programs.

Thanks to the vision and generosity of our founders, Jody and Mike Jones, we have carved out a peaceful haven from eight acres of former rice fields and countryside where dogs can run, play, train, and be loved on their journeys to forever homes. With the Jones' passing, the property was purchased in 2023 thanks to generous terms outlined in their Family Trust. Their vision, countless hours of volunteer labor, and the generous donations of friends and supporters have transformed the barren farmland into a welcoming sanctuary.

Today, Homeward Bound's facilities include a modern kennel and office, senior sanctuary, fully outfitted vet clinic, puppy palace, quarantine quarters, a training pavilion, and 14 large grassy yards where dogs can run, play, learn, and meet their potential adopters. A walking path surrounds the property. For dogs with mobility or weight issues, a donated swimming pool provides on-site water therapy and cooling relief for all on sizzling 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.

None of this would be possible without you – the hundreds of volunteers, supporters, adopters, fosters, and partners who truly are the heart of Homeward Bound.

What's Ahead

Work will begin in 2024 on a newly renovated office clearing the way for a desperately needed medical ward where recovering dogs can find peace and quiet.

Adjacent to the office will be adoption yards so people can meet available dogs out of view of dogs that are not yet vetted, ensuring that ready dogs go home faster.

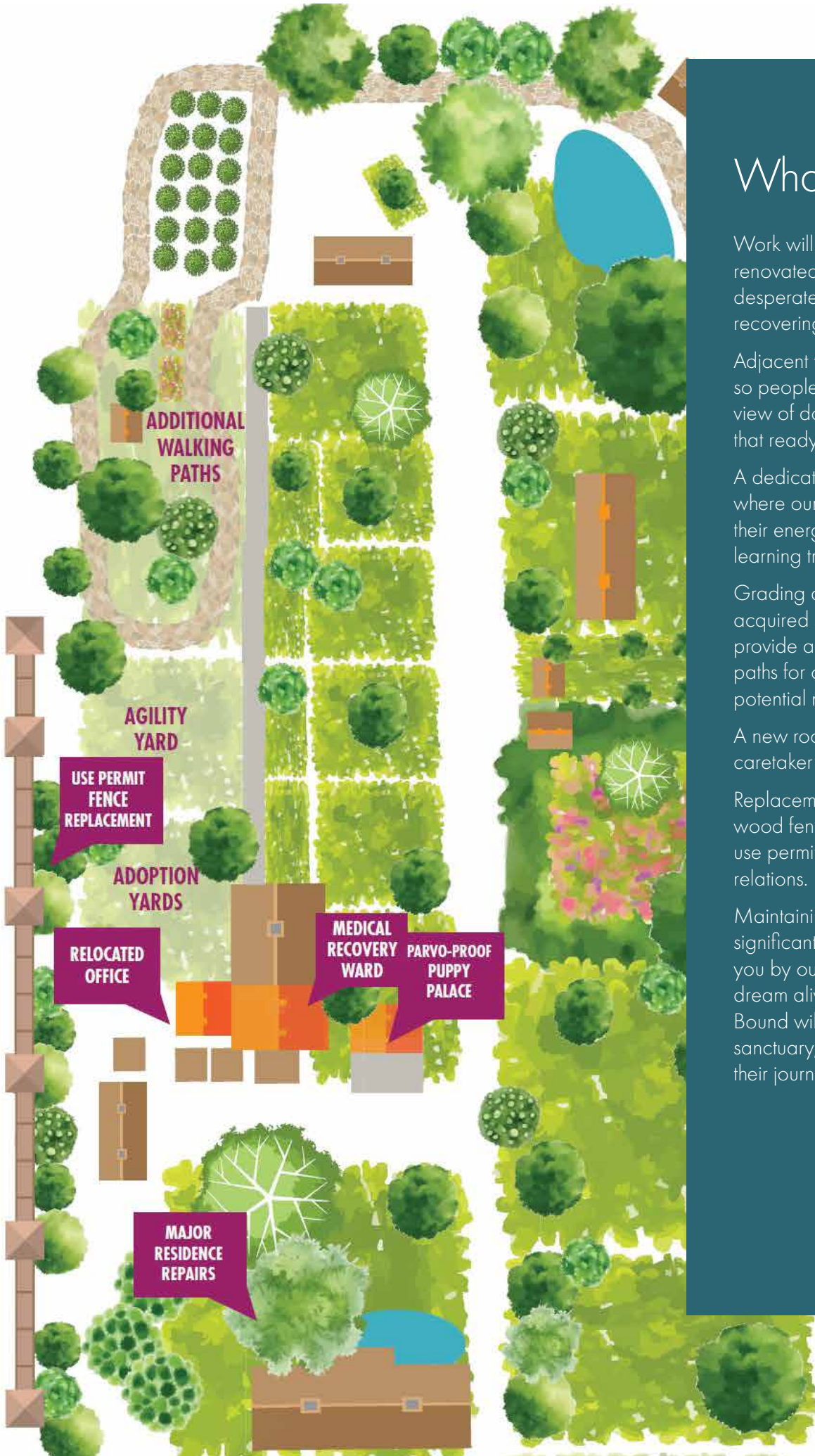
A dedicated agility yard will be installed where our young and restless can expend their energy and exercise their brains while learning training basics.

Grading and tree planting of the newly acquired south portion of the property will provide additional shade-lined walking paths for our adopters to spend time with potential new companions.

A new roof, gutters, and piers will protect the caretaker residence from top to bottom.

Replacement of a mandated decaying wood fence will ensure compliance with our use permit and continued good neighbor relations.

Maintaining a property this size is a significant and ongoing undertaking. With you by our side, we can keep our founders' dream alive and ensure that Homeward Bound will always be a place of safety, sanctuary, healing, and hope to dogs on their journeys home.





Veterinary Care

For more than 20 years, Dr. Justina Codde, DVM dedicated her one day off each week to see the dogs at Homeward Bound. Eventually, she set up her own practice close to the rescue. Her hours as a volunteer, veterinary discount, and her hospital proximity reduced our hard costs and time while her experience gained treating more than 10,000 Golden Retrievers felt irreplaceable. When Dr. Codde announced the sale of her practice and well-earned retirement effective in 2023, we braced for impact.

Sometimes, the stars align. Dr. Mary LoCicero, DVM, returned to our ranks after many years working out-of-state. Dr. Codde supported the transition, and weekly vet visits continued seamlessly. Stitching together a network of vet resources to replace Dr. Codde's practice took more time, but we have done it. While our vet costs increased 20.6% in 2023, thanks to these invaluable resources, the rise did not fully mirror the 43% increase in dogs. In fact, our per-dog cost actually declined somewhat.

Dr. LoCicero has a passion for teaching. She readily shares her knowledge with our volunteers and a revolving group of young veterinarians and vet techs from her day job, introducing the next generation to rescue.

Last year, our dogs benefitted from the skill and expertise of the following veterinarians. We are eternally grateful for their dedication to transforming and saving lives.

Dr. Mary LoCicero, DVM
VCA Veterinary Referral Center

Sylvan Corners Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Katrina Castaneda, Veterinary Specialist DVM, DACVS-SA, VCA Veterinary Referral Center

Gold Country Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Nick A. Faber, DVM, DACVO
Animal Vision Center

UC Davis Veterinary Hospital

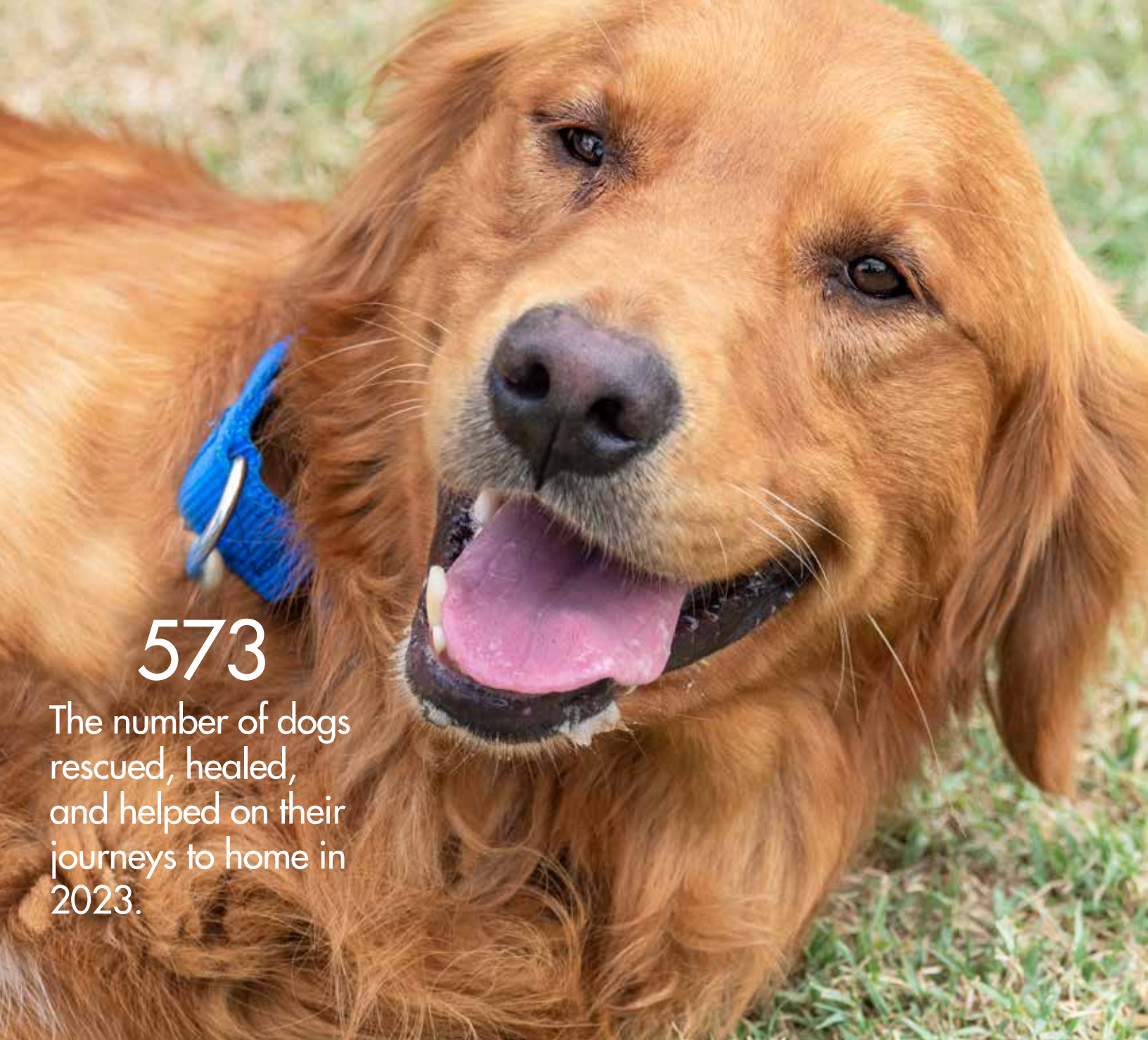


92%

of all funds support direct program costs

49%

of all expenses are veterinary costs despite donated time and deeply discounted procedures.



573

The number of dogs rescued, healed, and helped on their journeys to home in 2023.



Welcome Here.



DOGS ARE NOT DISPOSABLE



How We Help

It takes many hands, hearts, and talents to meet the needs of an ever-increasing number of dogs in our care. Here are a few of the ways we help.

Transport: The Golden Taxi

Homeward Bound's Golden Taxi team travels more than 50,000 miles each year to bring dogs to safety, including trips in and out of state.

Shelter

Our eight-acre facility provides immediate support to dogs in need. In 2023, we welcomed 573 dogs into our program while supporting a revolving list of 60-80 dogs in permanent foster care or sanctuary.

Short-Term Foster

Our foster program has grown significantly, greatly expanding our capacity. Our list of 200+ fosters include those who provide day and weekend outings to relieve kennel stress, weeks-long home-based care, and our permanent fosters.

Permanent Foster

Through this program, Homeward Bound ensures the medical and special dietary needs of dogs with lifelong needs overcoming obstacles to their adoption while their fosters provide loving homes.

Golden Touch Program

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

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.

Medical

Dr. Mary LoCicero leads our medical team providing weekly on-site exams and referrals to specialists.

In 2023, Veterinary expenses exceeded \$507,000, a 20.6% increase over the prior year due to the large increase in dog intakes.

Because we welcome dogs regardless of age or health, our medical costs are our single largest expense representing 49% of all costs in 2023. Every dog receives primary medical care, including blood work, urinalysis, vaccinations, ultrasounds for arriving unspayed females, dentals when needed, and spay and neuter. Others require much more, including orthopedic, neurological, hearing, vision, diabetic, and cancer challenges.

Education and Outreach

Armed with knowledge, people can make and influence decisions that reduce the number of abandoned animals.

For individuals pursuing purchased puppies, we offer education for selecting a responsible breeder. By understanding and sharing this information with others, people can still contribute to our mission, even if they choose purchase over adoption.

Given the growing trend of surrendered young dogs, we work to help potential adopters make informed choices about the right dog fit and the time required to help them become good canine citizens. On-site classes, free online training resources, and trainer referrals are available to adopters and the public.

Our education commitment extends to our own team. We are continually learning about new directions and approaches to rescue and rehabilitation.

Finally, we continually strengthen our network of connected rescue resources throughout the state and the country. We work in close partnership with rescuers striving to get dogs out of puppy mills and those abroad seeking to save dogs destined for the dog meat markets. These networks make all the difference when lives are on the line.



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 must be returned to Homeward Bound so we can ensure its safety, health, and happiness.



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. **Their labor of love allows us to dedicate 92% of all funds raised to the direct support of the dogs.** While our model has its 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 and the driving force behind each new beginning for dogs in need. Our motto is: "It's All About the Dogs." Our ability to work together as one is daily proof.

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



KELLEN



At two years of age, skinny Kellen was found wandering the streets in Central California. That was particularly difficult because Kellen has no toes on three legs, and barely a pad on the fourth where infection had set in on an open wound. The infection was treated but would likely reoccur with constant pressure put on Kellen's deformed feet.

We found new hope for Kellen in Dr. Katrina Castaneda, DVM, DACVS-SA – a board-certified veterinary surgeon who specializes in orthopedics and has a working relationship with PALS (Pet Artificial Limbs and Support) based in Houston, TX. Dr. Castaneda took expert measurements to fit Kellen with prosthetics that have transformed his health and life with his new family.



MARLEY

Marley was surrendered at 12 years of age in mid-2022. He was the victim of divorce and homelessness. This once well-loved boy found himself confined to an outdoor kennel for five years before receiving a three-day eviction notice. He was a hot mess of neglect: morbidly obese due to lack of exercise. Weighing in at 114 lbs., he had a torn ACL, and poor skin condition due to lack of baths. He was arthritic and sporting growths, cysts, and an eye infection.

Our devoted foster family took him home and completely transformed this sweet boy, giving him the best second chapter a dog could wish for. When his challenged mobility became too much, Marley let them know it was time for him to go and run free again. He left in 2023 knowing love – maybe for the first time in his life.





SUISUN 15

California's very rural areas host hundreds of large volume breeders and puppy mills. When a man breeding Golden Retrievers and Doodles was threatened with eviction, he called for help. The dogs were housed in an open barn and a broken down mobile trailer without heat or air conditioning. Their yards were dirt and foxtails. Breeding wasn't planned; it just happened. Expecting to bring back six dogs, we returned, instead with 15. Completely unsocialized to anyone but their single human, they had thankfully not been mistreated and quickly came around. One was (Dani - below) pregnant, and one required extensive medical care. These are exactly the kinds of extraordinary rescues that our eight-acre facility is designed to support.



JOHNNIE

Johnnie was the beloved dog of our co-founder, Mike Jones. He had been dumped as a tiny puppy believed born with swimmer syndrome. As it turned out, he was actually born without knees. Mike loved that little pup. He swam and exercised Johnnie to build up his muscle strength until he was able to run and play like a dog should. He loved nothing more than to chase the ball in the park with his wonky gait but full heart. When Jody and Mike passed, life came full circle. The woman who sold the property to the Jones' adopted Johnnie giving him a loving home and a sweet canine brother. Sadly, Johnnie developed congestive heart failure at the very young age of five. Not long after his diagnosis, he let his adoptive mom know it was time. "He is with Mike and Jody now - thank you for letting me have him, if only for one year."



TINY ATHENA

In November, we were called by another overwhelmed breeder who wanted to surrender a litter of eight puppies. When we arrived, we were horrified to find that all but one were deceased. Along with the one remaining litter puppy was tiny Athena, a three-week old girl whose mom had been given away or sold – leaving the poor helpless girl to starve. We rushed her straight to UCD Veterinary Center, where she battled for her life in ICU for three days. Sadly, Athena, named for the Goddess of War, was unable to win her battle. Losses like these are what propel our education efforts. Pet purchasers committed to responsible breeding could end these horrors today.





MAX II

Upon arrival, this hairless, skin-infected one-year-old boy looked like a very old man. Having exhausted their resources through repeated vet trips, the family surrendered him. Treating his skin infections was the first order of business. The second was observation.

It didn't take long to notice that Max's itching was greatly exaggerated each time he set foot on grass. We continued his regiment of medicated baths and allergy medication, while limiting his access to our yard with artificial turf and areas with hardscape. His condition began changing immediately and our sad, lifeless boy turned back into a youngster. Max II has been adopted and is reliving the puppyhood he missed.

Sometimes, you just need to view things through a different lens to solve a stubborn problem. We asked for our donor's support to install that yard with artificial turf for adoption days with pouring rain and mud. It turned out to be a lifesaver for a dog named Max.



Two beloved humans joined our list of remembered friends.



Carla McCreary

For more than 20 years, Carla McCreary was part of the fabric of Homeward Bound. Fearless, she would go anywhere and to any length to help an animal in need. Respected and trusted by animal advocates in shelters and law enforcement, she ferried dogs from horrible circumstances to us as part of our witness protection program. She wanted to personally provide their freedom rides while reassuring them about better days ahead. She would take them to the Park where they could begin to shed their past and start a new journey.

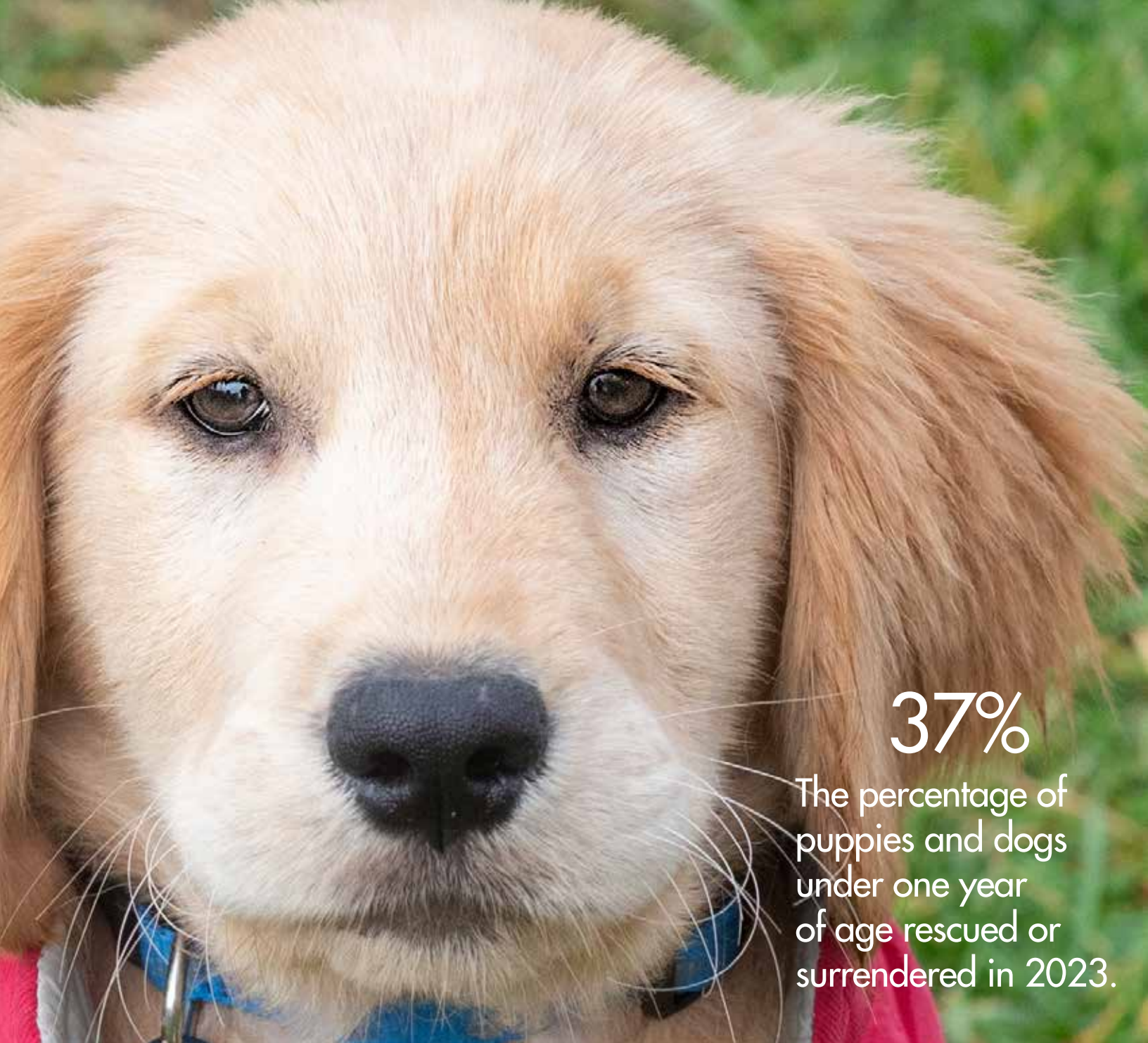
Carla would listen to their stories before telling them to us through their website bios. She was their voice, speaking as them without sugarcoating because she knew that there was a match for everyone, but the best path to "forever" was through honesty. Her empathy always resonated, and she helped others see into the dogs' souls, however damaged. Carla battled cancer twice. Throughout, she kept writing. As a rescuer, friend, and devoted family member, her circle was wide. She gave generously and unselfishly of herself to all – two-legged and four. The void that she leaves is wider still.



Marlene Clarke

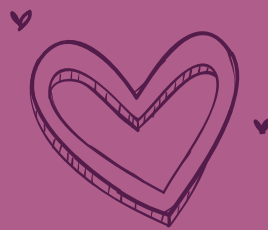
Marlene Clarke began volunteering at Homeward Bound in 2000 when she and her twin sister, Arlene, fostered Casey and almost immediately became "foster failures." Five years later, they adopted Ukiah, a shy three-year-old who had been at Homeward Bound for a year, having been returned more than once. For Marlene, Ukiah epitomized the joys and challenges that come with rescue. Slow to trust and feel comfortable in the world, he finally came into his own with time and care and taught everyone who knew him that bravery comes in many forms. In the years that followed, Ukiah and his many other Homeward Bound adoptees helped Marlene foster countless dogs; some shy, some exuberant, and all loved.

At Homeward Bound, Marlene was our glue. She began with feeding and walking, and spread her skills to office work, donor outreach, welcoming new arrivals in greatest need – and throughout – caring for puppy litters. Marlene joined the Homeward Bound board in 2017. She wrote in her bio: "I feel lucky to have found a group of people and a place where everyone believes that every dog deserves a life filled with dignity and love." For such a tiny woman, she left enormous shoes to fill. She is remembered and missed in many ways and capacities.



37%

The percentage of puppies and dogs under one year of age rescued or surrendered in 2023.



Safe Here.



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 foster 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 2023 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.

The **Homeward Bound Forever Fund** was created in anticipation of the 2023 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 in advance with family members and with us, we can ease the transition for your beloved four-legged companion, if needed. Look for additional information and resources on our website.

2023 Financials

Condensed Statement of Activities | Year Ended December 31, 2023

REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT

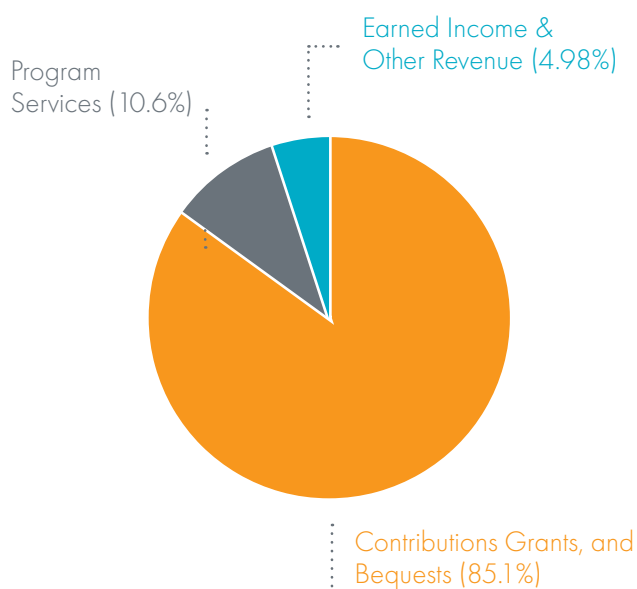
Contributions, Grants, and Bequests	\$ 1,346,363
Program Services	168,044
Earned Income and Other Revenue*	78,764
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>(11,113)</u>
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	\$1,582,059

EXPENSES

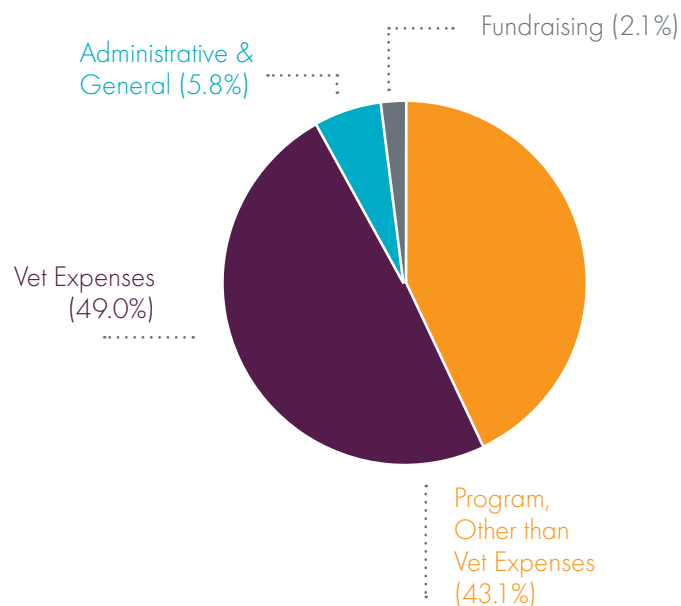
Program	\$ 873,996
Fundraising	17,632
Administrative and General	55,623
Total Expenses	<u>947,251</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>634,808</u>
Net Income	\$ 634,808

*Dividends/Interest Income/Sanctuary Sales

2023 Revenue



2023 Expenses





A place of safety and
comfort for dogs on their
journeys home.



**HOMeward
BOUND** Golden
Retriever
Rescue

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www.homewardboundgoldens.org

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