



2023
ANNUAL REPORT

LEADERSHIP

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Amy Lake, Director of Marketing and Development

Jo Lineberry, Volunteer Services Manager

Carolyn Maset, Events Manager

Kim Stecher, Behavior Services Manager

Dayle Stubbs, Veterinary Services Manager

Kathy Taylor, Intake Manager

OUR MISSION

We provide Golden Retrievers and Golden Retriever mixes a second chance through education, advocacy, rescue, and community outreach.

RAGOM serves Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and western Wisconsin.



LOOKING BACK AT 2023

294

dogs were adopted

159

dogs rescued from
commercial breeding life

7

dogs rescued from
other countries

970

applications to adopt
the dogs in our care

\$1,140

average veterinary
cost per dog

8

sanctuary dogs lived out
their lives lovingly cared for
by RAGOM foster families



THEODORE 23-180



REMOVING BARRIERS TO ADOPTION

Our theme in 2023 was “removing barriers to adoption”. Our goal is to make it easy to foster or adopt a rescue dog, while also ensuring the dog is happy and successful in their new home. We made countless changes, big and small, to meet this goal.

We streamlined the process to become a foster volunteer, and re-energized our Foster Mentor program to ensure foster families feel supported. We created a Shy and Fearful Dog program to assist fosters who are caring for dogs that need a little more help.

We created a formal Foster-to-Adopt (FTA) program which increased our ability to rescue more dogs. When our foster homes are full, FTA dogs bypass foster families and go directly to their adoptive family. We work with the adopter to accomplish what normally occurs in foster care. Once those steps are complete, the adoption is finalized. The program placed 66 dogs in loving homes.

We added a short pre-screening questionnaire on our application so we don't waste the time of people who aren't a good match, and save time for volunteers who evaluate applications. We simplified our adoption application and streamlined our screening and placement processes. We began allowing out-of-territory adoptions for dogs that are difficult to place, broadening the pool of potential adopters for them.

The new Matchmakers program connects overlooked dogs and adoptive families together. Because our volunteers know our dogs so well, they invite applicants to consider dogs they might have missed. It's been a big success.

Some dogs that come to us have had challenging pasts. It's difficult to find foster homes for these dogs, but they need the most help. We now partner with a certified trainer who assists fosters with any concerns they have about their dogs, and helps them with positive-reinforcement training. The dogs become more adoptable, and the foster families gain new skills which they can use with future foster dogs.

Each of these changes has made a positive difference for fosters, adopters, and the dogs in our care.

HELPING DOGS OVERCOME BEHAVIOR ISSUES

When a dog has a behavior issue, it severely limit's the dog's success in finding an adoptive family. Similarly, when an adopted dog develops a behavior issue, it increases the likelihood they will be returned to RAGOM. Because of this, we began a new program that matches a certified trainer with fosters for less-easy dogs, and we also make this resource available to those who adopt more challenging dogs.

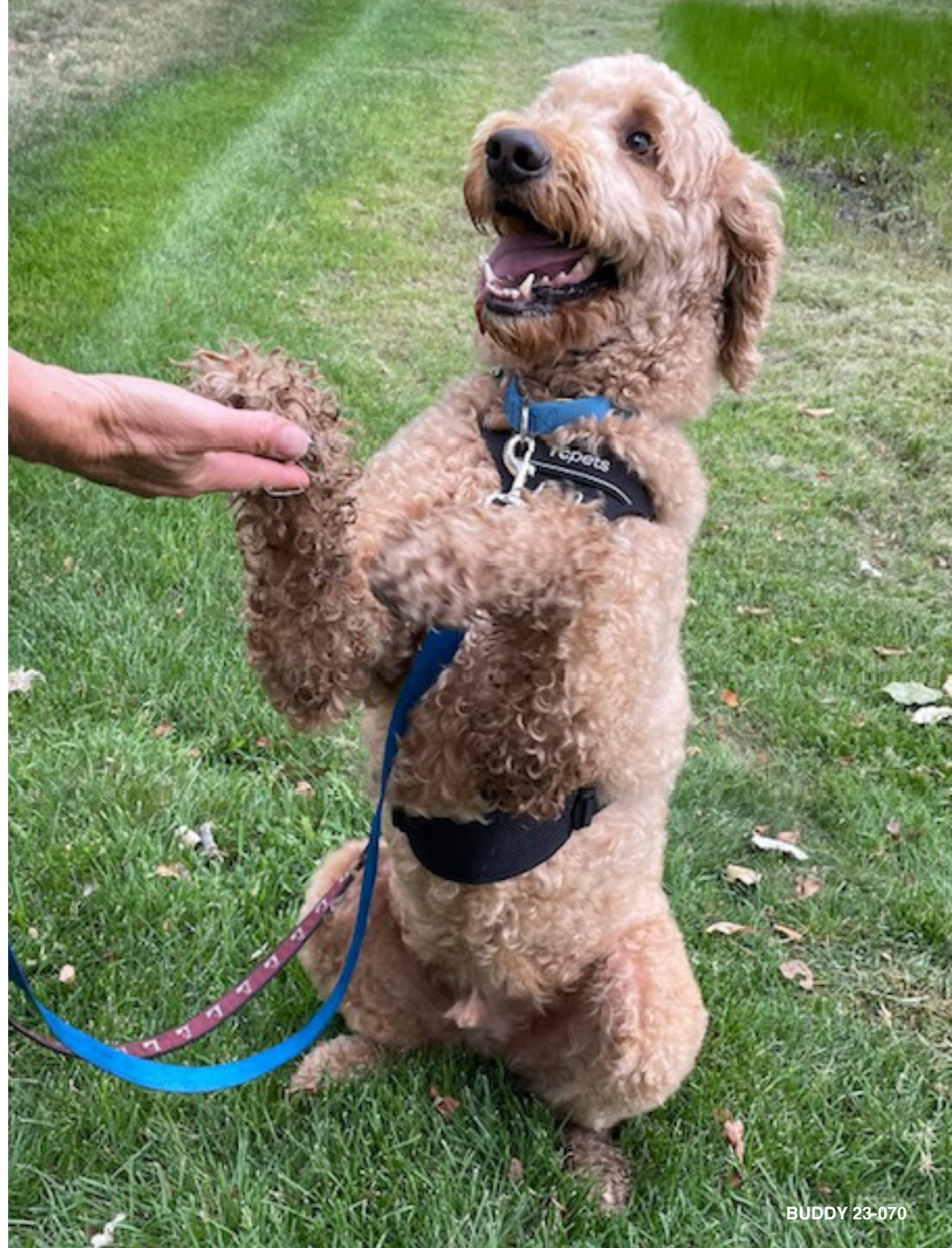
The program has been enormously successful. Buddy had acted reactively while in RAGOM's care, and after being adopted, was later returned for resource guarding. When an applicant expressed interest in adopting him, we offered to provide training to ensure he would be successful in his new environment.

The trainer noticed a pattern had emerged in his new home. When Buddy was cornered or restrained, or items were taken away from him, he escalated.

Using positive reinforcement, together they trained Buddy to "leave it" and trade an item he valued for another of value. Buddy learned to voluntarily relinquish items he valued. They also trained Buddy to come when his name was called, so they could get him to turn away from high level distractions. He quickly learned that coming to a family member was very rewarding.

After working with the trainer, his family reports that Buddy is doing very well. He no longer jumps on people and has learned to back away from items that have been left out. He even gave up a container of cheese snacks! We're thrilled Buddy is thriving in his new home. Working with a trainer made all the difference.

“
*He quickly learned
that coming to a
family member was
very rewarding.*”



BUDDY 23-070

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

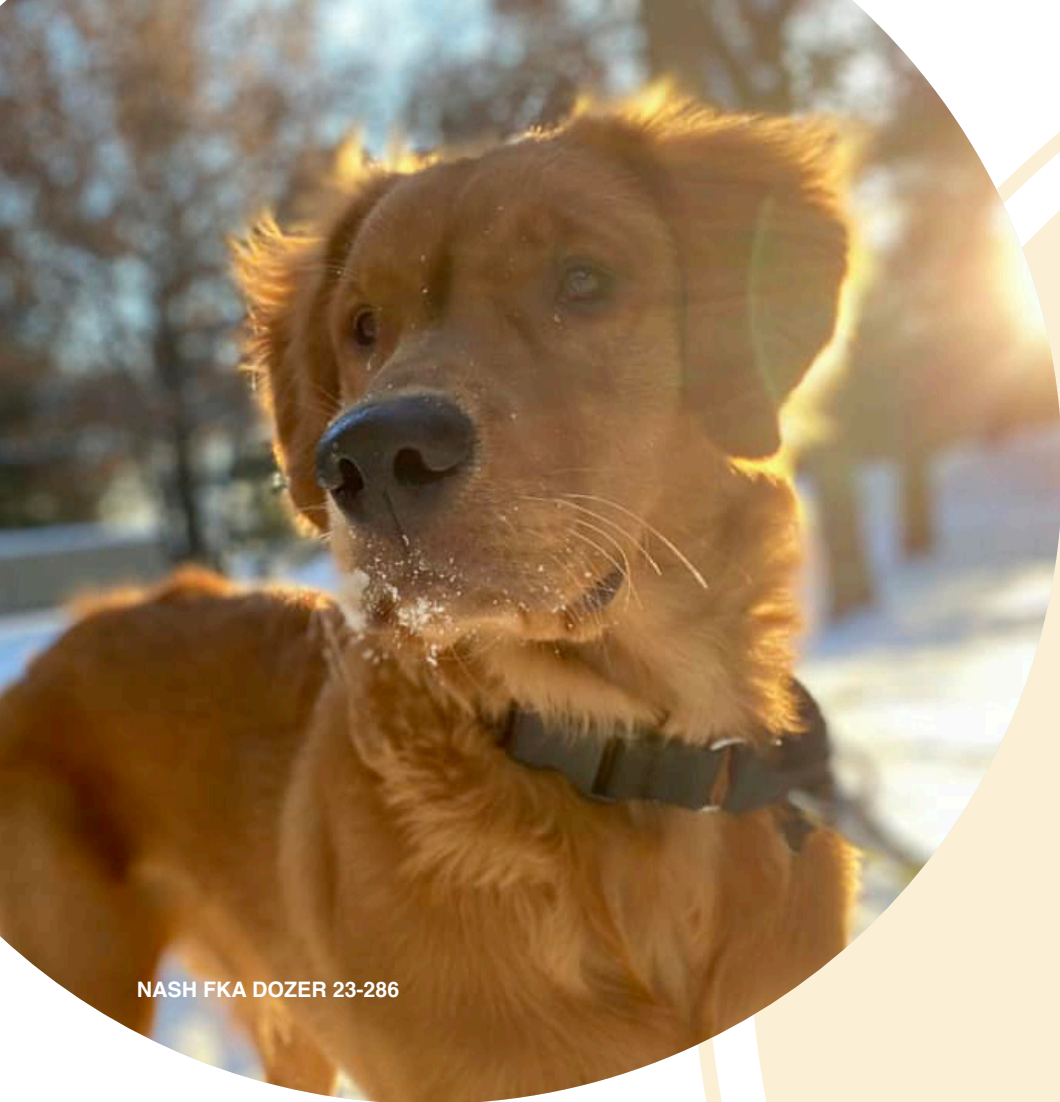
RAGOM's sanctuary program is one of the things that makes us special. While our goal is to place every dog in our care with a loving adopter, there are occasionally times when we feel it's in the dog's best interest not to have to go through another big life transition. Sometimes we discover a dog in our care has a terminal diagnosis, and though it's unusual, we do get dogs who, despite our best efforts, have a behavioral challenge that makes them nearly impossible to place for adoption.

Dogs in the sanctuary program are cared for in their loving foster home for as long as their health permits them to feel comfortable and happy. Instead of promoting their dog for adoption, sanctuary foster homes focus on making sure every day for their sanctuary dog is filled with love and joy.

Hunter is one of our dogs who is benefiting from this program. He came to us because his person's health issues prevented her from giving him the care he needed. His veterinary checkup revealed inoperable cancer, but Hunter is happy and enjoying life. He loves going on walks and car rides, playing gently with his toys, and soaking up the love of his sanctuary family. Until his bad days outnumber his good, he'll get to enjoy every day he has left, safe and loved in RAGOM's care.



HUNTER 23-258



NASH FKA DOZER 23-286

GOLDEN LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS



- Lou Ambrose
- Mark and Peggy Berg
- Lisa Anne Bishop
- Kelly Burns
- Randall Cottingham
- Paddy Dunder
- Bev Foster
- Susan Giloy
- Richard Grigos and Lauren Segal
- Michele and son Andrew Hamilton
- Jay B. Hillestad and Arlene Jorgensen Hillestad
- Ruth A. Hinnenkamp
- Mary Horton
- Kristi Husted
- Martha Jones Sichko
- Regina and Brandon Keith
- Wendy Knox
- Amy and Bryan Lake
- Judy Lander
- Jayne Larson
- Linda and Chuck Lee
- Jim Lehnen
- Tom and Diane Lentz
- Al and Jo Lineberry
- Mary McGowan and Family

- Barb Metcalf
- Forrest Meyeraan
- Kim Myers
- Robert and Julie Natz
- Jane Nygaard
- Krista and Gregg Okerman
- Bob and Phyllis Porter
- Dave Powell and Marla Stack
- Sheila Rawski and Peter Martignacco
- Erik and Susan Reisetter
- Mary M. Roemhildt
- Pam and Denny Schulstad
- Fred Page and Elayne Sexsmith
- Stacie Shaw
- Charles and Pamela Speidel
- Peggy and Neil Spofford
- Kathleen Sprank
- Kim Stecher
- Sheri Stover
- Dayle Stubbs
- Mark and Ruth Valgemae
- Jake and Cathy* Wagenaar
- Dr. Joe Zandlo
- Joe and Janice Zumbrennen
- Anonymous (4)

*in remembrance

The Golden Legacy Circle

is a special group of supporters who have included RAGOM in their estate plans through their will, insurance policy, or retirement account. The support of members ensures that each dog will be welcomed and taken care of, well into the future.

2023 FINANCIAL REPORT



WILLOW 23-300

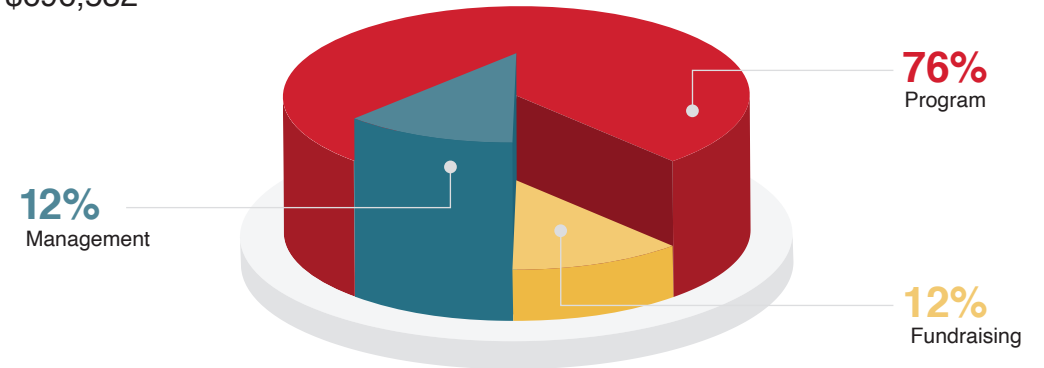
2023 BALANCE SHEET

TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,259,114
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$95,504
NET ASSETS	\$1,164,610

2023 INCOME STATEMENT

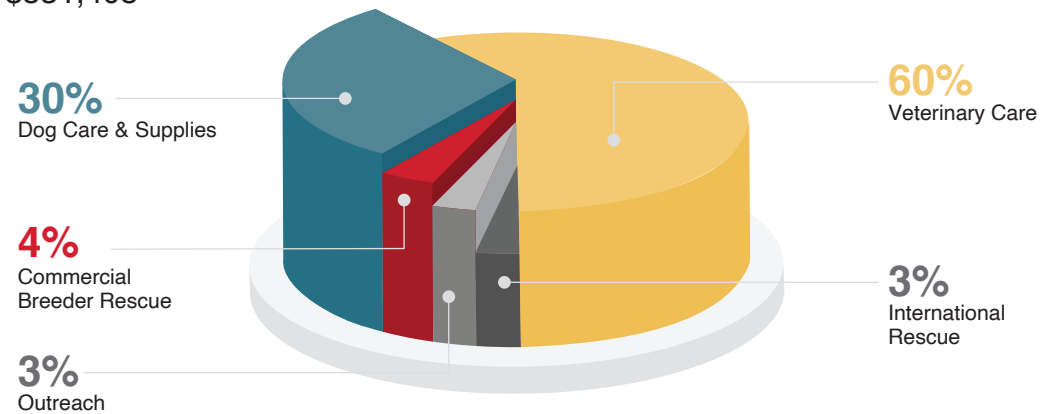
TOTAL EXPENSE

\$696,532



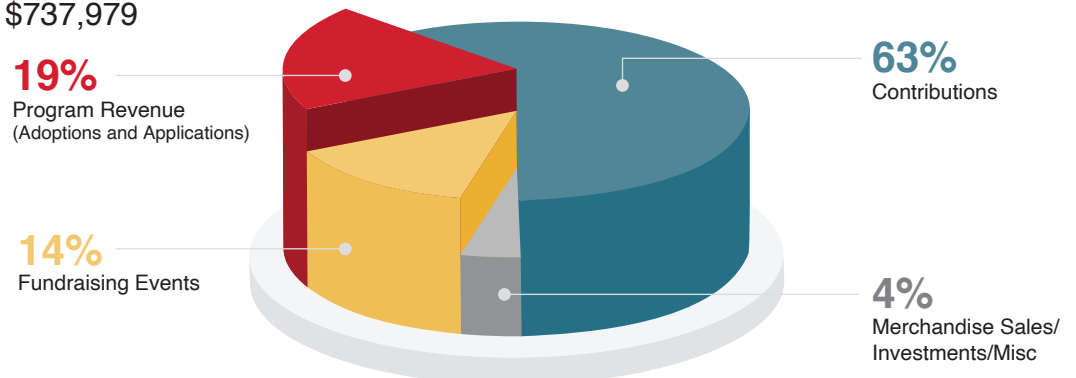
PROGRAM EXPENSE

\$531,408



REVENUE

\$737,979



*Financials have been reviewed by RAGOM accountant but annual financial audit is still pending as of this printing.



SULLY 23-134



PATEK 23-071



STANLEY 22-083



MAPLE 23-103



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Cover: Goose (fka Cedar 23-303), who benefited from RAGOM's new behavior program. Photo by volunteer Bill McMichael.

Design by Kristin Howlett

