



## Celebrating Heroism for Animals

Kind kids showing the way • Cody finds peace after violence • How your support helps domestic violence survivors • Coming together for Camp Fire pets





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## Greetings!

**HERO:** A person admired for her or his actions, excellent qualities or courage.

This issue of *Companion* is a celebration of heroism on many levels.

You exhibit kindness and generosity, two of the highest qualities of character, simply by choosing to donate to RedRover, and this makes you a hero. Giving is an act that shows you believe it is possible for one person to make a difference in the life of another animal or person in crisis, and this you do with every dollar you give.

Thank you for all that you give, whether through kind words or acts.

Our volunteers and staff who gave up their Thanksgiving holiday and braved the hard physical conditions and emotional landmines of the Camp Fire deployment and other emergency responses this year are heroes, as are the individuals and numerous emergency responders across the country who came out in full force to support the people and animals impacted by California's deadliest wildfire to date.

In recognition and encouragement for those who seek to begin their

heroism at an early age, RedRover is launching a #SpreadKindNews Campaign to find the *Kind News* Humane Hero of the Year, as well as share positive, uplifting stories of people doing good. Read this issue of *Companion* to learn more, and you can help by following the hashtag on social media and sharing our posts.

*Nicole*

**NICOLE FORSYTH**  
President and CEO

## Announcing our *Kind News* Humane Hero Award

RedRover is conducting a national search to find kind kids — and one will win the *Kind News* Humane Hero Award! The winner will receive an all-expense paid trip to California to run RedRover for a day, plus tons of other cool prizes for both the winner and the person who nominates. ♥

For more information, the full contest rules and entry form, visit [RedRover.org/SpreadKindNews](https://RedRover.org/SpreadKindNews).



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# These kind kids are making a difference for animals

**A CARING GROUP OF STUDENTS** in Washington, D.C. organized a pet supply drive for their local animal shelter, Humane Rescue Alliance. The Murch Elementary School student council collected linens and toys for the animals at the shelter to be comfortable and entertained—showing that a little kindness can go a long way.

We had the honor of meeting another kind kid recently: Maddie is only 13 years

old, but for four years now she has fundraised for different animal organizations at the Livermore Dogtoberfest. She creates and sells her homemade dog treats, which she calls “magical munchies” and “stars.” Maddie did some research online, where she discovered RedRover—and immediately clicked with our mission of helping animals in crisis. She raised \$152 for RedRover



**RedRover Readers  
Online Course**  
March 19

from her dog treat sales and came to the office to hand deliver her check—plus extra homemade dog treats for our office dogs! We're thankful for

Maddie's kindness and her dedication to helping animals. ♥

Maddie is only 13 years old, but for four years now she has fundraised for different animal organizations at the Livermore Dogtoberfest.



Left: Maddie and her dog treats; Far left: The Murch Elementary School student council



## Videos for kids, by kids

RedRover Reporters is RedRover's new YouTube channel for kids, featuring videos created by kids themselves. These fun, informative videos about animals inspire kids to have positive relationships with pets. RedRover Reporters is affiliated with *Kind News* magazine and the RedRover Readers program.

Subscribe today at [youtube.com/RedRoverReporters](https://youtube.com/RedRoverReporters).





## Caring for Camp Fire pets reveals what truly matters

### WHEN THE CAMP FIRE FIRST BROKE

**OUT** in Butte County, California, about 90 miles from the RedRover office, we had no idea it would grow to such massive proportions...and become the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history to date.

From November 19–24, our RedRover Responders team assisted North Valley Animal Disaster Group at the Chico Airport Animal Shelter, providing daily care and comfort for hundreds of animals displaced by the fire. Our volunteers not only walked and fed dogs, cleaned kennels and cared for cats and chickens, but also



helped organize community donations and assisted Camp Fire survivors in reuniting with their pets. Our volunteers spent Thanksgiving Day on the ground, giving special thanks to the community and organizations that generously donated

food and supplies for the volunteers as well as the animals.

The best moments were witnessing the reunions between pets and their people. One family who had lost

their home came to visit their eight-year-old cat, Analayah, and couldn't stop thanking us for the work we were doing. We said goodbye to a dog named Louie whose owner arrived the day after Thanksgiving, and later to Pepper, a beautiful black cat who was so happy to be in her owner's arms again.

When a Camp Fire survivor named Dana arrived to take home her six-month-old puppy, Bully, she told us how her three-year-old son sleeps with Bully every night. "Those two are so close," she said as she waited patiently for a volunteer to bring her

Our RedRover Responders team assisted North Valley Animal Disaster Group in Chico providing daily care and comfort for hundreds of animals displaced by the Camp Fire.







puppy. When Bully appeared and was placed in her arms, the pup couldn't contain his joyful licks and wiggles. We're so happy to know that because of compassionate supporters like you, a three-year-old boy was able to reunite with his best friend.

For RedRover Responders volunteer Claudia, the whole experience—which

The kindness and generosity are so refreshing, it gives you a whole new perspective.

she described as “very rewarding and very emotional”—put into perspective what truly matters. “Everybody wants to do something in some small way,” she told us. “It’s tragic, but



it puts back into the picture frame what’s important. The kindness and generosity are so refreshing, it gives you a whole new perspective.”

Of course, it’s hard not to get attached to the animals. Claudia was particularly affected by a sweet Border Collie. “And then his person came, and it was so delightful to see him so happy,” she said. “That’s why we’re here. It’s not for us, it’s for them.” ♥

**For more deployment stories and photos, follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/RedRover.org](https://facebook.com/RedRover.org).**



## Hope for pets and survivors

### YOUR SUPPORT ON GIVING TUESDAY

helped us surpass our goal for helping pets and families escape domestic violence. Together, we raised more than \$30,000 for our Safe Escape program!



Here's an example of a family that is together and safe thanks to our program and supporters like you.

When Elsa needed to leave an abusive situation and find a safe place for her dog, Cody, she turned to us for help. We were able to provide a Safe Escape grant to board Cody while Elsa was in a domestic violence shelter. But somehow her abuser tracked down both her and Cody and went to the kennels multiple times to try to get him. Luckily he was not successful, but Elsa knew they weren't safe.

Elsa and her advocate worked for weeks to find her a bed in a shelter out of town, but every shelter was full. Finally, after our RedRover Relief team sent her advocate a list of all shelters in their

state that provided pet-friendly housing through our Safe Housing grant program, they moved to a shelter where both she and Cody could find refuge.

Elsa and Cody are now together and safe—and so very grateful. Her advocate told us, "[Elsa] would love to do anything she can to give back for all you have done. Without RedRover, she and Cody would not be where they

For once, she felt at peace and her and Cody slept together all night without fear.

are today. It has been a journey that has had a lot of humps and bumps, but with persistence and great effort, all is better... For once, she felt at peace and her and Cody slept together all night without fear."

Thank you for making their story possible and for helping other pets and families find safety from abuse. ♥

## Thank you for spreading the word

In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month last October, we launched our #PetsAreFamily campaign to raise awareness about the link between domestic violence and animal abuse. Our wallet-sized resource cards direct people to SafePlaceForPets.org, which lists pet-friendly resources all over the country. We asked supporters to

distribute the cards to salon professionals nationwide to help connect our resources with those who might need them—and nearly 250 people stepped up to help! Thank you for your compassion in action.

To order cards and distribute them in your area, visit [RedRover.org/DVAM](http://RedRover.org/DVAM).





In October, our RedRover Responders were on the ground in Michigan, where they helped a domestic violence shelter build a new pet center that allows survivors and their pets to heal together.



### 2018 Safe Housing grant recipients

Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County, PA

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County, NJ

Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center/ Family Services of S. WI & N. IL, Inc, WI

Stand Up Placer, CA

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS), WA

Center Against Sexual & Domestic Abuse, Inc. (CASDA), WI

180 Turning Lives Around, NJ

The Center for Child and Family Advocacy, Inc. (CCFA), OH

Tillamook County Women's Resource Center, OR

Community Support Center, MT







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## Celebrating our #GivingTuesday supporters

**WE HAD A BLAST** celebrating #GivingTuesday and raising money for animals at our "Paws for Pints" benefit on November 27. Despite the rainy night, animal lovers turned out in droves to support RedRover's lifesaving programs at local brewery SacYard Community Tap House. Everyone enjoyed good beer, good canine company, vegan tacos, amazing raffle prizes and even some dancing! Thank you for your kind support.

See the photos at [facebook.com/RedRover.org](https://facebook.com/RedRover.org).

