

THE heart



AUGUST 2026 / VOL 27, ISSUE 3

HOMeward BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

What's Inside

We shared Kellen's medical journey in our 2024 Double the Gold campaign. Since then, the life of this boy born with a missing paw and digits has taken a remarkable turn. Our cover story reveals Kellen's new purpose: helping others walk with hope.

We are constantly evolving and adapting as an organization. Recently, we have been challenged once again. The President's Letter on page 2 shares some big news and the beginning of a new chapter.

Gabby and River came to us damaged and in true need of rescue. Both are examples of dogs' incredible resilience, forgiveness, potential for transformation, and their ability to put faith in us. Read about their journeys on pages 6 and 8.

And on the horizon...one of our most complex and costly projects is in the planning and fundraising phase. It has been a decade since we installed the kennels and flooring in our Big House for the dogs. Our big dogs and the cleaning products we use to ensure their health have taken a toll on both. It's time to renovate! Read about this undertaking on page 4 and please help support it if you can! 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!



Kellen: A Dog Who Helps Others Walk with Hope

By: Dave Bauer

Three years ago, a dog named Kellen was rescued by Homeward Bound after being found wandering the streets of Fresno as a stray. No one knew where he had come from or what hardships he had endured. What they did know was that his life was about to change forever.

From the moment he arrived at Homeward Bound, it was clear that Kellen possessed something extraordinary. Despite the physical challenges he had faced since birth, he greeted everyone with a calm, gentle, and loving spirit. He had been born with one leg missing a foot, while his other feet were underdeveloped. Although he managed to get around by limping on three legs, every step required determination. Then everything changed.

Continued on page 3



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 2026
226

VET EXPENSES TO DATE 2026
\$399,658



A Message from Our President

Our rescue dogs know: Life is lived in chapters. Judy and Tom Kent have decided it is time for their next chapter and adventure. After more than 23 years of dedicated service to Homeward Bound, they are planning a move to Wyoming. This well-earned and deserved chapter will happen quickly...within approximately 45 days.

In some ways, this loss is even more challenging than the loss six years ago of our founder, Jody Jones. Judy had worked closely with Jody since our founding. She was immersed in every aspect of our operation, including medical and intake. She was the natural choice to assume the role of president when Jody passed. Judy served in this capacity until January of this year, when she handed over day-to-day operations, but retained the role of Medical and Intake Director. Her help with my transition as president last January was invaluable. With the announcement of her retirement and move, we are hard at work to ensure that this transition goes smoothly as well. Because first and foremost in our thoughts are the needs of the dogs who come to us to begin their own next chapters.

We are forever grateful for the service and dedication of Judy and Tom. Given the timing of this change, we'll be navigating some "ruff" waters in the days ahead as we look to fill their very large paw prints. Now, more than ever, knowing you remain by our side is needed, valued, and greatly appreciated. While we ask for your help and continued support, please thank Tom and Judy for helping to make Homeward Bound what it is today, and wish them the best on their next journey.

With sincere gratitude,

Audrey Farrington
President

"It's All About the Dogs"



Working through the VCA Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center, Dr. Katrina Castaneda, DVM, DACVS-SA, a board-certified veterinary surgeon with a working relationship with PALS (Pet Artificial Limbs and Support), provided Kellen with a custom-made prosthetic for his missing foot. The transformation was immediate. For the first time, Kellen was able to walk and run comfortably on all four legs. It was more than a prosthetic; it was the beginning of a new chapter filled with possibilities.

Not long afterward, I adopted Kellen. It soon became apparent that Kellen's unique combination of a gentle temperament and physical resilience made him an ideal candidate for therapy work. Earlier this year, he successfully passed his therapy dog evaluation and began visiting a variety of organizations throughout the community. Since then, Kellen has brought comfort and encouragement to patients at the VA Medical Center, students at a school for autistic young adults, and residents of senior living communities.

Wherever Kellen goes, one thing happens almost immediately. People notice his prosthetic. They ask what happened to his leg, and once they hear his story, an instant connection is formed. What some people might first perceive as a disability quickly becomes one of Kellen's greatest strengths. Many of the people he visits have experienced physical challenges of their own. Some wear prosthetics.



Others rely on braces or mobility devices. Kellen's story helps them see that they are not alone. Without saying a word, he reminds them that differences do not define who they are.

While every therapy visit has been meaningful, the highlight of Kellen's journey has been his time at Christian Berets, a summer camp and retreat center nestled in the hills near Sonora.



Christian Berets is a compassionate, faith-based, donor-supported nonprofit. The organization has been serving individuals with special needs since 1970. Every summer, the camp hosts six overnight sessions, each carefully designed to meet the unique abilities and

needs of its campers. The environment is welcoming, safe, and filled with opportunities for growth, friendship, and adventure.

Campers enjoy indoor and outdoor activities while building confidence, developing social skills, and experiencing the joy of simply being themselves. Christian Berets promotes physical wellness, encourages meaningful relationships, and teaches wholesome values rooted in biblical principles. Each week, approximately 35 to 40 campers attend. For many families, camp is one of the most anticipated and cherished weeks of the entire year.

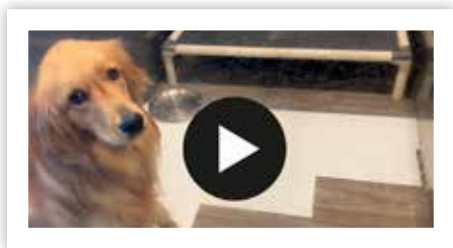


Throughout the six-week summer season, Kellen visited the camp every Thursday as one of its therapy dogs. But to the campers, he was much more than that. They did not see a therapy dog. They saw someone just like them.

Time to Update: Kennel Floor and Renovation Project!

Big dogs can be very hard on our Big House! First, there's the clawing, jumping, and enthusiastic greetings between kennel neighbors. Then there are the twice daily sanitizing cleanings with a vet-approved, hydrogen peroxide-based product that is tough on germs but also hard on surfaces. The result: a floor that is failing, and kennels in need of some serious repairs. Since we upgraded the kennels and installed new flooring over a decade ago, things have taken a beating. For safety and health, it's time for renovations. One short video clip says it all.

Enter this link in your browser to view video: <https://vimeo.com/1207919823>



Replacing the kennel floor is the most critical and difficult part of the project. Logistically complex, it must be done all at once – not in stages. This means finding



temporary housing for all our guests while crews work double time to:

- Dismantle the kennels
- Remove, grind, seal, and replace the kennel floor with a more durable and coved flooring eliminating gaps where moisture can compromise the surface
- Upgrade insulation
- Repaint and seal walls and surfaces
- Replace battered cabinetry
- Repair and reinstall the kennels

Timing is key. Some dogs will be fostered; others will be boarded off-site; and those that are not ready for foster or boarding will remain in specially

prepared enclosures on the property. This means that we have a limited window of opportunity in late spring – after winter rains and before the summer heat.

Planning is underway with contractors, quotes, and a lengthy to-do list already in place. We will tackle the project next May, but we are focused on fundraising now. Why? **The Kennel Floor and Renovation Project will come in at \$100,000+ even with some donated and volunteer labor.** While the project will be overseen by the same amazing volunteer team that created our medical ward, office, puppy palace, and Dog Central, the work requires custom materials and

HOW TO SUPPORT THE KENNEL PROJECT

Donate securely online by credit card, PayPal or Venmo.
Or mail a check if you prefer.

Visit our website at:
www.homewardboundgoldens.org and
click on "Kennel Project" for the sponsor levels, links,
and mailing information.



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the hiring of professionals who can work overtime to bring everything together in two weeks' time.

The Project Cost Breakdown:

- Professional Kennel Removal/Replacement/Repair/Reinstall: \$38,000
- Kennel Floor Removal/Grind/Seal/Replace with Cove: \$45,000
- Insulation Upgrade: \$6,000
- Paint: \$5,000
- Cabinetry: \$3,000
- Boarding & Temporary On-Site Accommodations: \$5,500

Tackling this project will require support at many levels. While all donations are needed and welcome, sponsorship has its benefits! Scan the QR Codes or enter the links in your browser to donate securely online or mail your donation to the address listed below. **And THANK YOU for your support!**



TIME TO RENOVATE!

BIG HOUSE PROJECT SPONSOR

A permanent plaque honoring you or your fur-family designee at the kennel entry and recognition in the Homeward Bound Newsletter. \$25,000



<https://tinyurl.com/Big-House-Sponsor>

INDIVIDUAL KENNEL SPONSOR

Your name or fur-family designee's name on one of 27 kennels and recognition in the Homeward Bound Newsletter. \$2,500



<https://tinyurl.com/kennel-sponsor>

GENERAL PROJECT SUPPORT

Give what you can. All donations over \$250 will be highlighted in the Homeward Bound Newsletter.



<https://tinyurl.com/kennel-supporter>

Or Mail Your Check Payable to HBGRR to:
HBGRR
Attn: Kennel Project
7495 Natomas Rd.
Elverta, CA 95626

The One That Almost Got Away

By: Audrey Farrington

We came so close to losing her. Every day I drive to Homeward Bound and look out over the parched summer fields, thinking of Gabby and what might have become of her if not for luck and the kindness of a stranger.

Gabby joined us in April this year when a “concerned citizen” said she needed help with an injured Golden. She greatly understated the injury – and probably, her connection to the dog. We met her at the junkyard where Gabby had taken up residence for quite some time. The woman clearly had a strong bond with the girl she called “Mama,” tearing up at their parting.

Gabby’s ear flap was hanging by a thread. It was badly infected from what turned out to be a series of dog bites to her ear as well as on her head and body. One or more dogs had attacked her. We rushed her to the vet, where they removed the tattered ear flap. She was also diagnosed with Ehrlichia, a tick-borne illness. Through all of it, she was trusting and welcoming of humans and happy for our company.

Our one-eared girl looked like she had a little bit of Golden Retriever in her – or had crossed paths with one once at least! Her DNA revealed not a speck of the breed, but her heart was golden through and through. While she enjoyed everyone’s company, she had her favorites and would light up at the sight of them. I was lucky enough to be counted among them.

Gabby’s wounds recovered. But her distaste for confinement never went away. Gabby was accustomed to her freedom. Housed in the quiet of the office, she escaped her enclosure, pulling down a table loaded with raffle items in an attempt to get out the window. She destroyed the next new reinforced enclosure. That earned her a spot in our recovery ward.



And when those accommodations proved inescapable, she resorted to loudly and relentlessly expressing her displeasure. Peace was found only when she spent time in a shady yard, until the yard became another barrier for her to break through.

The first time she escaped, I had just come on the scene. I walked the property and called to her by the name she arrived with: “Mama!” Within minutes, she came



running – so proud of herself. A second escape ended successfully following the same process. We sent her to foster, where she played it cool until no one was looking. She was grabbed just before she squeezed through the gate. By the fourth time, she was determined. She levitated over a pen, dug under a fence, and led the team on a chase across the property, through the pond, and straight to the front gate, which she managed to squish her not-so-tiny body through. Across the levee she went, through the canal, sprinting across the cow field beyond until she vanished from sight.

For five days, we tracked her through sightings, always one step behind. She covered more than 14 miles of orchards and fields. When we received word that she had headed toward a busy highway, our hearts fell. But it was here that fate intervened.

An exhausted Gabby had stopped to rest on the side of the highway. By luck, a young man driving by glimpsed her in the shade of a tree. He could have continued, but he didn’t. He turned around and backtracked. Knowing that a dog should



not be there, he contacted animal control. They had already been alerted to her escape and contacted our team member.



AI For GOOD

By: Audrey Farrington

For as long as I can remember, Carla McCreary channeled the dogs to write their weekly website bios. When she passed in 2023, I took over fully, but given her long illness, support started as early as 2020.

Dog bios are one of the most critical elements of content creation for dog adoption. After an average of 400-500 bios per year, creative burnout can take root. Enter Elise Paugh, a Homeward Bound volunteer and a marketing expert for a large and well-known digital health company.

Elise regularly uses artificial intelligence (AI) tools in her corporate role. She thought its use could breathe new life into our dog bios and expedite them as well. She was right! AI gets a bad rap; sometimes rightfully so. But in good and responsible hands, it has revitalized our efforts on the dogs' behalf.

AI-assisted dog bios are only as good as the information provided. Garbage in; garbage out. Every dog at Homeward Bound receives medical vetting, a behavioral and training assessment, and dog testing. Elise has become a vital part of the assessment team, poring over documentation in the dogs' files from surrendering families, intake interviews, team observations, and more. She sits with each dog and interviews them to get a clear picture of their personality and channels their feelings about their past



and their wants for the future. She feeds this information (called “prompts”) into AI, and the tool makes decisions about what it writes based on references and patterns drawn from a vast collection of materials used to train it. While AI can come up with colorful and creative new phrases and ways to shape a dog's story, to do the dog justice, a human must remain in the driver's seat.

There are just as many lackluster pet bios out there that help to “train” AI as there are great ones, and the predictive text that it creates will draw on all of them equally. We want bios that are accurate, but don't introduce negative barriers. No dog is perfect, and all dogs require patience, training, and love. For best results, Elise keeps a watchful eye to ensure that the prompts use plain, understandable language, and she edits freely.

The AI tool can also be long-winded. In today's world, people have ultra-short attention spans. One of our great challenges is getting people to read beyond

the dog's photo and headline to the full description. There is an art to capturing the most important points concisely while enticing the reader to continue reading. When prompted, AI can also deliver out-of-the-box creative approaches, pushing the envelope for breakthrough positioning of long-waiting dogs, or dogs with special needs.

The best prompt fed into the AI tool? Elise's unique storytelling. She speaks “dog” like a Carla McCreary protégé, giving voice to those who cannot speak to us in our language. Elise uses AI for good. And the dogs...as she would say...are all in!



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A Boy Named River

By: Audrey Farrington

As of this writing, River was just made available for adoption. We hope this deserving boy will find his home quickly.

River came to us at the end of May. We were told he spent the four years of his young life alone in an outdoor 4x6-foot kennel. Matted, filthy, emaciated, and lonely, he was a neighborhood annoyance and a source of worry with his high-pitched, desperate barking. Animal Control was called numerous times, but the laws are lax. If he had "shelter" and a water bowl, they said they were powerless to help him. River's miracle came with the arrival of new neighbors.

They convinced the owner to let them take River home overnight. They bathed him repeatedly, sending years of dirt down the drain. They removed what mats they could. And then they did what everyone had failed at: they convinced the owner to relinquish River to them, and then they surrendered him to us. Their rescue was done correctly and with compassion. Thus River's journey began with us.

The full-sized, red Field Golden Retriever weighed only 46 pounds on arrival (photo inset). His ideal weight is closer to 60. He was skin and bones but not lacking one bit of energy. Over-stimulated, unsocialized, untrained, and completely unwilling to go back in a kennel, River was an immense handful; an untrained puppy in an adult body. He jumped and hugged, grabbed and nipped, and frantically vocalized what was easily mistaken for a growl. He bounced back out of his kennel as quickly as he was put in. This wasn't aggressive behavior. This was a boy desperate not to be locked up and abandoned again.

First and foremost, River needed to know that we would always return. That each meal would not be his last. That his days



of being left alone day after day were over. It took time and consistency for him to trust that our word was good.



Every morning began with the same routine: breakfast and exercise in a quiet yard, followed by time to decompress in his kennel. Daily training sessions followed on a regular schedule, with playtime interspersed. Baths were initially delivered weekly to encourage regrowth of a healthy coat that would fill the large gaps left by significant mat removal. River found his faith in us, and little by little, the wild child began to transform.

Not every dog needs this kind of intensive regimen when it arrives at Homeward Bound. Still, every dog benefits from structure, consistency, and clear expectations. River could get distracted by the big wide world around him. Everything was new to him. Passing people, cars, dogs, cats, lizards, birds. He had a serious case of "Squirrel!" and an intense prey drive for little critters. He

showed interest in some dogs but would return the negative reactions from other dogs in kind, fearful of what he didn't understand.

River is smart, and he wants to please. He enjoys working sessions and loves being told he is a good boy. His demeanor changed, his skills grew, his desperation turned to joy, and people started noticing that River had become a different dog...a good dog and a great companion.

River went to foster briefly, where he aced his home visit. This leads us to believe he was once a house dog before someone sentenced him to his outside enclosure and essentially threw away the key. His first introduction to other dogs was very much like his initial introduction to us: over-stimulated and unsure of how to read their body language or intention. With a calm dog, he has shown potential. Our hope is that he will learn to be happily among dogs just as he did us. That will take time and patience. But what is clear is that River is ready for a home to call his own. And he has earned it.

There is an enormous sense of satisfaction in seeing a dog transformed by kindness, care, patience, and consistency. River had many angels at Homeward Bound who believed in him. When I look in River's once desperate and pleading eyes and now find softness, joy, and playfulness, I know that we have given this boy the second chance he deserves.

Housetraining the Adult or Adopted Dog

One of the first questions adopters want to know is “Is the dog housetrained?” When the dog comes from a family or has been fostered, we have a clearer sense. If the dog was abandoned or from a breeding operation, they typically require training or, at minimum, a refresher.

Just because a dog was housetrained in a previous home doesn't mean they know where the bathroom is in your home. Imagine visiting a new place—you'd have to ask where the restroom is, too. Putting things into perspective: it can take human children years to master potty training. Yet we often expect dogs, especially puppies, to figure it out in just a few weeks. Here are some tips to help everyone get off to the right start.

Start Fresh: Assume Nothing

Even if your new dog was reportedly housetrained, it's best to treat them like they're starting from scratch. New home, new rules, new smells—everything is unfamiliar. Take them to their new potty area immediately. Give them frequent potty breaks, stick to a schedule, and clearly and consistently communicate what's expected.

Don't Wait for a Signal

Some dogs bark, some go to the door, and some never give any indication they need to go out. Until you learn your dog's individual cues, stick to a consistent routine. Waiting for them to “tell” you they need to go is like expecting a baby to ask for a diaper change.

Make Housetraining Black and White

Be crystal clear about what's right and wrong, but don't reprimand. When your dog potties outside, reward immediately with treats, praise, or even a happy dance. If you catch them in the act, interrupt them with a neutral sound like “ack!” and quickly take them outside. If they finish going outside, reward and praise. There can't

be any gray area. If a dog potties inside and feels relief, the behavior becomes self-rewarding, and that makes it harder to break. Note: After the fact is too late; dogs won't connect your reaction to their earlier behavior.

Avoid scolding or punishment. If you yell or act upset, your dog may learn not to potty in front of you, even outdoors. The goal is communication, not fear.

Clean Up Completely

Dogs have an incredible sense of smell. If there's even a trace of urine or feces left behind, they may return to that spot. Use enzyme cleaners or hire a professional carpet cleaner who specializes in pet stains.

Supervise and Set Up for Success

A well-managed environment is key. Until your dog is fully trained, they should always be in your sight or safely confined. Try tools like:

- Exercise Pens
- Baby gates or closed doors
- Drag leash (leash dragging behind the dog)
- Crates

A timer or phone reminder can help keep you on schedule. And avoid giving your dog access to areas where accidents “don't matter” because the flooring is easy to clean. That's not helping them learn; it's just making cleanup easier for you.



If accidents happen in places you can't supervise, try adding a tiny bell to their collar to help keep track of their movement.

Create a Potty Area

Dogs love routine and familiar smells. Always take them out the same door to the same spot. This builds a habit, and scent helps, too. If your dog poops, leave it there for a day when you are first training. If they pee inside, blot it up and bring the towel outside to the potty area.

For newly adopted dogs, you can even create a smelly “target” by leaving a newspaper-stuffed bag or log in the front yard for neighborhood dogs to mark, then placing it in your potty area. Male dogs especially respond well to this.

Use High-Value Rewards

Find a treat your dog really loves—something they don't get often, like deli meat or hot dogs. This becomes the “\$100 treat,” reserved only for pottying outside. Go out with your dog, use a cue like “Go potty,” and the moment they finish, say “Yes!” and reward immediately. Do not wait until you're back inside.

Timing matters. You have about 1 second for a dog to connect the behavior and the reward. Waiting too long teaches the wrong thing - like that coming inside earns the treat, not going potty. It's all in the timing. Also, don't bring your dog in immediately after they go. Let them enjoy some outside time so they don't associate pottying with the end of fun.

Continued on page 10

Teach the Cue: “Go Potty”

Every time your dog begins to go, say “Go potty.” Over time, they’ll learn to associate the words with the action. Avoid letting them play until after they go, so potty becomes the first goal of each trip outside. If they don’t go within a few minutes, bring them in and confine them for a short time (not as punishment but for management!) and try again after 10–15 minutes.

Feeding and Potty Patterns

You’ll notice that potty patterns reliably happen around feeding schedules and sleep patterns. Feed high-quality food at consistent times. Avoid free-feeding; this makes potty habits unpredictable. Don’t withhold water (except maybe 30–60 minutes before bedtime for puppies). But do take the dog out before bedtime and immediately upon waking.

With patience and the right plan, your adult or adopted dog will become a reliable housetraining pro in no time.

Planned Giving: A Golden Legacy

Bequests have played a major role in our ability to purchase the property after our founders’ passings, and to support much needed improvements.

Estate or planned gifts to Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue are excellent opportunities to create a legacy ensuring the rescue’s permanence and that more Golden lives are saved. Planned giving is an option for donors of all incomes and may allow you to make a larger gift in the future than you otherwise could from current assets. A planned gift can also help you reduce capital gains or estate taxes on your heirs.

Naming us in your will or trust is one of the easiest ways to ensure that future generations of Goldens in need will find a second chance at life. You’ll find more information on our website under “Donate.”

The good Samaritan stayed quietly with Gabby until our team arrived and scooped her up. She was covered in foxtails and stickers and had some burned pads on her paws, but amazingly, she was otherwise no worse for the adventure.

Gabby had many guardian angels, but all of it made us doubt we would ever get this girl into a forever home. Sanctuary at Homeward Bound would mean confinement and misery for her. We knew that once Gabby had adopted her place as home, she would not wander, as she had never left the junkyard despite wide open gates. But until she fully embraced her new person and home, she would have to be monitored 24/7. That’s a big ask. A former permanent foster answered our prayers; a homebody and her son who could provide backup when she needed to leave the house. “We thought we could help” was all she said.

Gabby has a new guardian angel. One that has been able to keep her safe, comfortable, and happy, although she will continue to wear two tracking devices for the foreseeable future! We miss her and think of this special girl often; the one that almost got away.



Almost every camper wanted to know about Kellen’s prosthetic. Many proudly showed him their own prosthetic limbs, leg braces, walkers, wheelchairs, and other adaptive equipment. They recognized something familiar in him. Rather than seeing his differences, they saw someone who understood what it meant to overcome challenges.

From the moment Kellen arrived each week, he greeted campers with enthusiasm and kindness. Some rushed over to kneel beside him, eager to pet him and offer hugs. Others quietly sat next to him, finding comfort simply by sharing the same space. His peaceful presence had a remarkable way of calming anxious hearts and bringing smiles to faces that had already overcome more than most people could imagine.

As popular as Kellen became during those visits, the campers themselves were the true heroes. Over the course of six weeks, we met countless young people whose courage, determination, and joyful spirits left lasting impressions. Each had a story worth telling.

One young girl used a wheelchair and was nonverbal. She communicated through an iPad mounted to her chair, carefully scrolling through words and phrases that the device spoke aloud. Her smile said even more than the technology ever could.

Another camper quietly sat beside Kellen. Without any encouragement or prompt, Kellen gently climbed into her lap—something he had never done before. It was a completely natural moment, as though he instinctively knew exactly what she needed. Those who witnessed it will never forget it.

Perhaps the most memorable moment came from one camper whose simple words captured everything Kellen had come to represent. After spending time with him, she looked up with a smile and said, “I love Kellen. He’s special—special like me.” There could not have been a more perfect description.

For the campers at Christian Berets Summer Camp, Kellen was far more than a weekly visitor. He became a trusted friend, a faithful companion, a source of encouragement, and a living reminder that strength often comes in unexpected forms. His wagging tail, gentle eyes, and quiet acceptance created connections that words alone never could.

People often ask how Kellen learned to comfort others so naturally. The truth is that this is not something that can be taught through obedience classes or therapy dog training. His certification prepared him for visits, but it did not create the compassion that makes him so extraordinary. That gift has always been part of who Kellen is.

Homeward Bound gave Kellen a second chance at life. They rescued him from the streets, provided the care he needed, and helped him receive the prosthetic that changed everything. Because of that second chance, Kellen now can make a profound difference in the lives of countless others.

His journey is a powerful reminder that rescue changes more than the life of the animal being saved. Sometimes, one rescued dog goes on to touch hundreds of human lives.

Kellen's story is still being written. Plans are already underway for him to return to Christian Berets next summer, where campers are eagerly looking forward to seeing their four-legged friend once again. At the same time, the camp is working toward an ambitious goal: constructing an additional dormitory and dining hall so that no child or adult with special needs will ever have to be turned away because of limited space.

In the months ahead, Kellen also hopes to expand his therapy work by qualifying for visits to Shriners Hospital, UC Davis Medical Center, and Ronald McDonald House. These are places where his gentle heart, inspiring story, and unique ability to connect with people could provide

comfort during some of life's most difficult moments.

For a dog who once wandered the streets on three legs, Kellen has come a long way. Today, every step he takes reminds others that hope can be found in unexpected places, that differences can become strengths, and that sometimes the greatest healing begins with a simple wag of the tail.



How to Reach Us

Your help and ideas are always welcome! Contact team leaders below if you are interested in helping in any of these areas:

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Medical, Surrenders & Shelters
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email: admin@homewardboundgoldens.org
www.homewardboundgoldens.org

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Dates to Remember

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic: October 17
Santa Photos: November 20-22
The Giving Tree: Begins Thanksgiving Weekend!

Help Wanted

Volunteer Positions Currently in High Demand. We Train!

- **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.
- **Golden Taxi Drivers:** As the dogs' transport to safety and medical care, you hold a special place in their hearts.
- **Fosters:** From puppies to seniors and those recovering - the gift of fostering comes from the heart, and the rewards are rich.

Our Golden Wish List

You can also shop our **Amazon and Chewy Wish Lists**. You'll find the links on our website!

For Our Goldens:

Nature's Select Dog Food (donate with your online purchase)
Large Pill Pockets
Dog Cookies and Training Treats
Rubber Backed Rugs
Visit Our Wish Lists on Amazon and Chewy!

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