



**CALIFORNIA
RESCUE DOG
ASSOCIATION**

2024
Annual Report

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California Rescue Dog Association
3056 Castro Valley Blvd #101
Castro Valley, CA 94546



July 1, 2024

Since 1976, the California Rescue Dog Association has provided highly trained dog teams to search for the missing in California. Dispatched to all 58 counties by the California Office of Emergency Services, our teams are certified to search large wilderness areas or urban settings. Specialized certifications include Trailing, Area, Water, Human Remains Detection, and Avalanche.

According to the “Objectives and Purposes” outlined in the CARDA Bylaws:

The specific purpose of this corporation is to provide highly trained volunteer search dog teams for search and rescue deployment; to train and promote working dogs for search and rescue; to set the standards by which search and rescue dogs are to be certified; to act as a principal testing agency for the certification of search dogs; to further the public knowledge of, interest in, and the use of search and rescue dogs; to promote the positive image and protect the interest of the search and rescue community in the State of California; and to encourage and foster good relationships between the corporation and legislative and law enforcement bodies.

Our commitment runs even deeper: Our canines—owned and trained by each handler—are our partners on the most heartfelt level. We devote uncountable hours to train in every environment and drive uncountable miles to train and search in every corner of California, all at our own expense. We never charge a dime for our service.

In addition to training our canines, we meet and often exceed standards set by the California Office of Emergency Services in every search-related skill, from navigation to incident command protocols to wilderness first aid.

By the end of 2023, handlers trained and certified by CARDA numbered 146. Most of these handlers belong to both CARDA and their individual county teams, responding to callouts from both. In all, CARDA-certified teams responded to more than 230 callouts in 2023.

To carry out our mission requires a strong fiscal foundation, which is currently covered mostly by individual handlers. Strengthening this foundation is one of our core goals. We are proud to have earned GuideStar’s Gold Seal of Transparency (<https://www.guidestar.org>), providing donors with the information they need.

CARDA teams are on call 24/7, putting themselves and their canine partners on the line to search for the missing. They meet every challenge and every requirement at their own expense, asking for almost nothing in return. I am inspired and honored to work beside each of these teams, who answered the call to serve others.

Your support of CARDA makes all the difference.
Carol Shapiro, President

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM YEAR 2023/24

- In February 2023, the CARDA membership voted to implement electronic voting. **Election Buddy** is the e-voting platform CARDA used for the July 2023 and July 2024 elections. Voter participation has increased as a result of this change.
- In April 2023, CARDA received \$2,500 from AKC ReUnite Foundation. With these funds, CARDA was able to conduct our first ever **Large Source Cadaver trainings** for our members in cooperation with UC Davis and the Nevada County Sheriff Search and Rescue team.
- CARDA has created a **Peer Support Team**. The team is in the process of being fully trained and will respond to the needs of our members (much like other first responder organizations provide). The team is composed of nine CARDA volunteers who will go through training to develop basic skills for critical incident stress conversations. A grant of \$10,000 from Direct Relief was dedicated, in part, to this effort.
- On January 2023, CARDA adopted the **"I am Responding" (IaR)** application to dispatch searches. It improves the response process and provides transparency and new collaboration tools for responding teams. It also reduced the cost of CARDA's dispatch process and put the tool on smartphones for all members to receive immediate alerts and access.
- CARDA completed a **public website refresh** on February 1, 2023. As a follow on in November, we added a dedicated page highlighting each certified canine team.

NEW CALTOPO ENDOWMENT

CARDA was given a generous \$10,000 donation by Bill and Margaret Reed to set up a lifetime endowment honoring the memory of Laura Sanborn. This fund will provide all CARDA members with access to CalTopo search and rescue navigation software.

CARDA asked the general public to donate matching funds via a Fundly.com campaign and raised an additional \$2,560 to add to the endowment. CARDA purchased CalTopo for all members to use, for the next three years.



MISSION STATEMENT

The specific purpose of this corporation is to provide highly trained volunteer search dog teams for:

- Search and rescue deployments;
- to **train and promote** working dogs for search and rescue;
- to **set the standards** by which search and rescue dogs are to be certified;
- to **act as a principal testing agency** for the certification of search dogs;
- to **further the public knowledge** of, interest in, and the use of search and rescue dogs;
- to **promote the positive image** and protect the interest of the search and rescue community in the State of California;
- and to **encourage and foster good relationships** between the corporation and legislative and law enforcement bodies.

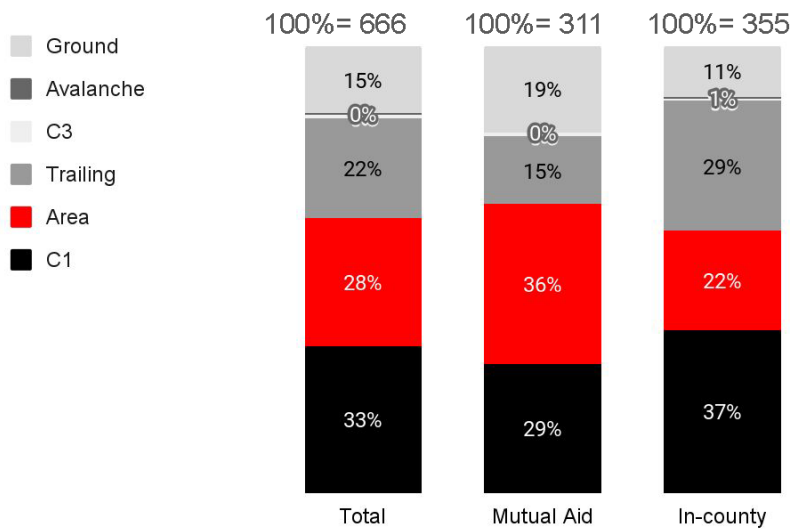
MUTUAL AID SEARCH MISSIONS

Counties Requesting Mutual Aid from CalOES

7/1/23	Contra Costa	1/1/24	Placer
7/8/23	Los Angeles	1/6/24	Mendocino
7/13/23	Tulare	1/7/24	Del Norte
7/15/23	Amador	1/27/24	San Diego
7/16/23	Santa Cruz	2/2/24	Humboldt
7/20/23	Los Angeles	2/6/24	Santa Barbara
7/23/23	Contra Costa	2/9/24	Mendocino
8/4/23	Riverside	2/10/24	Lake
8/5/23	Marin	2/10/24	Marin
8/19/23	Fresno	2/13/24	Mendocino
8/23/23	San Bernardino	2/22/24	Santa Barbara
9/13/23	Placer	2/29/24	Contra Costa
9/14/23	Colusa	3/6/24	Sacramento
9/22/23	Calaveras	3/7/24	Fresno
9/23/23	Merced	3/10/24	Alameda
9/25/23	Tulare	3/14/24	San Joaquin
9/26/23	Tulare	3/15/24	Los Angeles
9/27/23	Sacramento	3/20/24	Monterey
10/4/23	Placer	3/29/24	Butte
10/22/23	Placer	4/6/24	Sacramento
10/30/23	Mariposa	4/13/24	Marin
11/3/23	Fresno	4/17/24	Santa Barbara
11/8/23	Nevada	4/19/24	Nevada
11/12/23	Los Angeles	4/23/24	Merced
11/16/23	Calaveras	5/9/24	Contra Costa
11/20/23	Sonoma	5/13/24	Santa Clara
11/27/23	Shasta	5/18/24	San Mateo
11/28/23	Calaveras	5/19/24	Alameda
11/29/23	Nevada	5/22/24	Mendocino
12/4/23	Inyo	6/2/24	Sonoma
12/7/23	Sacramento	6/20/24	Fresno
12/10/23	Mendocino	6/24/24	Shasta
12/20/23	Tulare	6/25/24	Nevada
12/30/23	Placer		

The mix of 2023 search days per discipline differed between mutual aid and in-county searches

% of search team days



HRD teams searched a third of all team days, and more so in county than in mutual aid.

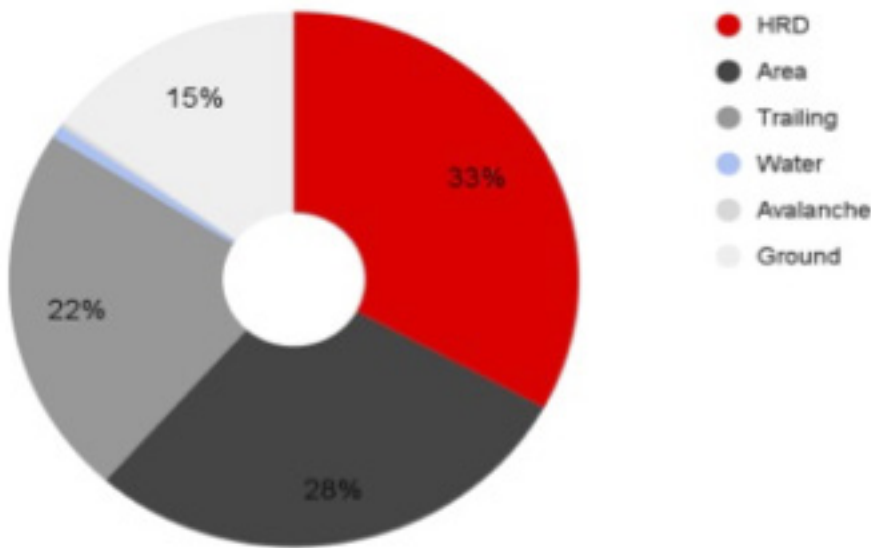
Area teams worked the largest share of mutual aid search days but were much smaller in county.

In contrast, 70% of trailing search days were in county.

Note: Estimates based on CARDA's available data sources.

CARDA teams searched across range of disciplines

% of all search team days



Note: Estimates based on CARDA's available data sources.

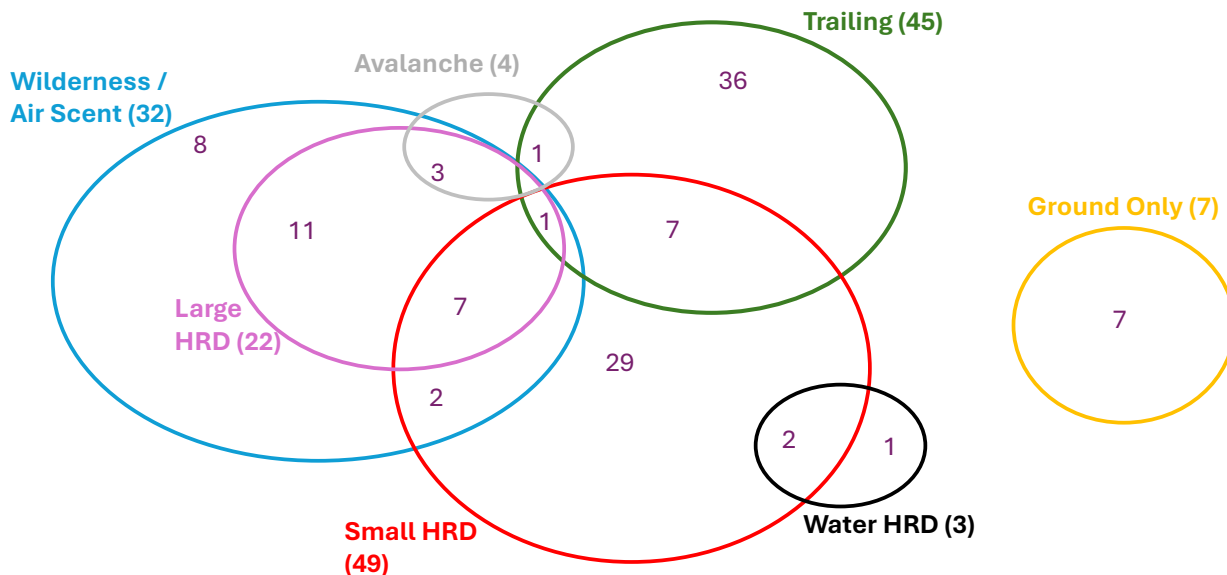
MEMBER CERTIFICATIONS

Test in Discipline	Initial Certification	Re-certification
Trailing	13	9
Wilderness/Air Scent	5	8
Wilderness/40 Acre	8	-
Human Remains (small source)	13	36
Human Remains (large source)	7	9
Human Remains - Water	0	3
Avalanche	1	3
Ground Searcher	3	2

In 2023/24 there were 115 tests for certification in a specific canine discipline - 68 recertification tests and 47 initial certification tests.

Missing person incidents have no “low season”, and CARDA teams train and test for certification year-round to be ready when called.

116 Deployable Teams in Certification



To remain eligible to be deployed in a discipline, every canine team must pass a certification test every two years (except human remains detection for which the state of California requires annual recertification).

Most wilderness air scent canines are certified to locate both live and deceased missing persons, as we don't know the condition of missing people in many wilderness situations. Whereas CARDA has more single purpose (versus cross trained) trailing and human remains detection canines.



TRAINING PROGRAMS

CARDA has 22 training groups across California that meet at least once a week in varying locations to set up scenarios for the local teams to train in their discipline.

CARDA also offers member/instructors for certification in CPR/AED and First Aid.

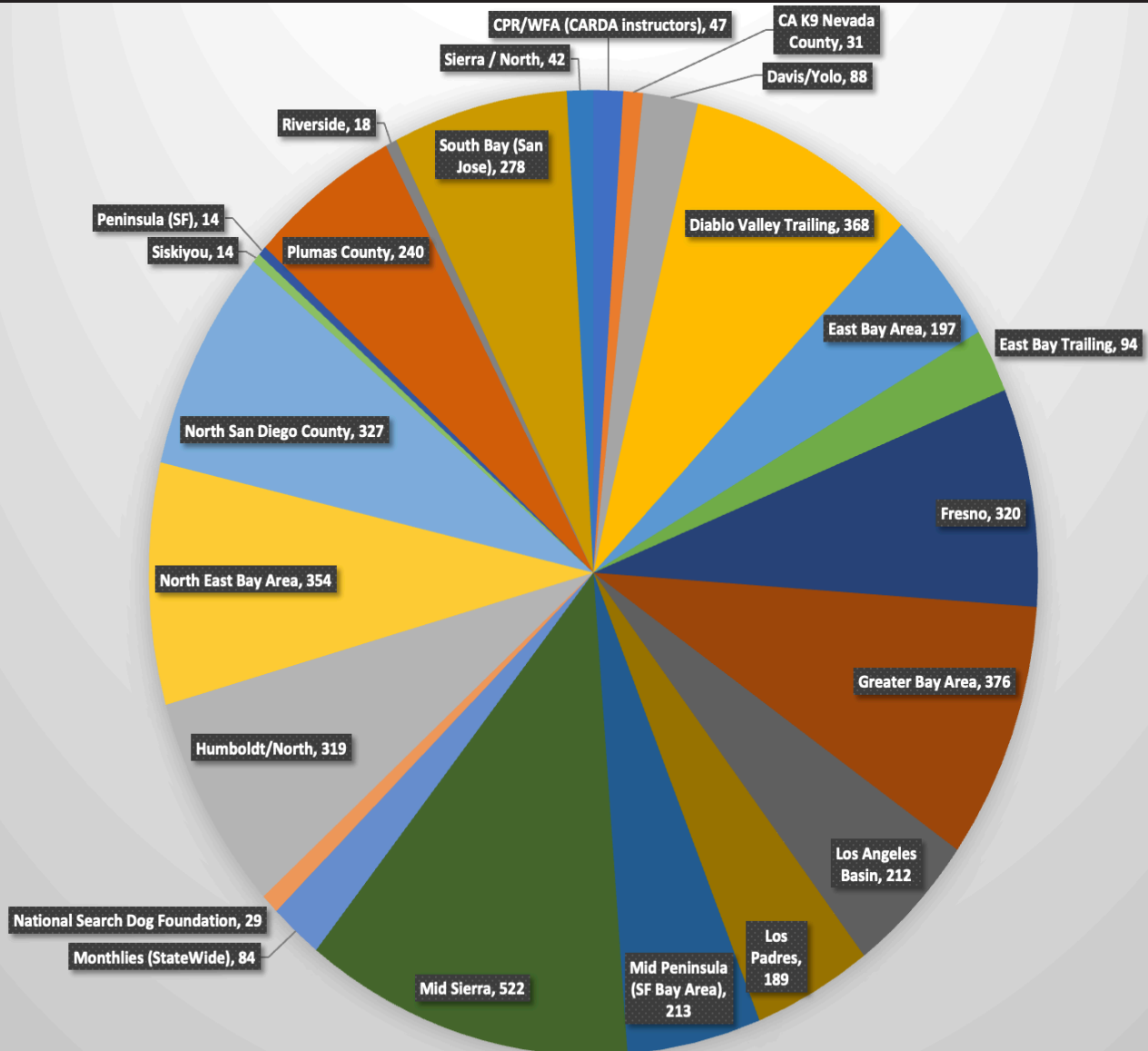
In 2023/24 CARDA was able to use the Santa Paula facility of the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation and train wilderness teams in basic urban disaster techniques.

To give the dogs and their handlers broader experience, CARDA teams across the state meet in 1-3 day trainings throughout the year. These are weekend events designed to expose dogs and their handlers to California's varying terrain and weather conditions and to provide teams with opportunities to be assessed and get feedback from different instructors.

In addition to the CARDA training, handlers work with their dogs daily to provide physical exercise, maintain obedience and ensure environmental stability.



HOURS OF TRAINING STATEWIDE



FUNDRAISING



March 17, 2024 Morgan Territory, Contra Costa County

We had a total of 23 CalSAR personnel, 19 Bay Area company employees and 15 CARDA handlers in the morning and 12 in the afternoon (some of whom stayed all day)

This event was created to try to build a relationship with the CalSAR members and teach them how to be canine flankers. In addition, the CalSAR members were learning how to do IC and Bay Area company employees learned how to be



November 5, 2023 Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County

Sunday 11/5, there was a fun Workday event in Half Moon Bay where CARDA members helped “Workmates” give time/\$ as volunteers to assist with a CARDA training. The employees had a fun experience and they were able to donate \$3,000 to us (a local charity) through work.



October 21, 2023 Humboldt County

Thanks to the Humboldt Bay Fire Department, CARDA received \$3,267 in targeted donations from their annual “Bark in the Park” community fundraiser.

The event took place in Sequoia Park. This year HBF had selected California Rescue Dog Association (CARDA) to receive all funds raised.

FINANCIALS

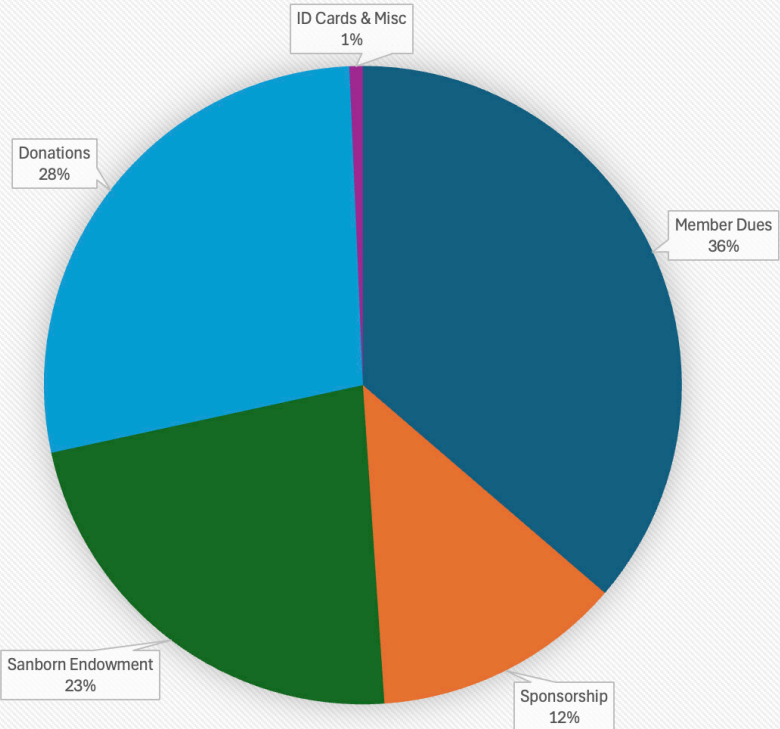
Sources and Uses of Funds:

Donations	\$15,357
Sponsorships	\$7,000
Behest	\$12,560
Membership Dues	\$20,099
Other	\$376
Total Funds Sourced	\$55,392

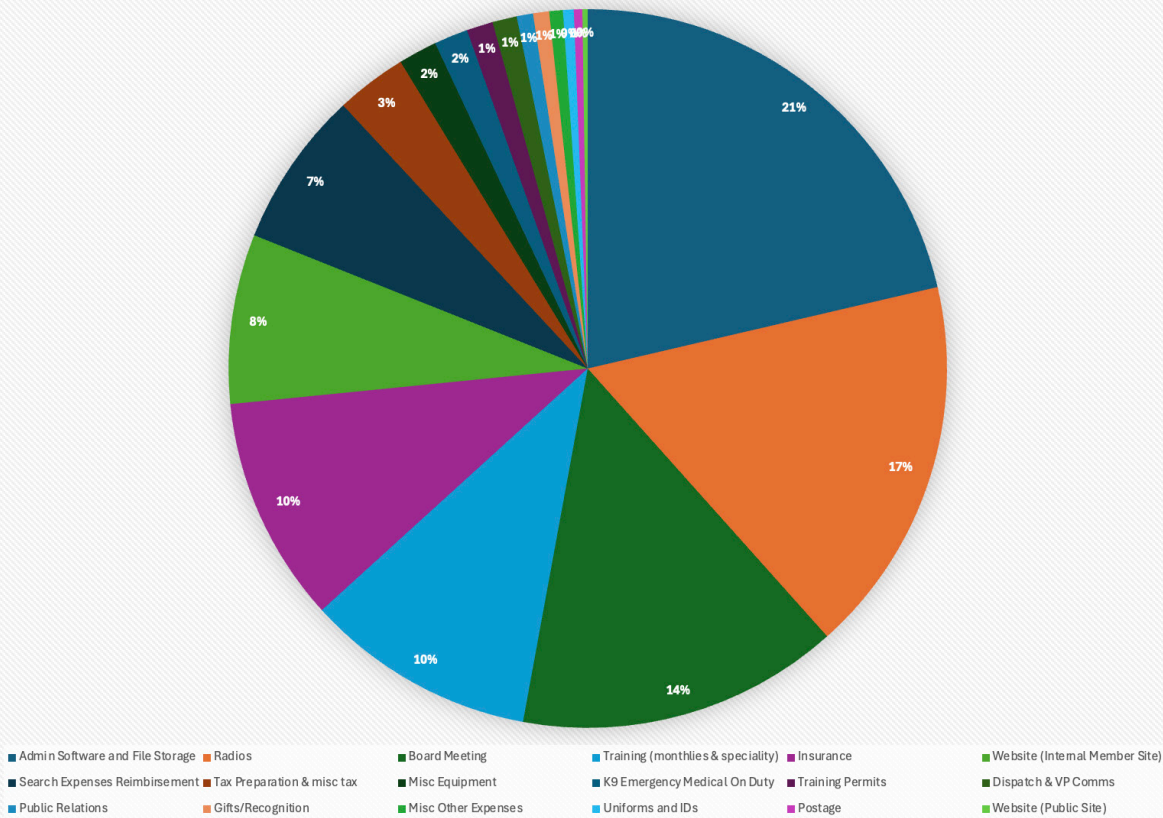
Admin (Software and Storage)	\$12,533
Equipt - Radios	\$9,991
Board Meetings	\$8,508
Training (Monthlies and Special)	\$6,089
Liability Insurance	\$5,959
Website (Internal/Members)	\$4,477
Website (Public)	\$140
Search Expense Reimbursement	\$4,126
Tax Prep	\$1,875
Misc Equpt	\$1,023
Other	\$3,957
Total Expenses Paid	\$58,678

Cash Balance 7/1/2023	\$220,691
Cash Balance 7/1/2024	\$211,469

2023/24 Sources of Funds



2023/24 CARDA Expenses



DONOR HONOR ROLL

CARDA Sponsors: \$7,000



QI Medical - \$2,500



Subaru / Toyota - \$2,000



Beach Hut Deli - \$1,000



Pieter Folkens Family - \$1,000



Red Rocks/Hygieia Labs - \$500

Corporate and Government Donation Programs: \$7,927

Humboldt Bay Fire Department - \$3,267

Workday - \$3,000

**Anonymous Bay Area Company - \$1,345

General Fund Donations (from website and social channels): \$7,786

Georgette Topakas and Family - \$3,000

Anonymous - \$606

Jeremy Jacobsen - \$500

Cynthia McCormick - \$500

Natural Solutions Canine Rattlesnake Aversion/Erick Briggs - \$450

Jacob Pockrandt - \$240

Chad Lochlear \$157

All other donors up to \$100:

- Cyndee Schwartz
- Deidre Hayden
- Jonathan Rumsey
- Thomas McMahon
- Christina Fontana
- Anonymous/Blue Shield
- Jay Strauss
- Marilyn Lang
- Building the Equestrian Dream
- Maureen Wilson
- Michael Hayes
- Costco Donations
- Majorie Goux
- Margarita Chumak
- Dan Timmerman

Laura Sanborn Endowment: \$12,560

Bill and Margaret Reed	10000
Douglas Surber	1000
Carol Shapiro	500
Michael Cassar	250
Erick and Erin Briggs	250
Kelly Takemoto and Gordon Durand	100
Eric Sheets	100
Jaana Remes	100
Anonymous	100
Naomi Harada	50
Maya Conrad	50
Paul Miyashiro	25
Anonymous	25
Kaylin Yates	10

COMMUNITY AWARENESS



Did you know May 5th was MMIP Awareness Day? North Coast CARDA teams participated in the Yurok Tribe's Missing or Murdered Indigenous People Awareness (MMIP) Walk on the ancestral lands of the Wiyot People in Eureka, CA.

Korbel Environment, Health and Safety Fair, July 2023



Cal State San Marcos STEM Fair

