

HOMeward BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY

2013 ANNUAL REPORT





Our Mission. Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization which rescues and heals displaced, abandoned, and homeless Golden Retriever 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 Board of Directors

Jody Jones, *President*
Candice Courtney, *Vice President*
Jana Mauk, *Secretary*
Judy Kent, *Treasurer*
Kathryn Baines
Justina Codde, DVM, MS
Audrey Farrington
Deb Haggerty
Pat Heise
Lea Kachler-Leake
Christina White

A Message From Our President

To Old and New Friends of Homeward Bound,

It seems impossible that yet another golden year is behind us. With the perpetual swirl of dogs, vet trips, surgeries, recoveries, fosters and hundreds of wonderful adoptions made – time passes in the blink of an eye.

We are heartened by the gradual decline in numbers of displaced dogs since the great recession hit in 2008-2009. Our intake of 416 this year is an improvement over recent years, yet the dogs that come to us arrive with greater needs. Perhaps this is a reflection of the painfully slow economic recovery. Continued pressure on family incomes means medical care is delayed until the costs becomes insurmountable - leading to surrender. Thanks to your continued support, Homeward Bound is in a position to help address both their physical and emotional needs while we prepare them for loving homes.

Through our own loss – the sudden passing of our vice president, board member and my dear friend, Dick Brothers – we learned a difficult and important lesson. With all that he contributed, we recognized the risk of over-reliance on any one individual. The need for long-term succession planning and capacity building has been made crystal clear. To ensure that our mission is sustained for as long as there is a need, our board's major focus for 2014 will be on forward planning. As the board focuses on the future, we will look to our all-volunteer teams to continue the momentum by assuming more day-to-day functions. The result will be a deepening of our team's expertise overall.

Another major initiative for the year is the kennel and facility upgrade made possible by your generous donations at this year's Kibble & Bids™ fundraising event. We have already begun adding a dedicated puppy space and have created a working group focused on making our kennels as comfortable and calming as possible for our canine guests.

You'll find the smiling "going home" faces of many dogs and families inside these pages. They are the successes that sustain us – none of which would be possible without your support. On behalf of the dogs, I offer my heartfelt thanks to all for your friendship, partnership and countless contributions.

Jody Jones

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jody Jones".

President

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc.



What You Support

Stanley's Story

In March 2013, Homeward Bound took a call from a valley shelter about a dog they had received in horrible condition. Most shelters do not have the resources or capacity to deal with severe injuries. Thankfully, great partnerships exist to save lives and Homeward Bound had the means to provide for his care. This is the role of rescue. We left immediately to pick him up.

This gentle creature had been attacked by dogs and torn to bits. Bite wounds covered his body; he was emaciated. We'll never know the true circumstances behind the assault. His wounds were covered in debris, and his ear was literally hanging by a thread. Our Dr. Codde took him directly to surgery. She sewed his ear back on, treated his extensive injuries and cleaned his wounds.

A few days into his recovery, one of our long-time volunteers took him out to the park to sit quietly and rest. After all he had been through he had every reason to be fearful. Yet he climbed up onto the bench, into her lap, and put his head on her shoulder.

A match was made with one of Homeward Bound's devoted volunteers. A big-hearted man and his compassionate wife fell instantly in love and took Stanley home as soon as he was able. It took time, care and patience to heal his wounds and rebuild his body – but his heart was unscathed thanks to the benevolence that surrounded him upon his arrival. Traumatic events like Stanley's can leave more than physical scars – they often leave emotional ones that can make a dog fearful. Through loving care and kindness, Stanley put his horrible encounter behind him to find joy and comfort in canine companionship again – in a house filled with love.

Stanley was just one of the hundreds of successful rescues, recoveries and happily-ever afters that your support made possible in 2013.

Homeward Bound provides rescue and sanctuary to dogs in need, regardless of age or health.





Happy Going Home Days





“Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog, the world will change forever.”

— Karen Davison

Our Programs

Homeward Bound offers comprehensive programs to support the rescue, preparation and placement of our golden guests in safe and loving homes.

FOSTER. Our program supports both short-term and permanent foster – a critical factor in Homeward Bound’s ability to rescue and place hundreds of dogs each year. Short-term foster provides an opportunity for us to learn more about a dog, ensuring the best match possible for a forever home. Permanent foster is ideal for senior dogs or for those whose ongoing medical needs would make traditional adoption prohibitively expensive for a caring family. In either case, Homeward Bound covers the dogs’ medical costs while foster families provide selfless love.

“As soon as I bring a new foster home; they become family. They have taught me and my children how to be better humans. There is no greater gift.” ~ Edna C.

GOLDEN TOUCH. Senior-to-senior connections match our “Golden Oldies” with retired persons and couples who are at least 60 years of age, not working, and living on a limited income. Adoption fees are waived, and veterinarian care that might otherwise be beyond reach is provided by Homeward Bound. In exchange, we seek loving homes where dogs ages 11+ can live out their lives in comfort and safety.

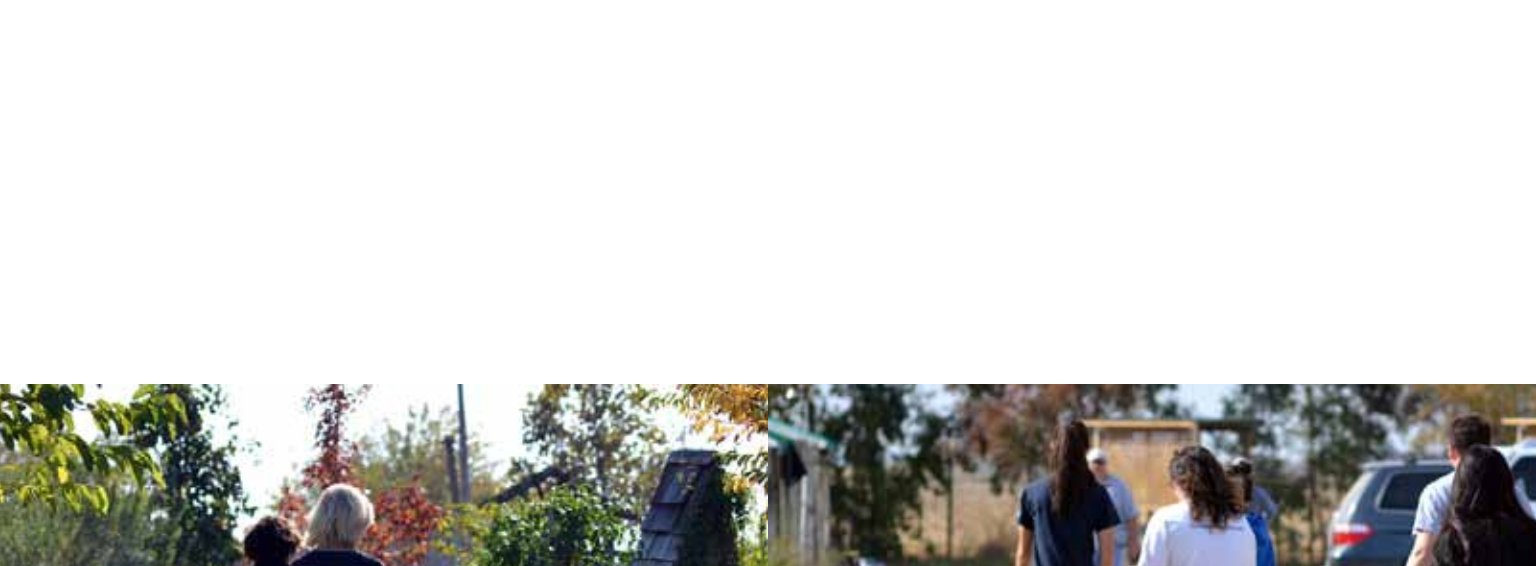
“Tomorrow isn’t promised to any of us. We cherish each and every day and want the time to be filled with the kind of joy that they have given us in return.” ~ Cathy A.

GOLDEN RULE TRAINING. Homeward Bound supports in-program dogs with basic obedience, recall and socialization – or more advanced needs as warranted. Our Dog Walker Team and certified trainers coordinate closely to help each dog become its best and ready for placement. Adoptive families and the general public can continue to develop their handling skills and provide important socialization through regular classes offered by our certified trainer at the Adoption Center. Golden Rule Training now offers the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen preparation classes and certification. Training is about more than obedience; it enhances the bond between dogs and their human families.

“Along with new skills, we learned about the importance of consistency. My husband and I needed to be on the same page and send the same message over and over again – until one day I woke up and realized, “I have a good dog now!” ~ Robin H.

YOUTH PROGRAM. Through our Youth Program, we strive to inspire a love of rescue and tomorrow’s champions of animals in need. Our youths – ages 15-18 – are paired with adult leads each Saturday to participate in all aspects of caring for the dogs while meeting important community service obligations. A special curriculum for seniors includes a full immersion in all aspects of rescue with the hope that they will go on to become adult volunteers.

“My daughter did her senior project here... an absolutely wonderful rescue facility! My daughter loves working here, walking the dogs, bathing, etc. She was so attached she didn’t want to leave even after her hours were done!” ~ Marianne A.



People Coming Together

Since its founding in 2000, Homeward Bound has remained an all-volunteer organization. Our ranks include individuals who have been with us from the beginning, providing invaluable knowledge and expertise. More join us each year, bringing fresh ideas and perspectives. Volunteers of all ages and circumstances bring their unique gifts and talents to our effort.

FOSTERS. Provide short-term safe haven and care for dogs who wait, or permanent sanctuary for those aged or ill as they live out their lives with love.

PLACEMENT TEAMS & COUNSELORS. Our matchmakers pair dogs and adoptive families for the best possible fit and bond.

VETERINARIAN. Dr. Justina Codde donates countless hours each week to ensure that the dogs receive the best medical care available.

FEEDERS. Our dogs' best friends arrive daily – rain or shine – for a strenuous workout and rich rewards of wagging tails and sloppy kisses.

WALKERS & TRAINERS. They bring out the best in our pups. Through exercise, training and play they are kept healthy and are readied for adoption.

GROOMERS. Good looks and good health go hand in hand and make certain that the dogs become comfortable with the rituals of good care.

GOLDEN TAXI DRIVERS. Our transport angels travel far and wide to ferry dogs to us while reassuring anxious pups along the way that a better future lies ahead.

FACILITIES, GROUNDS & GARDENERS. Continual maintenance keeps our kennels, eight acre sanctuary and memorial garden in tip-top shape.

YOUTH PROGRAM LEADS. Our mentors guide young people committed to community service while encouraging a passion for rescue.

ADMINISTRATIVE & MARKETING. The invisible glue that keeps us organized, manages our appointments, and shares our successes with the world.

GRANT WRITERS, FUNDRAISERS, EVENT STAFF. Keep us going - because it is our supporters' generosity that keeps the lights on, the medical bills paid, and the kibble bins full.



“It is such a blessing to find one’s passion in life and be surrounded by those that share the same.”

– Lorrie M.

The Homeward Bound Adoption Center and Sanctuary sits on eight acres of mature shade trees and huge grassy yards where our golden guests are safely housed.



Ahead For 2014

Creating Lasting Impact

Losing an important member of our team this year provided a wake-up call; the future is not guaranteed unless we secure it. While we dream of the day when rescue will no longer be necessary, we know that it will continue to play an important role for the foreseeable future.

Securing that future is one of our key initiatives this year. This means a focus on long-term planning, recruiting new talent to our board, developing bench strength in our volunteer teams and testing contingency plans. While each of us is vital to the operation – for the sake of the dogs – no one can be irreplaceable. Our mission is larger than any one of us and we are united in ensuring its future.

Protecting Those in Our Care

Last year, your generosity provided for a remodel of our kitchen and grooming areas. This was key to speeding feeding while protecting the health of our dogs – and the backs of our volunteers!

It has been some time since our last major kennel upgrade. Along with scheduled maintenance needs, new developments in kennel construction can provide for more spacious, comfortable and calming spaces for our golden guests and their human caretakers. The physical and emotional health and safety of our dogs is not only our responsibility – it helps to ensure speedier adoptions.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters at this year's Kibble & Bids™ event, project funding was raised to address the kennel remodel and facilities improvements. In fact, a dedicated puppy “cabin space” is already underway to keep our littlest furry friends safely separated from the adult population until they are fully vaccinated and ready to go home.

Adoption Center & Sanctuary

Many other rescues rely solely on foster families, which can limit their ability to provide immediate shelter to animals when they are most at risk. At Homeward Bound, the dogs are provided daily opportunities to run, play, walk, and relax while interacting with our team members until it is time to visit with potential adopters. For those with terminal illness or extraordinary circumstances, our sanctuary provides a comfortable place for the dogs to live out their lives with loving care.



By the Numbers:

416 dogs rescued

97 fostered in loving homes

\$193,347 vet expenses

197 neuters and spays



How You Can Help

Homeward Bound relies almost solely on the generous contributions of individuals and corporate donations. 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 fundraising events annually:

Fund of Love and the matching *Double the Gold* campaigns raise targeted funds specifically for the dogs' medical expenses; *Kibble & Bids™* provides for general funds and support for yearly projects; the *Giving Tree* is a wonderful way to remember someone you love at the holidays.

Other opportunities include the purchase of engraved in honor/in memory of bricks in our Memorial Garden; items for the dogs on our Amazon Wish List; merchandise displaying your Homeward Bound pride, and more. Please visit your "How to Help" section on the website and check back regularly for seasonal offerings.

Planned gifts can offer a variety of benefits to you and your heirs now, while providing a lasting demonstration of your commitment to rescue. Your tax or financial advisors can advise you on the best approach for your unique situation.

In Kind Support

Big dogs have big needs, and the everyday things add up quickly. On our website you will find a list of supplies of which we are in constant need. Look for "Wish List" under "How to Help."

Volunteer

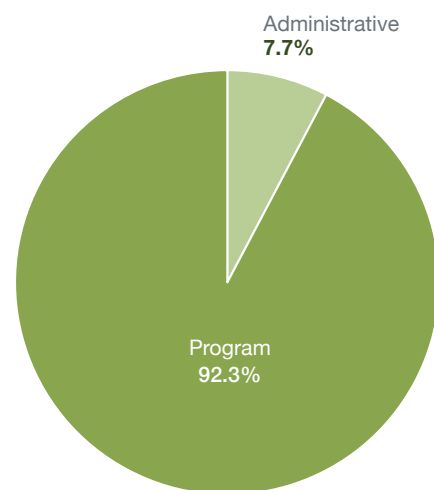
We have volunteer opportunities to fit every interest, skill and schedule. Visit our website for a complete listing. Have special skills you don't see listed? Add them to your application. Odds are, we can use them!

Foster

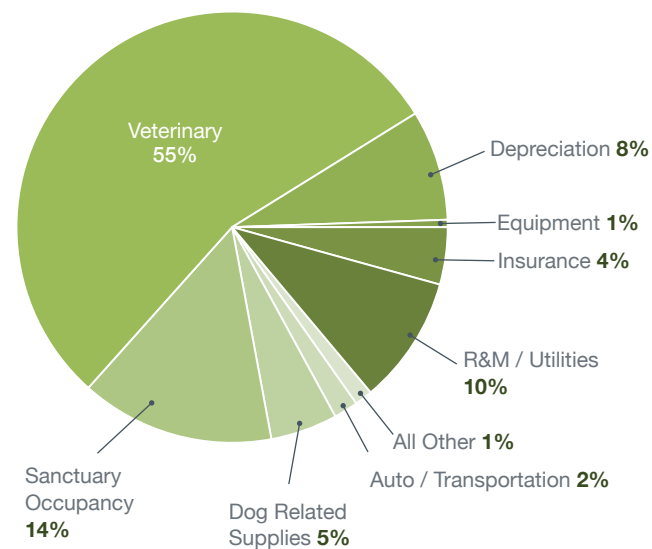
There is no greater gift than providing a dog in need with a caring home and the support it needs to become adoptable – or in the case of permanent foster – to live out a life with love.

How Your Contributions Are Used

Total Expense



Program Expense





**HOMeward
BOUND** Golden
Retriever
Rescue

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