

Thank you!

## Gifts of gratitude

Volunteers show their gratitude • Helping pets after Hurricane Harvey • Kids' letters to pets they helped  
A special gift for a canine hero





## Happy Fall!

### THANK YOU FOR BEING A VALUED SUPPORTER!

Did you know that RedRover is committed to fostering a culture of gratitude? We believe it's important to acknowledge our supporters, volunteers and staff for their part in helping RedRover achieve its mission. We also know that spending time reflecting every day on what we are grateful for and expressing that gratitude to others brings many benefits to individuals, and consequently to organizations. For example, research shows that thinking about what you are grateful for on a regular basis reduces depression (or increases

happiness) and enhances empathy. Feeling thankful also improves self-esteem, sleep and the ability to overcome trauma! Responding in a caring and empathetic way to both people and animals in crisis is a core value for RedRover, and practicing gratitude helps support our efforts.

Listening to the appreciation of disaster evacuees and seeing the happiness of animals when they are back in the arms of their people are just two examples of the power of gratitude. When RedRover Responders volunteers deployed to recent devastating disasters, including Hurricane Harvey in Texas and the Wall Fire in Oroville, California, it was clear that seeing the gratitude and happiness of the animals and people inspired our volunteers to be their very best—and it also helped victims begin their long recovery.

Join us in spreading our culture of gratitude, starting with enjoying this



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issue of the *Companion*, which is filled with expressions of gratitude from kids, donors and grant recipients. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your compassion, kindness and generosity. You have been a critical part of the outpouring of support we are now experiencing, which couldn't be more perfectly timed — during our 30th year of bringing animals from crisis to care.



**NICOLE FORSYTH**  
President and CEO

## Russell Stover and RedRover partner for Valentine's Day

Russell Stover Chocolates, LLC, has selected RedRover to be featured on selected chocolate products for the 2018 Valentine's Day season!

Russell Stover candy bars and boxes of chocolates featuring photos of animals that RedRover helped will be sold in retail stores across the country. All items will be available for purchase at [www.russellstover.com](http://www.russellstover.com) in early 2018.

Through Russell Stover's sponsorship, RedRover will receive \$50,000 to help fulfill our mission. Thank you, Russell Stover, for helping us bring animals from crisis to care!

Russell Stover



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# Gifts of gratitude from volunteers

by Karly Noel, RedRover Director of Education and Outreach



*Will, Audrey and Ben are grateful for opportunities to help make a difference.*

## REDROVER STAFF LOVE THANKING OUR VOLUNTEERS

for supporting our mission and giving their time and talents to help us do so many great things. We truly have the best volunteers — over 3,800 around the country — and we're often amazed by how *they* show their gratitude for *us*. Recently, I received an unexpected gift from a young volunteer named Will and his grandmother, Tina, a dynamic duo who volunteered in our office during Will's school break.

At the end of their time helping in the office, Will and Tina wanted me to know how thankful they were for the opportunity to volunteer for RedRover. I was honored to receive this beautiful token of appreciation: a pin of a dog and cat happily bonding.

Will's family is an inspiring example of putting compassion into action.



His sister, Audrey, is raising money for firefighters to buy oxygen masks for animals. Will's mother works to help AIDS awareness research, and Will's little brother, Ben, told me, "I just go wherever they need help."

Volunteers are often looking for ways to help give back and make a difference. Whether it starts with a need to fulfill volunteer hours for a school assignment, a desire to spend more time around others, or a willingness to give very valuable time instead of money, we love our volunteers and the many reasons that motivate them to join RedRover's team. ♥

Learn more about volunteer opportunities at [RedRover.org/Volunteer](http://RedRover.org/Volunteer).

## Ballot for election of board directors

### Barbara Johnson

Barbara Johnson is a human companion to her two rescue dogs. She is passionate about our environment, wildlife and companion animals and making sure that animals are treated humanely. For the past five years, she has been working with RedRover as a consultant on our fundraising campaigns. She recently established her own consulting business, lives in Atlanta with her husband, and is a new grandparent.



### Make your vote count

For your vote to be counted, please mark your vote on the enclosed postage-paid envelope and mail it by December 15, 2017. For a director to be elected by written ballot, he or she must receive a majority of affirmative votes, with at least six percent of members voting. Votes withheld are not counted for or against a director. The board of directors will vote for directors if members do not return a quorum of ballots.

# Gratitude amidst tragedy: Helping pets after Hurricane Harvey

by Sheri Madsen, RedRover Public Relations Specialist

## AS HURRICANE HARVEY WAS ABOUT TO HIT LANDFALL IN TEXAS, REDROVER WAS ON HIGH ALERT.

The Category 5 hurricane was predicted to be the strongest to hit the United States since Hurricane Katrina.

We received the call from the SPCA of Texas requesting help from RedRover Responders to assist with the influx of evacuee animals they were expecting in their temporary shelter in Dallas. The shelter was located in an abandoned parking structure close to the Dallas mega shelter, so evacuees could visit their animals daily.

The Category 5 hurricane was predicted to be the strongest to hit the United States since Hurricane Katrina.

## Each day more and more animals arrived.

At first, the shelter housed only a few animals, but many more were on their way as rescues and transportation issues continued. The RedRover Responders volunteers went straight to work setting up kennel “pods” to house dogs, assembling crates and supplies and creating an overflow cat sanctuary/kennel specially designed for frightened or anxious felines.

Each day more and more animals arrived. As the volunteers tended to people’s beloved pets, I observed their amazing compassion toward each and every animal. They worked long, strenuous hours doing physically demanding tasks, but not once did they complain.

Even after long days of work, there was such joy in witnessing evacuees visit

their pets at the shelter and seeing the relief they felt knowing their pets were being well cared for during their stay. We all delighted in seeing the animals’ excitement when the owners came to visit, their tails wagging furiously, followed by kisses and hugs. We heard story after story of folks losing everything and barely escaping with their lives (and their pets). But when they came to visit, that sense of loss seemed to fade, if only for a short while, as they reconnected with their furry loved ones. So many families told us they simply couldn’t leave without their pets because “they’re part of the family.”

In total, RedRover Responders helped care for 123 dogs, 24 cats and five birds during the weeklong deployment. The experience was one I’ll always cherish — from seeing the dedication of our RedRover Responders volunteers to the hospitality and graciousness of the SPCA of Texas and the overwhelming appreciation of the evacuees. In a time of turmoil, loss and uncertainty, I’m so grateful that RedRover could provide safety and comfort to displaced animals and their people — and help preserve their bonds when they needed it most. ♥

To see photos from our latest deployments, visit us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/RedRoverOrg](https://www.facebook.com/RedRoverOrg).







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## Kids share the love for pets in need

### FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW,

Anika Swisher-Shukuya's third-grade class has participated in RedRover's On-Call Angel Classroom program. They selected RedRover for their Pops for Pups fundraiser, and their generous donation was used to help a puppy named Pisto and a kitten named Captain Jorge receive the urgent veterinary care they needed.

We visited Anika's classroom, read a RedRover Readers book to her students and gave each of the children photos of Pisto and Captain Jorge to take home to their families. Here are some of the letters the children wrote to Pisto and Captain Jorge after our visit. ♥

Learn more about our On-Call Angel program at [RedRover.org/Angel](https://RedRover.org/Angel).



Dear Pisto,

Hi my name is Alexis, and I am a third grader at Westmore Oaks Elementary. I hear that you had Parvo. I am glad the money we raised helped cure your horrible virus. I hope that you are feeling better Pisto and that you are doing puppy things.

♥ Alexis

Dear Captain Jorge,

I hope you received enough money to help repair your broken leg. How did you break your leg? I hope no one did it on purpose. I am glad we were able to help you.

I bet you are very adventurous because you are a pirate! How did you get your name? Please don't forget that you are cute no matter what.

We raised money by selling \$650 of Tootsie Pops to students at my school. We are also helping a dog named Pisto who had Parvo.

What do you look like? I hope to meet you soon.

Please write to me if you can.

♥ Gabriella

Dear Captain Jorge,

I hope your leg gets better soon. We sold over 680 Tootsie Pops to help pay for your vet bill. I bet broken leg was painful. I am so glad we were able to help you. Also, I hope to meet you some day.

♥ Emely

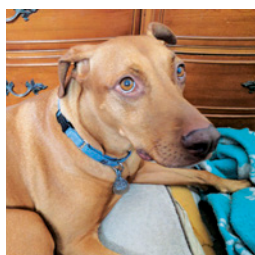


## A special gift for Leila the canine hero

### YOU MIGHT REMEMBER THE STORY

**OF LEILA**, a courageous dog who stepped in to protect her owner's friend from getting hurt. Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to help this canine hero get the treatment she needed through our Urgent Care grant program.

A few months after we shared Leila's story, we received this message from one of our supporters, Catherine: "I was so taken and moved by Leila's courage and bravery that I knew I had to paint her. My daughter also got involved and created her own beautiful artwork of Leila, too."



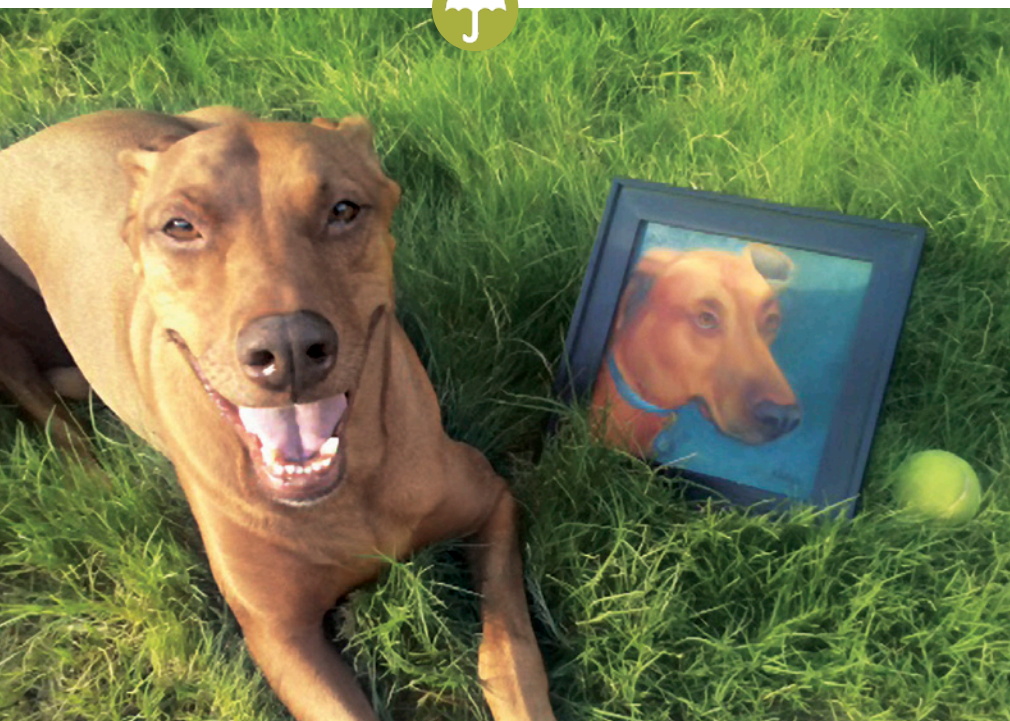
We helped Catherine get in touch with Leila's owner, and soon after received a great photo of the artists as well as one of Leila next to her portrait. Leila's owner sent this message to Catherine after receiving the artwork: "It's awesome! I love it. I especially loved your daughter's

"I was so taken and moved by Leila's courage and bravery that I knew I had to paint her. My daughter also got involved and created her own beautiful artwork of Leila, too."

drawing. Its so cute! Thank her for us. It looks just like Leila."

Thank you for making this story possible by helping Leila get the lifesaving treatment she needed! ♥

Read Leila's full story at [RedRover.org/Leila](https://RedRover.org/Leila).







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To protect your privacy, please clip out or blacken your name and address above.

## A #pawsforward party to remember

### OUR "PAWS FOR PINTS" 30TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY WAS A HUGE

**SUCCESS!** More than 250 people showed  
up to help us celebrate on September 28  
at Sactown

Union Brewery,  
where \$1 from  
every pint sold



went to RedRover's lifesaving programs.  
We also collected donations for five other  
nonprofits, gave away prizes and shared  
a special slideshow honoring 30 years of  
helping animals and the people who love  
them. Huge thanks to our amazing volunteers,  
current and former staff, and our generous  
supporters who participated in the event  
both in person and remotely. We couldn't  
do it without you! ♥

To see more photos from the event, visit us  
on Facebook: [Facebook.com/RedRoverOrg](https://www.facebook.com/RedRoverOrg).

