

**HOMEWARD BOUND
GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE & SANCTUARY**



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
RESCUED LOVE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT





25 Years of Rescued Love



Twenty-five years ago, our founders moved to a vacant piece of country land surrounded by rice fields. Most people would have seen only a home in need of repair, a barn with a dirt floor, and eight acres of weed-filled fields. What Jody and Mike Jones saw was their dream fulfilled: A place of safety and sanctuary for Golden Retrievers in need. They established Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary as a nonprofit organization, and, with a handful of volunteers, set about carving out a haven for dogs in need of health, happiness, and forever homes with two mottos: "It's All About the Dogs" and "Yes, We Can."

Today, the property is transformed. Our team has grown to over 250 strong. Our rescue effort extends statewide and beyond. And more than 12,000 lives have been saved.

Many rescues do not survive the passing of their founders. Jody and Mike departed for the Bridge in 2020 and 2022, respectively. They left a trust that allowed us to purchase the property and a team capable not only of sustaining the dream but building on it.

In 2025, we celebrated their vision and 25 years of rescued love thanks to the continued support of our volunteers, adopters, friends, and supporters.



408

The number of dogs rescued, healed, and helped on their journeys to home in 2025.



Welcome Here.



2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Audrey Farrington, Board Chair

Scott Wolcott, Treasurer

Eva Kwong, Secretary

Darius Baker, Board Member

Judy Kent, Board Member and

HBGRR President

Deb Haggerty, Board Member

Jaclyn Powell, Board Member

Anna Schweissinger, Board Member

Dr. Tatia Taylor, Board Member

Carolyn Unger, Board Member

Joseph Vazquez, Associate Board Member



To Old and New Friends of Homeward Bound

The year 2025 marked our 25th anniversary and my 23rd with the organization. I came to Homeward Bound through volunteering as a member of the Golden Taxi team. One role led to another, and here I am, completing my fifth year as president. I stepped into the role in 2020 with the passing of our founder and my friend, Jody Jones. This year capped a whirlwind of activity inspired by the confluence of events and people that led to significant improvements in our facility and growth in our programs. The refurbishment of Dog Central – our central hub for feeding, grooming, and laundry care for the dogs – completed our transformation of what began as a dirt-floor barn. Today, it houses our medical ward, vet clinic, Dog Central, and, in the corner, my little desk from which I have overseen all human, canine, and operational aspects of the organization.

We are finally seeing a leveling of intakes after the pandemic, but we continue to provide a lifeline to dogs escaping the horrifying meat market operations in China and South Korea. We are witnessing a growing trend of dogs being surrendered by breeders, signaling a softening of the puppy market due to economic and, we hope, educational pressures. While grateful for leveling in intake numbers, we are seeing more dogs with long-neglected and extraordinary medical needs – another indication of the rising cost of vet care and economic uncertainty.

Our watchful eye is on the mushrooming development that will surround us: 17,000 residences will replace our beloved rice fields and the birds that migrated to them, forever changing our quiet country landscape.

Change brings challenges and opportunities. When I assumed this role, I was handed Jody's phone and virtually no playbook. Mindful of the personal and organizational challenges that presented, succession planning and leadership building became a priority to ensure our future.

Bringing health, hope, and homes to dogs in need.

Resist as we may, time marches on. Rescue takes an emotional and physical toll. Thus, late in the year, the board and I asked Audrey Farrington, our longtime marketing and fund development volunteer and board chair, to take over operations as president, effective January 2026.

I will continue to oversee medical and intake. It keeps me immersed in the two areas I have passion and deep history in, while providing continuity to the organization. This division of functions also reduces stress on any single individual. It helps ensure longevity by providing a more manageable structure for future leadership.

Serving in this role has been one of the most challenging and rewarding periods of my life. And I could not have done it without your support. Thank you for walking by my side as we continue our mission, bringing health, hope, and homes to dogs in need.

Gratefully,



Judy Kent, President

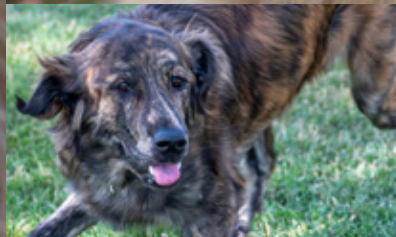


Our Mission

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.



RESCUED IS OUR FAVORITE BREED





Our Story

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary was founded in 2000 based on a promise made to our founders' beloved Golden, Chelsea. Since then, more than 12,000 dog lives have been saved and countless human lives transformed.

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. 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 and medical recovery ward, 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 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.

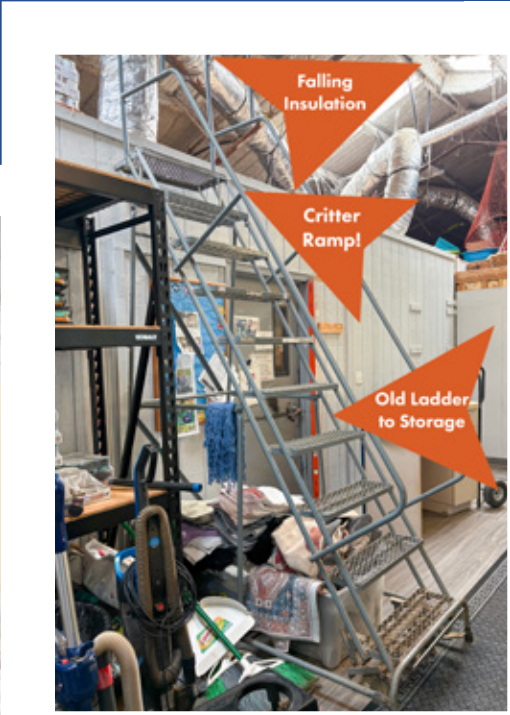
None of this would be possible without you – the hundreds of volunteers, supporters, adopters, fosters, and partners who truly are the heart of Homeward Bound.

2025 Major Project

Dog Central is where we prepare the dogs' meals, do endless loads of their laundry, and bathe and groom the dogs to look and feel their best. In 2025, we undertook a complete renovation of the area, which was extremely cramped, dusty from falling ceiling insulation in the open attic, and without heating or air conditioning.

The timing was dictated by a brief weather window as all equipment for laundry, dishwashing, and sanitizing had to be moved outside once the rains ended, and we raced to finish before soaring temperatures caused our equipment (and volunteers!) to melt.

Today it is the clean, well-organized, temperature-controlled hub that the dogs and volunteers deserve. It is outfitted with a tankless hot water heater for always-warm dog baths, floor drains, stainless steel countertops for sanitary food preparation, tons of space to safely store food, a dropped ceiling to keep old foam insulation out and heated and cooled air in, and a completely outfitted grooming station with raised and floor bath options.



BEFORE AND AFTER





What's Ahead

We are seeing a continuing trend of young dogs surrendered and of breeder surrenders. Economic factors play a role, as does a lack of understanding of and commitment to lifetime dog ownership.

Many of the dogs entering our program have one thing in common: we are getting them too late. Their medical needs have been overlooked resulting in extraordinary care needs and rapidly rising veterinary expenses

The region has grown tremendously in the past few years. As new people arrive, we are focused on education and awareness-building efforts. This year, we conducted a sweeping vet outreach campaign. Next year, we will continue our outreach efforts to ensure newcomers know about us, our resources, and supports.

Our Compassionate Care program keeps dogs in their homes by providing medical and hospice support. A sad reality for too many people is the exorbitantly high cost of end-of-life care. Too often, the only option is to surrender their dog to a shelter for euthanasia. This is heartbreaking for the dog and its person. In 2025, we set aside a private section of our facility to help the program's veterinary partner extend low-cost, end-of-life support as a community service.

Big dogs are tough on even the hardest of our well-built facilities. Each year, we fundraise for a special project to stay one step ahead of their needs. In the coming year, we will ask for support for a new kennel floor. This is a massive undertaking that can only be accomplished just before spring turns to summer, and by getting the majority of dogs to foster.

Visitors to the rescue cannot help but notice the massive development that is going up around us. 17,000 residences are planned within the next 6-10 years. At the same time, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) will undertake a widening of the levee road we use to access the property. To do so, they have taken a portion of our front property and park. We will do our best to mitigate both activities while focusing on building good neighbor relationships.

Change is constant. With the planned 2026 leadership restructuring, our focus will be on supporting our new president while continuing to strengthen our team leads – always with an eye toward succession and the future.



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 stay in its adoptive home, it must be returned to Homeward Bound so we can ensure its safety, health, and happiness.

How We Help

It takes many hands, hearts, and talents to meet the needs of hundreds 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 2025, we welcomed 408 dogs, many with significant medical needs, who rehabbed in our medical ward. We also support a revolving list of 50 dogs in permanent foster care or sanctuary.

Foster

Our foster program has grown significantly, greatly expanding our capacity. Fosters include those who provide day and weekend outings to relieve kennel stress, weeks-long home-based care, and permanent fosters. Through the Permanent Foster program, Homeward Bound ensures the lifelong medical and special dietary requirements of dogs with extraordinary needs - overcoming obstacles to their ability to be home.

Compassionate Care Program

This program provides support for extraordinary medical, hospice, and end-of-life care so beloved and well-cared-for dogs can remain in their 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 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. Because we welcome dogs regardless of age or health, our medical costs are our single largest expense, totaling \$544,007 in 2025, representing 46% of all costs. Every dog receives primary medical care, including blood work, vaccinations, ultrasounds for arriving unspayed females, dentals and urinalysis when needed, and spaying and neutering. Others require much more, including orthopedic, neurological, heart, 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 seeking purchased puppies, we offer education on selecting responsible breeders. By understanding and sharing this information with others, people can still contribute to our mission, even if they choose to purchase rather than adopt.

Given the growing trend of young dogs being surrendered, 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. Internally, we are constantly learning about new directions and approaches to rescue and rehabilitation, sharing information in weekly volunteer communications, team Zoom calls, and on-site meetings.

Finally, we continually strengthen our network of connected rescue resources throughout the state and the country. We work in close partnership with overwhelmed shelters, 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.



Veterinary Care

Dr. Mary LoCicero, DVM, leads our veterinary efforts, dedicating her day off each week to see the dogs on site. She is also an emergency vet at the area’s premiere VCA Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center, resulting in extraordinary access at a time when vet care is in great demand. Dr. LoCicero has a passion for teaching. She readily shares her knowledge with our volunteers and a rotating group of young veterinarians and vet techs from her day job, introducing the next generation to rescue. This includes Dr. Linzey Leinart, DVM from the VCA Bradshaw Animal Hospital who sees the dogs on site monthly.

A network of vet resources support our non-emergency needs including hundreds of spay and neuter and other operations each year. 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.

91%

of all funds support direct program costs

46%

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

Dr. Mary LoCicero, DVM
VCA Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center

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

Dr. Maureen Oldach, DVM, DACVIM/
Cardiology, VCA Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center

Dr. Kelly O’Connell, DVM, DACVIM/
Neurology, VCA Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center

Dr. Timothy Bowers, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM)/
Veterinary Specialist Internal Medicine, VCA
Sacramento Referral Center

Dr. Jay Griffiths and the Veterinarians at Gold
Country Veterinary Hospital

Sylvan Corners Veterinary Hospital

UC Davis Veterinary Hospital



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 leaders, 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 91% 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+
volunteer hours dedicated to rescuing, healing, fostering, and helping dogs on their journeys home

52 dogs
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. Some battles are won. Some are lost. We always try.



BETSY



Out of the corner of her eye, a woman saw a man walking down the middle of the street holding a dog. Moments later, the man was gone; the dog stood motionless in the street. The dog was blind. The good Samaritan brought Betsy to us. We didn't know she had seizures, but they showed up quickly. How frightening the world must have been for her. Unable to see, her body and brain wracked with quaking. Medication was not enough. On a good day, Betsy enjoyed the safety of our company, immersed in the scents and sounds of the garden. She ran zoomies in the wide-open park. On a good day, she could almost see what forever looked like. But it was not to be. Betsy's forever is at the Bridge. Perhaps someday she will reunite with all those hearts she stole when the goodbye came. We always try.



THE ST. PATTY'S DAY RESCUE



In early March, Homeward Bound's rescue partner, Golden Retriever Rescue Southern Nevada (GRRSN), answered a shocking call. Nine ten-month-old Golden Retrievers had been living in a weekly motel in Las Vegas, squeezed into a tiny second-floor room with their dog parents, their owner, and her son. Having traveled from Tennessee by cramped car, the conditions these dogs were kept in were nothing short of devastating. The nine "puppies" were crammed into two crates, each lined with kitty litter to absorb their waste. The stench was unbearable. They were emaciated—existing on human food scraps because their owner had run out of funds. Facing eviction, they called GRRSN. Malnourished, weak, and tiny for their age, the dogs had to be carried down from the second floor one by one.

Three contracted Parvo. After a two-week quarantine at a local vet hospital – and a bill totaling \$20,000 - our vans were on the road as St. Patrick's Day approached. The poor dogs probably thought they were returning to their crated nightmare once loaded. They had no idea that their fortunes were about to be reversed, with new lives awaiting them. This new beginning quickly came into view once they were lifted from the van and into our large grassy yards and waiting arms. These pups were starved for food and good care, but not for human socialization. Resilient, they soaked up attention and affection. Nourished, cared for, and restored to health, all found loving homes.



BECKHAM

Beckham was surrendered at age 11. He had lived with two other dogs and clearly took much abuse from them. Fresh bite marks on his face and neck masked sustained injuries endured over months evidenced by layers of scar tissue and fractures to his skull, face, jaw, and back of his neck. How this was allowed to go on so long without medical care or intervention, we will never understand. We rushed him to the vet for surgery. He stayed with us for his initial recovery until he was ready to go home for continued healing. His wounds were physical and emotional, but in his new mom's loving care, Beckham has thrived. Beckham is living proof of a dog's capacity for forgiveness.



SIMON (DASH)

Simon was one of three puppies surrendered by a breeder at the too-young age of five weeks. Weighing only five pounds, he had a deformed leg with the front paw turned 180-degrees backwards from the wrist. He used the leg as a crutch, creating a wound that would not heal and risking infection. The orthopedic surgeon recommended amputation to avoid further complications. At seven weeks of age, Simon became a tripod. Shortly after, he was adopted by a big-hearted woman who teaches special educators about abilities instead of disabilities. Her hope is that Simon - now Dash - can help children with their own differences not feel so alone. In the meantime, he is living up to his name as an athlete that lets nothing get in his way!



SHIRLEY (KINSEY)

Laverne and her partner Shirley, we found running stray in the Central Valley. When they came to us, both were in very rough shape and infected with Valley Fever. While Valley Fever is often associated with Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico, California's arid Central Valley provides the perfect climate. Shirley underwent a CT scan for her swollen eye. Instead of spores being inhaled into her lungs, they may have entered through an open wound near her eye. While treatable, Valley Fever can relapse in up to 50% of the cases. Which made Shirley a prime candidate for dognapping by our president who stole her away and renamed her Kinsey. She brought sunshine and amusement to a home typically filled with senior dogs. Sadly, the disease did recur, aggressively entering her bones and forcing a goodbye that came much too soon.



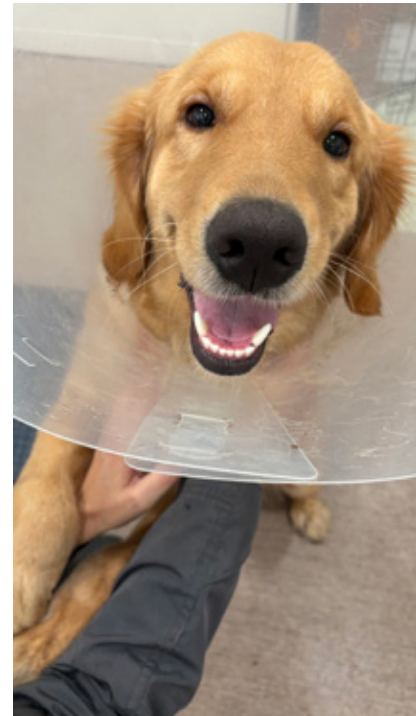
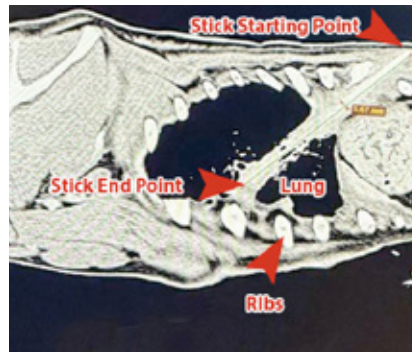


FINLEY



At nine months of age, Finley was abandoned in a shopping center parking lot. He wasn't going to travel far because he could barely walk. Finley had lateral luxating patellas in both back legs. This congenital defect caused the kneecaps to 'pop out' of their normal positions. Typically, he used his front legs while his back legs would scoot behind him. Occasionally, he could stand briefly as things "snapped back" into position. The condition dramatically diminished his mobility and, over time, would result in severe arthritis and joint pain.

We'll never know why someone chose to wait so long to simply abandon this amazing, joyful boy who waited so patiently for a brighter future. It took three surgeries, months of rehab and physical therapy, and a full year of recovery, but Finley will have a full and rich life with full mobility in his forever home.



AMAZING GRACE



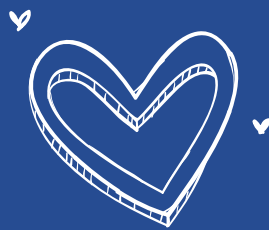
One-year-old beauty, Amazing Grace, arrived with a raging infection of unknown origin. Tests for fungal infection were conducted, x-rays were taken, and an ultrasound was performed. It wasn't until we were finally able to get her in for a CT scan that the source of the infection became abundantly clear. Grace had a 12-inch corndog stick, which she had swallowed whole, lodged between her ribs, penetrating her left lung lobe, and barely missing her heart.

The stick had caused her lung to collapse. It resulted in fibrosis, inflammation of the lung tissue, and adhesions to the thoracic wall, mediastinum (the space that holds the heart), diaphragm, and the fluid sac around her heart. It took four hours and multiple surgical hands to remove the stick and repair the damage. A chest tube and drain were inserted, oxygen provided, and a blood transfusion administered. Grace made a full recovery and found her forever home, where she quickly made up for lost time by being a bit of a hellraiser! You go, girl!



22% to
44%

From 2022 to 2025,
the percentage of
dogs surrendered
under one year
of age has grown
dramatically. **Dogs
are not disposable.**



New Chapters Begin 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. Donors can provide gifts in honor or memory of a special someone. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, sign-up for our newsletters, check our website for upcoming events – or just click “Donate” at any time. Gifts are always welcome, needed, 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 and Chewy Wish Lists.

FOSTER

If you have room in your heart and home for a dog in need of safety and love, we have opportunities for short and long-term foster opportunities. 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 and every skill. Complete a volunteer 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 ability to purchase the property after our owners passed, and our ongoing care of the dogs as we began to absorb the increased costs that came with it. 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.

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. It should include a plan for our pets' future should the unexpected happen. We encourage all families to prepare for their fur-family members utilizing the resources on our website; 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.

2025 Financials

Condensed Statement of Activities | Year Ended December 31, 2025

REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT

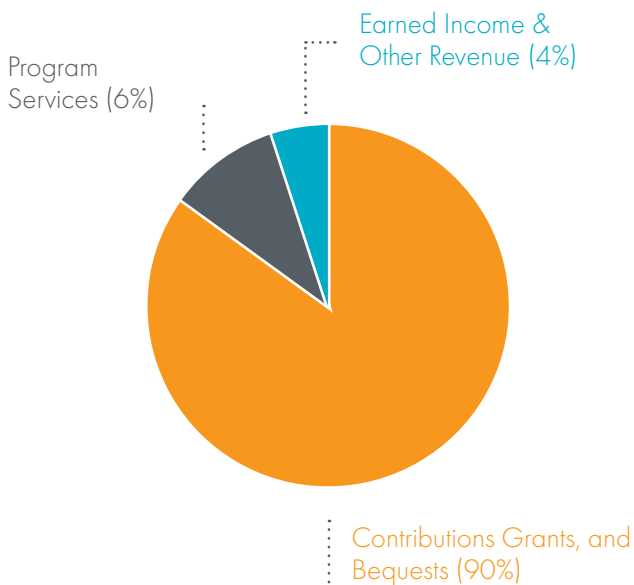
Contributions, Grants, and Bequests	\$ 1,714,049
Program Services	123,023
Earned Income and Other Revenue*	80,498
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>(9,548)</u>
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	\$1,908,022

EXPENSES

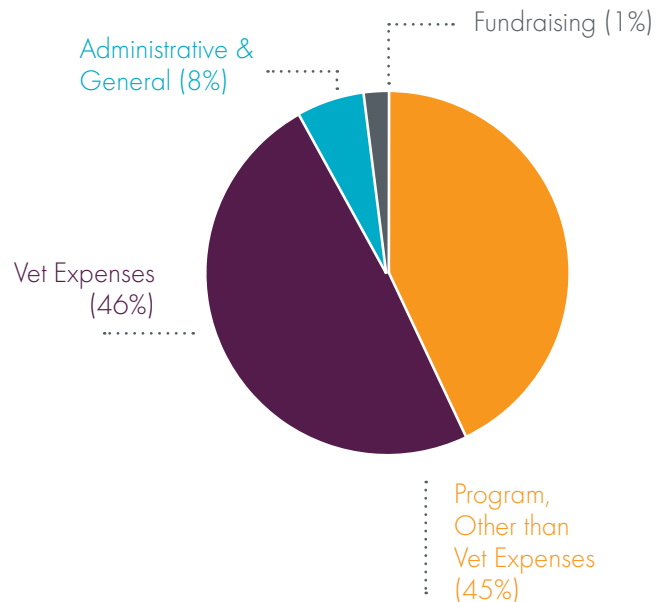
Program	\$ 1,098,290
Fundraising	8,966
Administrative and General	91,326
Total Expenses	<u>1,198,582</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>709,440</u>
Net Income	\$ 709,440

*Dividends/Interest Income/Sanctuary Sales

2025 Revenue



2025 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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