



## NOTEWORTHY NEWS HOMEWARD BOUND PET RESCUE, INC.

### *Spring Greetings to the Friends of Homeward Bound!*

2020 may have been the winter (and spring, summer, and fall) of our discontent but we are happy to report, the cats and dogs at Homeward Bound did not feel that way.

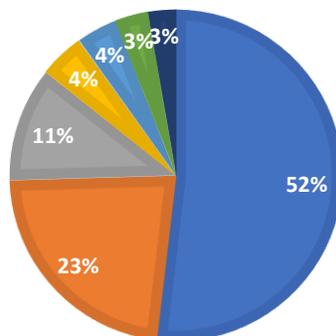
We had a record number of animals entering and leaving the shelter last year, and their run- good seems to be continuing into 2021. Our year-end total for the new dogs and cats we acquired in 2020 was 499, and 506 were fostered or adopted. Incredible! January and February of this year brought us 37 new animals, and 64 cats and dogs of our entire population were adopted or fostered. Hope springs eternal....

Additionally, 2021 began with the most wonderful news: Our longest-term resident Daisy, about whom you have all heard so much, was adopted after 7 years at our kennel; best Christmas present ever! She is living happily with a wonderful couple in North Carolina who love her as much as she loves them. McDougal, another of our special dogs that could not seem to find a home after two years, was sent to the Foster Dog Farms in Florida last August for some special training and finally found his perfect home on a big farm this past February.

As for our financial health, we are in great shape, thanks to all of you. It has unfortunately been a record year in vet expenses, especially because of the large number of dogs we took in who were heart worm positive, the treatment for which is prohibitively expensive. However, to offset that, we have seen a marked increase in the amount of donations we received, and from the income generated by Paws & Claws. We have included here two pie charts showing the breakdown of income and expenses in 2020 so that you have a better picture of the extent to which your generous support helps us.

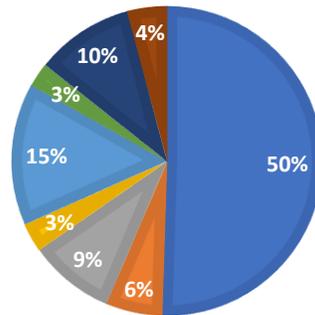
#### TOTAL INCOME \$187,830

- Donations
- Adoptions
- Paws & Claws (Net)
- Stimulus Incentive
- Sale of Van
- Spay/Neuter Certificate Sales
- Dept. Agriculture S/N Grant



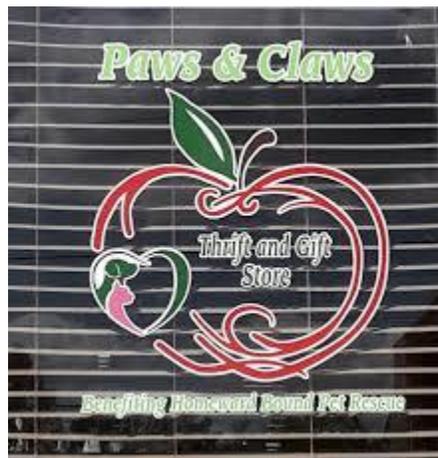
## TOTAL EXPENSES \$193,854

■ Vet Care, Food & Supplies   ■ Community Programs(Inc.S/N)   ■ Kennel Utilities & Maint.   ■ Insurance  
■ Kennel/Stimulus Payroll   ■ Dog Training   ■ Generator/Furnace   ■ Office & Misc.



In our holiday mailing in December, we covered some of the many facets of Homeward Bound, but just couldn't get in all the news fit to print. Thus, we would like to highlight two especially important components of our organization: our wonderful thrift shop, *Paws and Claws*, and the fantastic felines who grace (as all cats do) our kennel.

### *Paws & Claws Perspective*



Homeward Bound's *Paws and Claws Thrift & Gift* store is located in downtown Ellijay, Georgia. It was conceived and created by Lorraine Athas, one of our dedicated volunteers who had a great deal of foresight. She realized that a base of support would be needed to continue to fund the Homeward Bound kennel on an ongoing basis. A steady stream of dogs and cats would obviously create a steady stream of food and vet bills pouring in, and what better way to meet that monetary need than through her idea of a thrift store!

In 2014, she and Vicki McKee, another longtime volunteer, and a few good friends began searching for a location to set up our first store, which was located just three doors south of its current location. The name for the store was chosen from ideas submitted by the workers, all volunteers themselves, and *Paws & Claws* made its debut.

Everyone worked extremely hard to make the store attractive and full of quality items for sale. As the community became more aware of us, our store became a great success. Unfortunately, Lorraine passed away from cancer two years later, so she was never able to fully realize the extent of her achievements.

Many Homeward Bound kennel workers also volunteered for shifts at the store and were determined to keep up the good work Lorraine and Vicki had begun. We soon outgrew the original space, so moved to our current location, just off the square at 24 South Main Street (across from the Catholic Church). It is difficult to believe that seven years has elapsed since the inception of Paws & Claws, and it grows more successful every year. We have become one of the main financial supports for the kennel, and the money we raise helps to provide food, medication, and supplies for the cats and dogs as well as to defray the vet bills, the kennel renovations, and the maintenance expenses.

Paws & Claws is currently open Monday thru Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM. It is staffed by a dedicated volunteer group of ladies (but we would love to have some men help out also!) who work extremely hard pricing and displaying all the merchandise donated by the people in our community. Our volunteers love animals and know we use the money raised there to take care of the animals at our kennel.

Paws & Claws offers wonderful household items for sale: dishes, glassware, pots & pans, bed linens, curtains, bathroom items, paintings, books & CD's, decorative knick- knacks, clothing, shoes and more; the list goes on and on. We also have a designated dog and cat area stocked with items such as collars, leashes, toys, and sweaters, all at extremely reasonable prices. And, of course, we are dog friendly, so be sure to bring your canine companion along so he or she can choose their own special gift.

The Homeward Bound folks who know which dogs and cats are available for adoption bring us pictures of these animals to be placed in our windows, where locals and visitors alike can read about each and every animal. It is amazing how many people have found a dog or cat to add to their own family, just from the posted pictures.

We hope y'all will come visit and spend your money at Paws & Claws and help support the animals there. Buy nice things for yourself or gifts for friends and family and help us by donating good quality items as well. If you should wish to volunteer (just a 3-hour shift once a week) please let one of the workers in our store know, and they will gladly give you an application form. We look forward to seeing you there and making you a part of our Homeward Bound family.

Thank you for your continued support.

Carol Gray, Manager

**And from our Cat Corner.....**

### **Musings from Martha**

Do you remember growing up with your best kitty cat? Running around the house playing and goofing off, and maybe causing a little mayhem along the way? Cuddling at night and falling asleep with the sound of purrs? Wasn't that fun? Well, it turns out that kitties and cats want a best buddy, too! And Homeward Bound makes it easy for you to adopt a best buddy!

As every cat owner knows, adopting a new furry friend is a special and unforgettable experience. Though accidents, rough introductions with other pets, and confusion may sometimes ensue once you bring your new cat home, it's all worth it in the end.

If you are considering adopting a rescued cat, prepare to be inspired by how a handful of lucky cats found their fur-ever homes.

## Frito



A man was getting out of his truck after driving to work one early morning. He was puzzled to hear a small 'meow' nearby. He followed the sound to the wheel well under his vehicle, only to find a tiny dark gray kitten. She could not have been more than three weeks old. This kitten had just survived a miraculous ten mile drive this man had to make to get to work.

This little girl was named "Frito" and was readily accepted into a foster home where she was hand fed, nurtured, loved and spoiled until she became adoptable.

## Cheeto



Shortly after Frito entered her foster home, a golden tiger male kitten was found wandering aimlessly into a heavily traveled road. He was no more than four weeks old. If it were not for this concerned motorist, this could have easily been a fatality.

This miniature tiger was taken to the foster where Frito was beginning to become lonely. The motor oil was cleaned from his face, he was provided nourishment, love, and lots of attention from the foster and Frito. In fact, this was Frito's dream come true. Frito's loneliness was now filled with endless chasing, wrestling, and playing until exhausted. And, given this little guy's coloration, we had to name him "Cheeto". Frito and Cheeto could be called the brother and sister who really did get along. They were the best of friends.

As Frito and Cheeto grew into an adoptable size, a wonderful loving family came in to adopt Frito. Saddened that Frito would be leaving Cheeto, it was explained to the adopter how much they meant to each other. After some phone calls to get Daddy's approval, Frito and Cheeto went to their fur-ever home **together!**

## Frito & Chito Together Forever



## Domino



Domino, a black and white kitten, was one of many saved from a kill shelter at his final hour. He was loved by all the Homeward Bound volunteers, but somehow was overlooked by any potential adopters. Domino is smart, affectionate and rather 'quirky'. He had a habit of contorting himself when he was picked up. It appeared Domino only trusted the volunteers. When a new face would come into his community room, he would disconnect himself and walk away. He appeared happy just where he was. Domino grew and lived at Homeward Bound for two years.

After it became evident he was not going to find a home, he was scheduled to head out of town on a transport going to Atlanta, where his chances for adoption would be far greater. Then his miracle came! Not even out of our county yet, a volunteer received a phone call asking to adopt Domino. A quick U-turn, a little paperwork, and now Domino lives in furever luxury.

All these kittens had some incredibly sad beginnings, but it is because of our volunteers that they will live out their lives in safe, protected and loving atmospheres in their fur-ever homes.

Volunteering brings such happy rewards to both volunteer and feline. Being an animal shelter volunteer is good for your emotional, physical, and mental health. **It is scientifically proven that spending time with animals helps lower your stress levels and blood pressure.** It will also keep you active, especially during playtime. You get to create a unique bond with the cat, which helps your emotional health. Caring for pets can help you deal with depression, anxiety, or stress. Bonding with a dog or cat can elevate levels of serotonin and dopamine, nature's drugs which help us to be calm and relaxed.

One of the most essential volunteer opportunities, which is both fun and rewarding, is providing a foster “home between homes” for kittens prior to adoption. With our support, you help socialize animals making them highly adoptable. This is a wonderful and personal way to help save pets in your loving home.

Or, if you can just offer an hour or two to help socialize and play with these beautiful felines, that would be greatly appreciated as well. Please go to [www.hbpr.org](http://www.hbpr.org) to complete our Volunteer or Foster Application. A Homeward Bound representative will contact you within 24 hours.

**“Time spent with cats is never wasted” Sigmund Freud.**

Martha Cash, Cat Guru

So, from all of us at Homeward Bound Pet Rescue and Paws & Claws Thrift and Gift Shop, to all of you, our staunch and loyal supporters, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Without you, none of this would be possible. You make dreams come true every day.

We would love to hear from you, especially those of you who have adopted a cat or a dog from us, to share the ways in which your pet has changed your life. Pictures are wonderful, so send them along as well. We can be reached through our email address at [Homeward@ellijay.com](mailto:Homeward@ellijay.com).

Until our next update in the summer, stay well, be happy, and give your pets some extra love along the way.

**All Our Thanks!**

***The Board and Volunteers of Homeward Bound Pet Rescue***

***And Daisy***



***And McDougal***



***And all the rest.....***