



## Giving back and doing good

Kind kids = kinder future • Gratitude for  
our volunteers • Titus found safety from abuse





## Greetings!

**DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT** in your life that moved you to give back to a cause? As a child, I loved animals more than anything. But it wasn't until my cat, Calypso, passed away in 2002 that I was reminded of the power of the human-animal bond.

My cat knew the best side of me, and when she was gone I missed her deeply. To direct my feelings of love and loss, I began volunteering at a local animal shelter. In caring for shelter cats, I was able to grieve the

loss of Calypso, while also giving back and formulating a path for how I could make her life and mine mean something. I kept volunteering, started taking pre-vet courses and haven't veered from my passion ever since.

I now feel so fortunate to have heard hundreds of stories like mine about why people give — from donors, volunteers, and others who share their lives with animals in some way. They've told stories of beloved pets who passed away, animals from cruelty cases who felt loving hands for the first time, and children who want to treat animals better. I've heard from people who have very little support in their lives and now have a place to turn for help with their pets in their most dire times of crisis.

I hope you will join me in reading the inspiring stories captured in this issue of the *Companion* and learn about ways you can make an even



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bigger difference in the lives of animals and the people who love them. I am so grateful that you are a part of all these stories.

Lastly, if you have a story you have not yet been able to share, I would love to hear it. Please share with me at [nforsyth@redrover.org](mailto:nforsyth@redrover.org).

With immense gratitude,

**NICOLE FORSYTH**  
President and CEO

## Ballot for election of board directors



**BELTON MOURAS, JR.** has been around the humane movement in various capacities his entire life. His father, Belton P. Mouras, was the co-founder of United Animal Nations (RedRover). Belton has inherited his father's love of animals and fondly remembers decades

of experiences making a worldwide and local difference for animals through the Animal Protection Institute, RedRover, SPCA and many other animal organizations. In 2017, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation chose him to be a featured donor highlighting his alternative philanthropic activities. He is a long-term Sacramento resident, residing with his wife, Dolores, and their three rescue dogs. ♥

### Make your vote count

Please mark your vote on the enclosed postage-paid envelope and mail it by December 1st. 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.



P.O. Box 188890  
Sacramento, CA 95818

TEL 916.429.2457

FAX 916.378.5098

WEB [RedRover.org](https://RedRover.org)

EMAIL [info@RedRover.org](mailto:info@RedRover.org)

TAX ID # 68-0124097

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## Inspiring kids to be kind



"I'm gonna try to be a better role model to my brother. I want to show him that I can be a better brother and play with him more."

♥ **2ND-GRADE STUDENT**  
North Highlands, CA

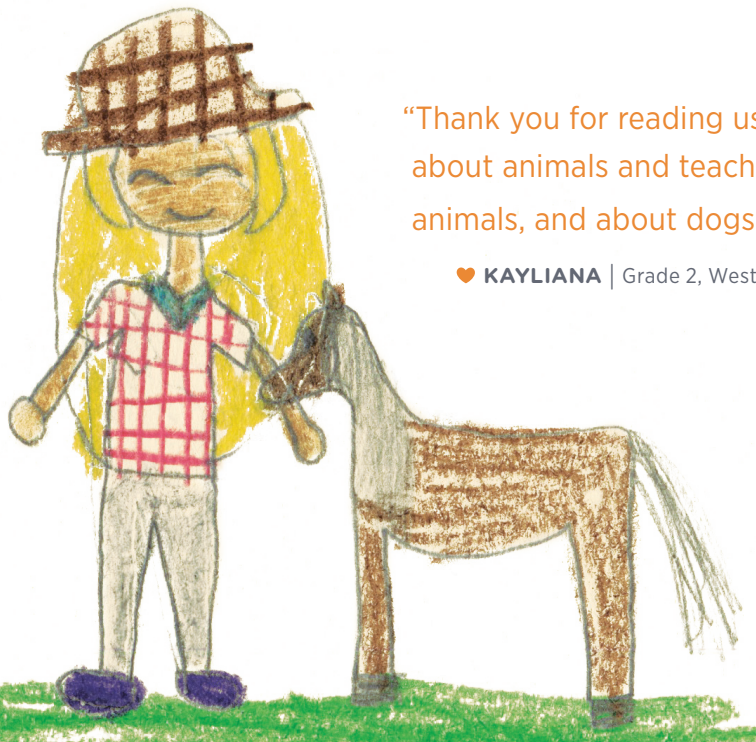
to openly share their thoughts, feelings and experiences. This safe space helps children practice self-awareness and social-awareness of emotions and others' perspectives, inspiring them to be kind to others — like the 2nd-grade boy who decided to be a better brother.

Thank you for making this work possible, so we can help create a kinder future! ♥

Learn more about the  
RedRover Readers program  
at [RedRover.org/Readers](https://RedRover.org/Readers).

**STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCE** the RedRover Readers program apply their knowledge of animal behavior and empathy through art activities, like imagining a story of friendship with an animal or drawing what a pet needs to be healthy, happy and safe.

Stories and discussions about animals create a safe space for children



"Thank you for reading us books about animals and teaching us about animals, and about dogs and cats."

♥ **KAYLIANA** | Grade 2, West Sacramento, CA

## Get ready to give back on Giving Tuesday

### CHARITABLE GIVING SEASON

is just around the corner! Giving Tuesday on December 3 is a special global event devoted to giving back, after commercial holidays Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This 24-hour online event offers the opportunity to show compassion by giving your time, funds or voice to a cause you are passionate about and want to support. RedRover is funded solely by private donations and grants so relies completely on the generosity of others. These donations and grants help save animals' lives and keep families together through a variety of crises. ♥

### #GIVINGTUESDAY

Learn how you can be part of our Giving Tuesday campaign at [RedRover.org/GivingTuesday](https://RedRover.org/GivingTuesday) or follow our Facebook page at [@RedRoverOrg](https://Facebook.com/RedRoverOrg).

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## Three cheers for volunteers!

By Devon Krusko, RedRover Field Services and Outreach Coordinator

**THE REDROVER RESPONDERS** team has been extra busy this year! So far our team has deployed to 15 emergency responses throughout the United States. From building pet-friendly housing in domestic violence shelters to caring for animals rescued from hoarding cases, puppy mills and flooding, your support has made it possible for us to not only respond quickly and effectively in times of crisis, but now we can respond to multiple deployments at once!

In June we had two teams on the ground within one week, both responding to hoarding cases: one in Killeen, Texas, caring for nearly 200 animals and one in Madison, New Jersey, caring for 188 animals. Did you know that only five staff

members work on the RedRover Responders team? We quite literally could not do our work without our dedicated volunteers!

Our volunteers carve time out of their busy schedules, away from their own families and animals, to do the hard work: setting up temporary shelters, scrubbing crates, feeding hungry mouths, giving baths, and of course, providing plenty of love and affection. This is hard work in varying weather with long hours.

By the end of the day they may be “dog” tired with aching feet, but our volunteers are always shining with pride and the gratification that comes with knowing they’re making

“The five days spent on this assignment were diverse, fast-paced and rewarding. Friendships were made quickly as we shared caring for cats, dogs, horses, birds, a rabbit and a very sweet pig in the busy shelter. A highlight for me was spending time with a senior gentleman—getting nose to nose with this tired, skinny horse and letting him know he is safe now. He will have food, treats, fresh water and love. I sincerely hope he can recover enough to be comfortable for the rest of his days.”

♥ **VOLUNTEER**

El Dorado County cruelty case (CA), May 2019

a difference. With big smiles and new friends—both human and animal—they are always ready for their next task.

Volunteering with the RedRover Responders team is more than just caring for animals when they need it most. It’s a family. It’s friends you won’t forget. It’s partnerships. It’s responding to a traumatic crisis in real time, giving back in tangible ways, and making the world a better place...one animal and one connection at a time. Our volunteers go out into the world and they do good. ♥

Follow us on Facebook for more updates: [Facebook.com/RedRover.org](https://Facebook.com/RedRover.org).



Leon County domestic violence shelter  
pet housing build (FL), April 2019

By 2022, we plan to increase our number of RedRover Responders volunteers to 5,000! You can help us meet this objective by joining our volunteer team: [RedRover.org/volunteer](https://RedRover.org/volunteer).





El Dorado County cruelty case (CA), May 2019

**"I loved getting to see owners come visit their animals. Watching a pet that I have been slowly trying to work with bound with joy at seeing their people made my heart sing."**

♥ **VOLUNTEER** | Tulsa floods (OK), July 2019



El Dorado County cruelty case (CA), May 2019

**"Being involved in a hard build for a permanent facility is a rare experience. And to do this build for such a worthy cause is very satisfying."**

♥ **VOLUNTEER**  
Leon County domestic violence shelter pet housing build (FL), April 2019



Tulsa floods (OK), June 2019

**"I am so thankful that RedRover is involved with the RAM health clinics in underserved areas that need spay and neuter services to reduce the overpopulation of animals in their community."**

♥ **VOLUNTEER**  
Remote Area Medical Clinic (TN), June 2019



Remote Area Medical Clinic (TN), June 2019

**"I absolutely love deploying for RedRover. You can actually feel the relief and relaxation of the animals as they are spoken to and cared for with love. These animals often have not had a gentle touch or heard a caring voice their entire life. The resilience of these abandoned and often abused animals amazes me daily. And to be surrounded with people who share similar feelings is unspeakable! I have never worked so hard and felt so much emotional satisfaction as I have on RedRover deployments! Love it!"**

♥ **VOLUNTEER**  
Oakland canine influenza outbreak (CA), July 2019



## You gave Titus the gift of safety

**TITUS\* IS A 10-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN BULLDOG** with a heart of gold and a white coat flecked with gold spots. This sweet old dog is a lover, not a fighter. His favorite thing to do is chill out and relax.

But Titus's home life was anything but peaceful. His "mom," Lucia,\* was in a severely abusive domestic relationship. Titus would try to protect her by standing between her and her abuser as he attempted to hit her... but sometimes Titus himself was the victim of these violent attacks. Lucia knew

she had to escape, and there was no way she could leave Titus behind.

When Lucia did find the courage to leave, she found she had nowhere to go where both she and Titus could be safe.

Without much support from people in her life, Lucia has always seen Titus as her "baby and protector"—and her biggest source of support. Having raised him from puppyhood, Titus was the closest family she had. And now,

Having raised him from puppyhood, Titus was the closest family she had.

after losing everything to domestic abuse, Titus was all she had left.

Lucia found refuge at a domestic violence shelter that knew about RedRover. Thanks to a RedRover Relief Safe Escape grant, she was able to safely board Titus for 80 nights while she recovered and began to build a new life from the safety of a shelter.

What did this mean for Lucia and Titus? In Lucia's words:

"Basically it means that it was saving a family member. It meant that everything would be okay. It meant that not everything has to get left behind. It helped me sleep at night knowing that I wouldn't have to worry about him being safe. It made me feel like I didn't have to go back to the abuser because I left my dog behind."

"It made me feel like I didn't have to go back to the abuser because I left my dog behind."

Thank you for making stories like Titus's possible. With your help, we're able to keep families together and safe when they need each other most... and create brighter, happier futures.

Learn more about our domestic violence assistance programs at [redrover.org/domestic](https://redrover.org/domestic).



*\*Names have been changed to protect privacy.*



# Gratitude from families you helped

Your support helps provide financial assistance for pets in need of lifesaving veterinary care through our Urgent Care Relief grants.



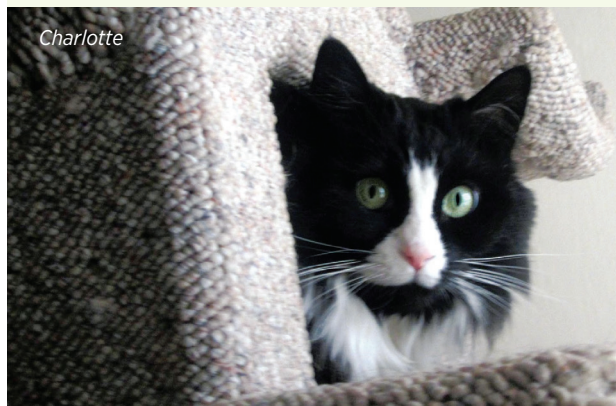
**“Thanks to RedRover Relief**  
we were able to give **our loving dog Harley** a fighting chance. He had a baseball size mass on his spleen, which required him to have his entire spleen removed. We are beyond grateful for RedRover Relief.”

**“This is a truly excellent organization!**

The person I worked with was SO nice, and the process moved very quickly and efficiently. I have worked in and volunteered for several non-profits, and RedRover is the best one I have encountered. They even have awareness and problem prevention programs! **RedRover made a profound difference in our lives** — in the life of my cat, Charlotte, and in mine.”



**“My cat Smokey** got crystals in his bladder, and I couldn’t afford the cost for surgery at his current vet. Had I not found [RedRover] I would have had to let Smokey go.”



For more heartwarming  
Happy Tails, visit  
[greatnonprofits.org/org/redrover](https://greatnonprofits.org/org/redrover).

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Share our stories! Leave *Companion* at your doctor's office, vet clinic, gym, lunch room or coffee shop.  
To protect your privacy, please clip out or blacken your name and address above.

## Care to help?

Here are more ways you can help make an impact



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Twitter and Instagram



Sign up or tell others how to  
become a RedRover Responders  
or RedRover Readers volunteer:  
**[redrover.org/volunteer](https://redrover.org/volunteer)**



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