



A Year of Grit & Gratitude

Giving kids and pets a reason to smile • Milo's Happy Tail • Expanding our domestic violence assistance programs • On the ground in 2020



Riley, curled up on Nicole's feet, providing comfort and connection during the pandemic.

Happy New Year!

IF EVER THERE WAS A YEAR that the entire world could collectively feel grateful for its passing, it's 2020. Despite the roller coaster of emotions, I am so grateful for the resiliency of our staff and the unwavering support of our donors and partners.

I recently saw 2020 referred to as "the year of grit and gratitude," and this could not be more true for RedRover. This issue of *Companion* is full of

reflection on the ways we stepped up — with the support of people like you — to be there more than ever for families and animals in crisis. And what a challenging crisis COVID-19 has been.

Please read this issue and find gratitude in knowing that you are a part of the happy endings, part of the healing, part of helping others find connection and joy in the little things, which are really the big things.

We are so thankful to be looking ahead to 2021 and the further expansion of our programs. In the year ahead, we will offer even more assistance to help domestic violence shelters become pet-friendly, including Safe Housing grants in Canada through a partnership with SafePet Ottawa; find ways to get *Kind News* magazine to more classrooms; and train more RedRover Responders



facebook.com/RedRoverOrg

twitter.com/RedRoverOrg

youtube.com/RedRoverOrg

instagram.com/RedRoverOrg

pinterest.com/RedRoverOrg

volunteers to ensure we are ready for anything. Ready for anything... That is indeed RedRover!

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for believing in us, and for believing in the strength we find in love and connection with others — especially our animal companions.

NICOLE FORSYTH
President and CEO

Ballot for election of board directors

BARBARA JOHNSON, VICE CHAIR*

Barbara currently serves as Vice Chair of the RedRover Board and is seeking a second three-year term. She is passionate about our environment, wildlife, and companion animals. Barbara works with nonprofits as a consultant on their fundraising programs. She lives in Atlanta with her husband and two rescue dogs. She is a proud grandparent and veteran of the US Navy.

BRADLEY CARROLL, BOARD DIRECTOR*

Bradley has served as a RedRover Board Director for one term, and is currently seeking a second three-year term. Bradley shares his home with his rescue dog, Duff, and two adopted cats, Monty and CT. Along with his wife, Anahe, Bradley is very passionate about humane treatment of animals and animal rescue. In addition to his work with RedRover, Bradley and Anahe foster kittens and dogs for the Front Street Animal Shelter in Sacramento. Bradley is an attorney at Downey Brand LLP, the largest law firm in Sacramento.

Make your vote count

For your vote to be counted, please mark your vote on the enclosed postage-paid envelope and mail it by March 12. 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

EMAIL info@RedRover.org

TAX ID # 68-0124097

Companion is published quarterly by RedRover and is distributed to its members.
© 2021 RedRover

*To start their second three-year terms on RedRover's Board of Directors

Bringing empathy home

REDROVER IS COMMITTED to not only helping animals and families in crisis, but also fostering kindness and compassion in the next generation.

As we look toward 2021 and the continued need for online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are extending our education resources to help students learn both at home and in the classroom. These resources include a digital version of our *Kind News* magazine and live virtual readings that engage kids in fun, informative RedRover Readers discussions about animals. We love hearing stories about how parents and educators are using these resources, plus how kids are bonding even more deeply with their pets while staying at home.

Students like Stella shared with us that she gets to spend time with her guinea pigs while doing distance learning.

School may look a little different this year, but together we are giving kids, educators, parents—and pets!—more reasons to smile. ♥

Learn more at
RedRover.org/Readers.



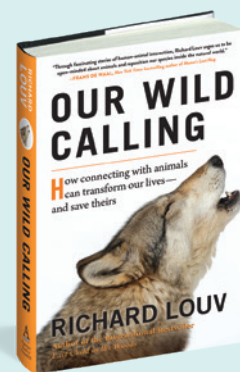
“I’ve learned all about their personalities. They’ve taught me how to be more gentle with my pets and they’ve taught me how to take responsibility in my routine like cleaning their cage and feeding them. They really have helped me deal with having to stay at home and made it more fun because they are so funny. I love my guinea pigs.”

♥ **STELLA**, student

“I’m honored to learn that *Our Wild Calling* has inspired *Kind News* to encourage kids to deepen their relationships with other animals! Especially intriguing is the magazine’s challenge to kids to imagine themselves as specific animals. This is a great way to build empathy with the members of our greater family, which includes other animals as well as members of our own species!”

♥ **RICHARD LOUV**

author of *Our Wild Calling*, *Last Child in the Woods*, and *Vitamin N*



For *Kind News* subscription information, interactive kids’ games, and more, visit KindNews.org.

Follow *Kind News*

on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/](https://Facebook.com/KindNewsMagazine)

KindNewsMagazine.

Train to be a RedRover Readers volunteer!

RedRover Readers Online Course

April 6–27, 2021

Sign up at
RedRover.org/events.

“Kind News makes learning fun and teaches students the importance of kindness, responsibility, and teamwork. My third graders have become stronger

readers, critical thinkers, and social justice advocates after they read *Kind News*. I am so thankful to have this amazing resource available online. I can’t wait to use *Kind News* with my students via Zoom!”

♥ **GRACIELA ROMERO MARTINEZ**

3rd grade teacher, Goleta, CA

“We were able to use [Kind News]

as a send-home reading and discussion during distance learning. It was a great way to connect our classroom with the craziness of online learning. Kids enjoyed the connection and normal activities.”

♥ **ALLI DEBROW**

5th grade teacher, Ravenel, SC

Milo's "Tri-paw'd" Happy Tail

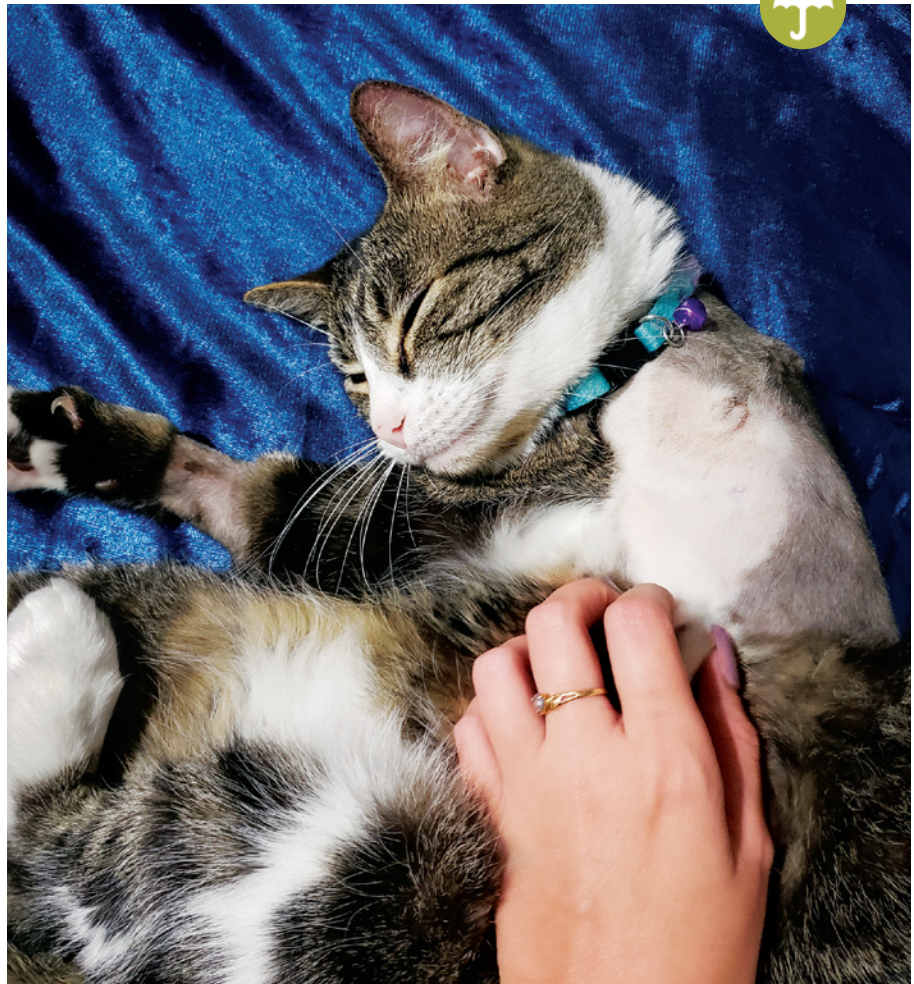
THROUGHOUT 2020 AND THE

COVID-19 PANDEMIC, Justina's most reliable source of joy and relief has been her six-year-old cat, Milo. In December 2019, she and her family were left homeless when their apartment caught fire and destroyed everything they owned. Only a few months later, life would become even more challenging.

Her mother wasn't able to return to her job in a nursing home because of health issues, and the unemployment benefits were not enough to provide for Justina and her two younger brothers. So, Justina began taking double shifts at her two jobs as often as possible. Every night when she returns from work, it's Milo who comforts her and gives her the strength to keep moving forward for her family.

"Milo is my baby, I've had him since he was a few weeks old and I have kept him with me through everything. He will meow and pace my door whenever I leave my room or house. He sleeps with me every night and if I am outside he jumps into the window nearest me."

One evening, Justina was startled by the crashing sound of a TV falling off its stand and left her room to find her sweet boy limping in pain. Knowing that his feline grace had not saved him this



time, she took him to the veterinarian for x-rays to discover he had broken his humerus in multiple places and had nerve damage.

Milo would need to have the leg amputated for his best chance at the long, happy life he deserved. With her family's finances stretched so thin, Justina could only afford a portion of what the veterinarian quoted her for his surgery.

Because of so many compassionate people like yourself, we were able to say yes when Justina applied for a RedRover Relief Urgent Care grant. Thanks to our supporters, Milo had his leg amputated so he wouldn't have to spend another day in pain.

Justina shared this happy update with us:

"Milo is doing fantastic! He is still working on his balance but he went straight back to jumping onto my sink and bed and acting like he's always had three legs. Thank you so much to RedRover and your donors for helping me and my Milo out and being the reason he's able to run around and act like a cat again."

She said it best—thank you for giving Milo the second chance he deserves with the family who loves him most! ♥

For more Happy Tail stories, visit RedRover.org/happytails.

"Thank you so much to RedRover and your donors for helping me and my Milo out and being the reason he's able to run around and act like a cat again."

RedRover's Safe Housing grants

In the second grant cycle of 2020, RedRover awarded \$244,627 in Safe Housing grant funds! RedRover's Safe Housing grants not only enable domestic violence shelters to create on- and off-site space to house pets, they also allow animal shelters to build dedicated housing for animal victims of abuse.

The following received Safe Housing grants during the second application period of 2020:



Animal Shelters

Lost Our Home Pet Rescue
MARICOPA COUNTY, AZ
\$20,000

Valley Oak SPCA
TULARE COUNTY, CA
\$20,000

Monroe County Humane Association
MONROE COUNTY, IN
\$20,000

Alaqua Animal Refuge
WALTON COUNTY, FL
\$20,000

Domestic Violence Shelters

The Spring
TULSA COUNTY, OK
\$20,000

North Star Advocacy Center
NODAWAY COUNTY, MO
\$5,340

Advocates for Victims of Assault, Inc
(aka Summit Advocates)
SUMMIT COUNTY, CO
\$8,302

Branch County Coalition Against Domestic Violence
BRANCH COUNTY, MI
\$15,000

RedRover + Purina Purple Leash Project Domestic Violence Shelter Grantees

Sojourner Center
MARICOPA COUNTY, AZ
\$20,000

Hope Haven of Cass County
CASS COUNTY, MO
\$12,500

Palomar Family Justice Center
OKLAHOMA COUNTY, OK
\$30,000

Domestic Violence Intervention Program
JOHNSON COUNTY, IA
\$13,485

Domestic Abuse Family Shelter
FORREST COUNTY, MS
\$20,000

YWCA Nashville and Middle Tennessee
DAVIDSON COUNTY, TN
\$20,000



Help raise awareness with our new poster

For Domestic Violence Awareness Month in both the U.S. and Canada, we produced a downloadable poster that you can share with your veterinarian or hair stylist to help spread awareness about SafePlaceforPets.org, a website with a searchable database of the programs and resources to help survivors and their pets escape abusive relationships.

To get the poster and learn more, visit RedRover.org/dvhelp.



Stepping up for animals in a year like no other

REDROVER RESPONDERS staff members reflect on our 2020 deployments — modified under the COVID-19 conditions — and look toward the day we can work with our volunteers again.

“It’s hard to imagine that I was last on the ground with our RedRover Responders volunteers in February 2020. How I miss the camaraderie, swapping stories, and team dinners! Fortunately, 2020 still brought opportunities to help animals in crisis. I traveled to Butte County, CA to help with shelter management during the wildfires, and to Maryland to help set up a temporary shelter for dogs rescued from a South Korean dog-meat farm. Though deployments have certainly felt different on my own, it’s filled my soul to be able to continue our work during a time when kindness and compassion are so important. The RedRover Responders volunteers are in my heart, and I look forward to all of us being able to work together again!”

♥ **DEVON KRUSKO**
RedRover Field Services & Outreach Coordinator





"It goes without saying that I miss our RedRover Responders volunteers, but I'm grateful for the opportunity to have been able to deploy a few times this year. Under less than perfect circumstances, we found a way to help two domestic violence shelters become pet-friendly, and I was honored to help fellow staff at our wildfire deployment in Butte County. Well wishes to all those red shirts out there — I look forward to seeing you again!"

♥ KATIE CAMPBELL, RedRover Outreach Manager



Responders Online Training

Our online RedRover Responders training is now available! Help ensure that we can be ready to deploy when the time comes by joining our volunteer team.

Register for the free, self-paced training at RedRover.org/joinresponders.



 *Companion* is printed using vegetable-based inks on paper made entirely from recovered fiber.

Visit RedRover.org today to get the latest updates to share with friends and family who also love animals.

Get involved!

Here are more ways you can help make an impact



Like RedRover on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram



Share and invite others to join our mailing list:
RedRover.org/email



Leave a review:
greatnonprofits.org



Take surveys for animals:
contribute.surveymonkey.com



Sign up to become a RedRover Responders or RedRover Readers volunteer with our online trainings:
RedRover.org/volunteer



Give the gift of kindness with a *Kind News* magazine gift membership:
KindNews.org



Share domestic violence assistance resources and join the Purple Leash Project:
RedRover.org/dvhelp



Find more everyday ways to help at
RedRover.org/waystohelp

Leave a legacy of kindness

Do you have a plan for yourself, your family, and your pets? Learn about the various kinds of estate or planned giving options, including the creation of a Pet Trust, with our virtual estate planning seminars.

Watch the free recordings at
RedRover.org/Legacy.

