

HOMeward BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY



2014  
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 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.

## A Message From Our President



To Old and New Friends of Homeward Bound,

This year marks our fifteenth anniversary of saving and enhancing lives through the act of rescue. Back in 2000, Michael and I made a promise to our beloved Chelsea, promising to trade her recovery after being struck by a car for a life dedicated to rescuing. She recovered; we shared our vision, and the results have exceeded our wildest expectations.

What began in a house crowded with Golden Retrievers and an open field has grown into an eight-acre sanctuary and a nationally recognized nonprofit organization. From a few dozen dogs at the start, to the Great Recession when we took in 800+ in a single year, we have given new hope to more than 8,000 canine lives. There were just a few of us in the beginning, and I'm proud and honored to say that many are still among our all-volunteer ranks. All that we have accomplished has been the result of the dedication and commitment of individuals who know that rescue is about so much more than saving lives. It transforms us.

Much of what has grown up around us has been a simple response to a need. But now is the time for planning. Our board is focused on looking forward, ensuring that we can always carry on our mission. That means building capacity, mentoring, and passing on our knowledge. We owe this to the dogs who need us, and to all of the individuals who have invested so generously in time and contributions.

Homeward Bound was our dream, but it belongs to all of you and our shared community of rescue. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

Jody Jones

*Jody Jones*  
President

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary, Inc.

### Board of Directors

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Kathryn Baines

Justina Codde, DVM, MS

Audrey Farrington

Sara Floor

Deb Haggerty

Dominique A. Pollara

Christina White





## The Journey Home

A dog's journey home can begin in countless ways: lost, neglected, abandoned, or surrendered. They come to us from an expansive network of rescue advocates in partner shelters, canine organizations, and veterinary clinics. And they are surrendered to us by families that for many reasons – some of them heartbreaking – can no longer keep the dog.

Some are pulled from shelters and temporarily fostered until they can be transported by our devoted Golden Taxi Team; others arrive on our doorstep. Each dog receives a health and behavioral assessment, receiving the medical care, attention, and support needed to prepare for adoption with a loving family.

Potential adopters undergo a home inspection, where our Placement Team members observe and learn about their preferences and lifestyles. Once approved, families make appointments with Adoption Counselors to meet the dogs. Some matches are made quickly; others take time to ensure the right match. "Going Home" days are our favorites, but our support does not end there. Families are encouraged to reach out with any questions or concerns. Importantly, families agree that if they ever need to part with the dog – it will return to Homeward Bound.

Last year, 410 dogs found their way to us. We are thankful to have the human, financial and physical facilities to help them on their journeys to a new life. And we are grateful beyond measure to our volunteers, partners and supporters who make it possible.

### Marley & Harlo

*Last summer, we learned of a health-challenged "mom" with an extremely thunder-phobic Golden in Illinois. When she could no longer be with him, a safe home was needed where thunderstorms are rare. The decision was to send Marley and his bonded sister, Harlo, to Homeward Bound. While Harlo was an easy flier who made her journey by air without incident, getting Marley here was another story. Even sedated, the noise and the crate completely overwhelmed him. There was only one option left: road trip!*

*Three teams of two Golden Taxi volunteers relayed to ferry Marley two thousand miles over three days. In a touching welcome home, he was reunited with his sister. And because special needs dogs need special plans, we had already contacted a family on our waiting list. Previous adopters were looking for a canine companion for their Ella. Instead of one, they fell for two. Marley and Harlo completed their journey and have begun a new (thunder-free!) chapter together in a loving home – thanks to you.*



**410**  
DOGS RESCUED  
IN 2014





*"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."  
~ Roger Caras*

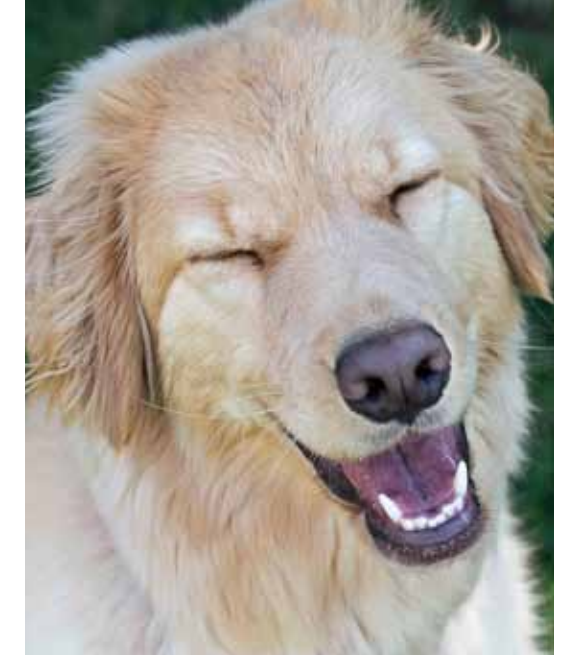
## Hope Begins Here

Homeward Bound offers the last hope for many Golden Retrievers that might not otherwise be rescued: very senior dogs or those with extraordinary medical needs. For cash-strapped shelters, and for small rescue organizations that lack our generous support base, it often comes down to a painful economic decision. Because of the generosity of our supporters and volunteers - we can be there for them.

Through our Golden Touch Program, we connect senior humans to senior dogs without fee. Our Permanent Foster program paves the way for families to say "yes" to dogs with extraordinary needs, as Homeward Bound covers their medical expenses for life. Many supporters earn their wings as a supporter of these dogs becoming our Golden Angels. And for those that cannot be adopted due to extreme age or illness, Homeward Bound offers permanent sanctuary, remaining in our care in safety and security, surrounded by love.

It should be said that hope extends to humans as well. Surrendering a dog is a heartbreaking decision when life takes an unexpected turn. Families find peace in knowing that their dog will be cared for and thoughtfully adopted to a loving home.

The bond between dogs and humans is special, indeed. Humans in need of healing often find their way to us. Paired with the right dog, you can see hope come alive. Something very special happens here.



*Because of in-breeding or injury, some very young dogs might never see a future without Homeward Bound. Nikki's smiling face was made possible by hip and hock surgery at the age of nine months, while Lobo underwent hip and knee surgery at the age of one.*

*Each of the dog's medical expenses exceeded \$5,000. Getting very young dogs through the recuperation period can be a real challenge. Sending them off - healthy and happy - to loving homes makes it all worthwhile.*





## Transformation Happens Here

A dog's transformation often begins with the expert care of our devoted Dr. Codde. She may enlist any number of veterinarian specialists to ensure that every dog receives the best hope for a healthy future. In 2014, we cared for dogs with extraordinary orthopedic, neurological, hearing, vision and cancer challenges. When these costs are added to routine care, our average veterinary cost per dog in 2014 was \$668 versus \$447 in 2013.

Medical transformations are often just the beginning. Care for our dogs includes their emotional, socialization and training needs to ensure that when they go home - it is forever. So many dogs are abandoned or surrendered because they never got the right start in life. Members of our dog walking and feeder teams, foster families and certified trainers work in close partnership to provide each dog with the attention it needs and to equip it for success.

Along the way, another kind of transformation happens – and it is decidedly human. Human lives are enhanced through the act of rescue, adoption, foster and healing.

### In 2014

**6** KNEE REPAIRS

**11** HEARTWORM-POSITIVE DOGS TREATED

**19** EAR SURGERIES

## The Reservoir Dogs

*In early March, 2014, Homeward Bound's president and another volunteer drove five hours to a town near Isabella Lake, California. There, they found 11 dogs rescued from a hoarding situation, but now living in open dirt pens, unsocialized and clearly malnourished. Well-intentioned townspeople had done their best but were clearly overwhelmed by the dogs' needs.*

*Eight were loaded into the van that afternoon – as many as could be safely transported on the five-hour return trip. Three more would come with another of our volunteers two days later.*

*Two vans; more than 1,300 miles; eleven dogs including eight boys and three girls. The Reservoir Dogs, as they came to be known, all had significant health and socialization needs.*

*While they arrived frightened and unsure, it quickly became clear that life was going to get better. Their significant medical needs were our first priority, but watching them experience other firsts was truly transformational: grass under their paws instead of dirt; food and fresh water in their bowls; beds to sleep on; and human kindness.*

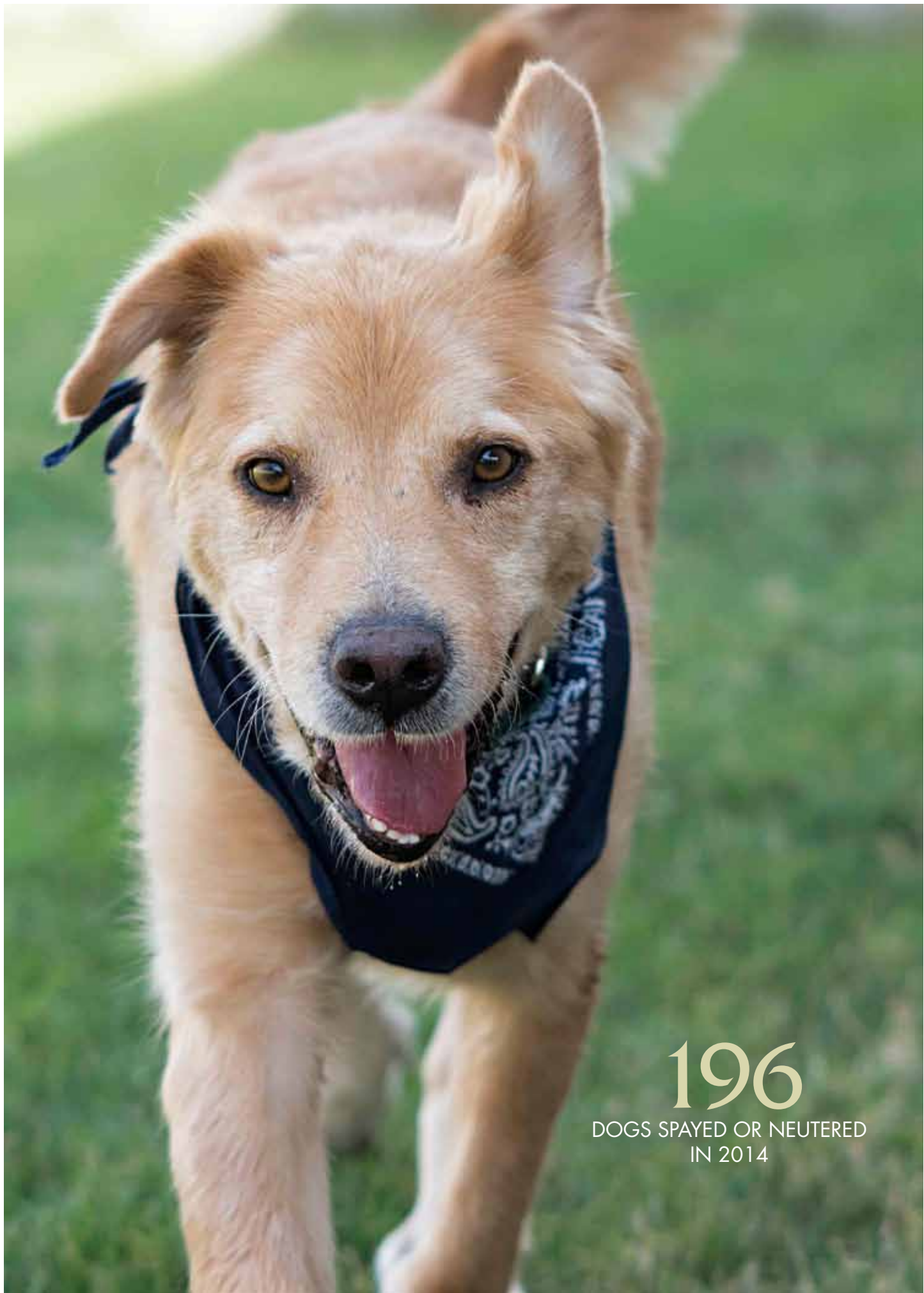
*Sadly, one was lost quickly to cancer, and Abigail and Hunter, who both had significant neurological issues, left us later in the year. But Grandpa Buddy, Joseph, Jordan, Ashley, Joshua, Michael, Braden, and David are all living the lives they have always deserved in loving homes.*



**354**

DOGS ADOPTED OR  
IN PERMANENT FOSTER IN 2014





196  
DOGS SPAYED OR NEUTERED  
IN 2014



## Networks Save Lives

Late last spring, we received a call from a network partner near Burney, CA on the outskirts of the Shasta National Forest. A Black Labrador Retriever mom and a Golden Retriever dad had been dumped with their litter of four puppies. The Golden Retriever had a severely broken jaw – perhaps the result of a car injury. Somehow, he managed to get his entire family to the Burney fire station.

The call for help led first to a local shelter and then to us. The Golden Retriever, appropriately named "Burney," was rescued along with his feral pups. Sadly, mom got away. The five dogs came together to Homeward Bound. His pups were lovingly raised by our volunteers while we arranged for surgery to rebuild Burney's jaw. While he recovered, they grew bigger and were all adopted. A couple of months later, it was Burney's turn. Thanks to a network of rescuers, five lives were saved and found "happily-ever-afters."



Small in stature, but big of heart, Burney (left) is a great dad and our rescue hero.



## Education is Lifesaving

An important part of Homeward Bound's mission is our commitment to education. Simply put, education can help reduce the number of homeless animals and save lives.

Connected to national canine organizations and rescue efforts, Deborah Haggerty volunteers her time and expertise to our board and our education efforts. This year, Deb helped to coordinate a local and national network that more quickly disseminates information on dogs in need while reducing duplication of effort. Getting the information to the right contact not only streamlines the time it takes to save lives, it allows everyone along the chain to focus efforts more efficiently and effectively. Promotion of these channels is a key priority for 2015.

Understanding that puppy purchases are at the heart of so many mistreated and eventually abandoned dogs, Homeward Bound made education about responsible breeder selection a priority this year with social media, blogs, and electronic and print materials which are freely shared. Homeward Bound also participated in a successful effort to halt the use of puppies as auction items in at least one case, bringing awareness to this important issue.





*More than 200 active volunteers donate their time and talents to our effort. Join us!*

## Supporters Meet Vital Needs

Homeward Bound's mission is 99% supported by private donations or bequests. Support arrives in many forms and fills vital needs for the dogs from kibble to veterinary bills – and so much more. Here are just a few of the ways our contributors helped this year:

Kibble donations through Nature's Select of Sacramento, Homeward Bound's dog food of choice. For every large bag of premium food purchased, Nature's Select donates \$3.00 back to Homeward Bound. Or, a kibble or cookie donation can be added to a purchase and delivered free to Homeward Bound. When Burney was placed on a wet-food diet during recovery from jaw surgery this year – our supporters and Nature's Select came through by the pallet load!

Amazon makes it easy. Supporters can help by purchasing items from our Amazon Wish List, and by participating in Amazon Smile, where .05% of the purchase price of eligible items is donated back to the charity of your choice...ours we hope! It is a simple no-cost way to give.

Hundreds participate in four vital fundraising campaigns that ensure our operation: Fund of Love, Double the Gold, Kibble & Bids and The Giving Tree.

Dozens have taken our dogs with extraordinary needs under their wings as Golden Angel sponsors.

Countless individuals have remembered someone special (two or four-pawed) with a Commemorative Brick in our Memorial Garden or a donation made In Honor or In Memory.

Your generous gifts also supported work on major projects this year. In the spring, we completed the Puppy Palace where puppies and their moms can be safely separated and weaned from the other dogs. We put it to great use when two rescued moms, Luna and Sara, gave birth just days after their simultaneous arrival to 12 puppies!

## Made Possible By You

*This fall, we completed the Walking Path – a new half-mile path around the property, leveled and fox-tail free, where the dogs can be safely walked each day. A Kennel Renovation got underway with the installation of air and light enhancements and the completion of a grooming station. This project continues into 2015 with a plan to increase the spaciousness of our "dorm" accommodations with improved airflow, soundproofing, and surfaces that are easier to maintain for the health and safety of all.*



*The Puppy Palace allows us to safely separate and nurture puppies until they are ready to go home.*



24,971  
VOLUNTEER HOURS  
CONTRIBUTED IN 2014



## A Role For Everyone

As an all-volunteer organization, we can devote almost all of our resources in direct support of the dogs. Only 6% of our expenses are directed to administrative and fundraising, well below nonprofit norms.

Volunteers are the heart of Homeward Bound. Our collective effort has resulted in the rescue of more than 7,800 dogs, the development of our eight-acre sanctuary, and a network of support that extends across states. People from all walks of life have contributed their talents and time to make Homeward Bound a nationally-recognized model of a successful rescue.

Through Homeward Bound's Youth Program, we want to pass the torch to the next generation. Our hope is to encourage today's youth to become tomorrow's champions of animals in need. Youths ages 15-18 work with an adult lead, learning all aspects of our operation and caring for the dogs.

Volunteering is not the only way to support rescue: everyone, anywhere, can play a role:

- Spread the word about the importance of spay and neuter
- Educate others about puppy mills and responsible breeders
- Train and socialize your dog from the very beginning; educate others about the importance of proper socialization and training
- 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

Time. Talent. Support. Networking. It all comes together to save lives.



*Connecting with the next generation raises awareness of animal welfare while ensuring a lasting future for our effort.*



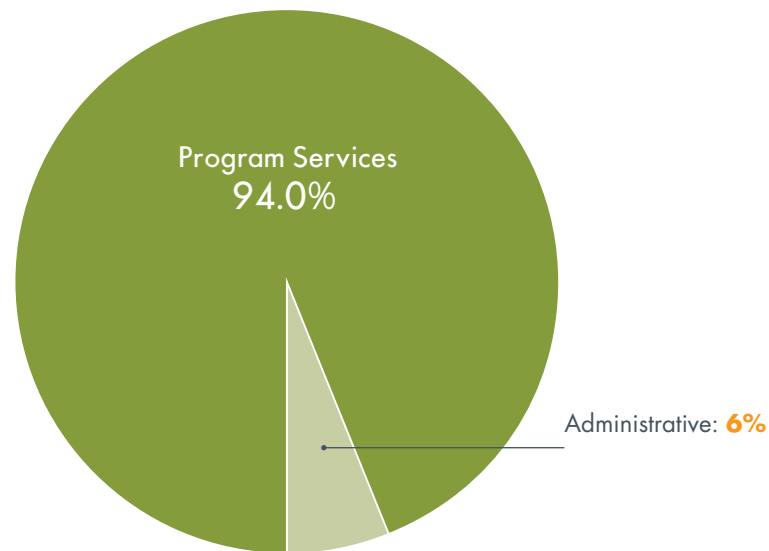


## By The Numbers

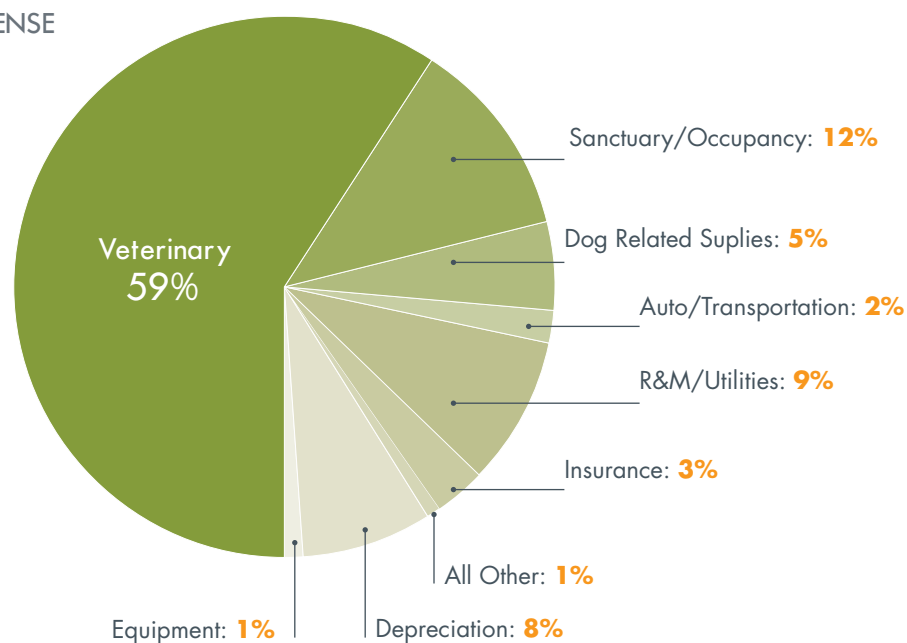
As a supporter, you want to know that your contribution is being used wisely and in support of the dogs. Because we rely exclusively on volunteer efforts, 94% of 2014 expenses were devoted to Program Services, with less than 6% directed to administrative costs. Of our Program expenses, veterinary costs represented 59%.

### How Your Contributions Are Used

TOTAL EXPENSE



PROGRAM EXPENSE



**\$273,822**  
IN VET EXPENSES 2014



## 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 four major fundraising events annually: Fund of Love and the matching Double the Gold Challenge 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 while supporting the dogs.

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 web site and check back regularly for seasonal offerings.

**IN-KIND SUPPORT.** Big dogs have big needs, and the everyday things add up quickly. On our website, you will find a "Wishlist" of in-kind donation items and supplies of which we are in constant need.

**SHOP.** Under "Shop With Us" on our website you will find additional opportunities for giving including Amazon Smile, Our Amazon Wishlist, and our partnership with Nature's Select of Sacramento – the dogs' kibble of choice. Many of these options pay rewards to Homeward Bound at no cost to you.

**VOLUNTEER.** We have volunteer opportunities to fit every interest, skill and schedule. Visit our website for a complete listing. Do you have special skills that aren't listed? Add them to your application. We probably need 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.



### Lasting Tributes

*Planned gifts can offer a variety of benefits to you and your heirs now while demonstrating a lasting commitment to rescue. Your tax or financial advisors can advise you on the best approach for your unique situation. Ask for a free copy of our Guide to Giving or download it from our web site.*





Human lives are enhanced through the act of rescue.

"This California-based group acts as a safety net for Golden Retrievers who end up in shelters all over the state. They also maintain a sanctuary and extensive foster home network."

"DR. MARTY BECKER NAMES HOMEWARD BOUND ONE OF "5 ANIMAL ORGANIZATIONS YOU CAN SUPPORT WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE."

Photos courtesy of: Rob Kessel and Audrey Farrington.



# 7,853

DOGS RESCUED  
2000 - 2014



**HOMeward  
BOUND** Golden  
Retriever  
Rescue

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