



New Beginnings for Pets and People

10 deployments, 8 states, 2,500 animals • Expanding our efforts to bring kindness to kids • Alfie the guinea pig's Happy Tail • A record-breaking year for Safe Housing



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Despite the challenges created by the pandemic, supporters like you continue to go above and beyond to help animals and people in crisis. From providing emergency sheltering during wildfires to empowering more domestic violence shelters to become pet-friendly, you and other compassionate supporters have made it possible for RedRover to be there when people and animals need us most—and even expand our programs!

In our fall grant cycle, we received a record-breaking number of Safe Housing applications, proving that our education and outreach efforts are really making an impact. We also received a large grant from the Adtalem Global Education Foundation. This grant will allow us to expand our outreach and work with the Ross School of Veterinary Medicine to pilot a new training program for veterinarians to learn how to help human and animal survivors of abuse.

We have many teachers on our waitlist for a *Kind News* classroom subscription—you can bring this educational resource to their students by becoming a sponsor for as little as \$30. Learn more and share the free digital issue at KindNews.org/adopt.

I am incredibly proud of how our staff and Board of Directors have championed efforts to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion at RedRover.



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We will share updates with you throughout the year about our work in this area and show the impact this will have on helping more animals and people in crisis. In the meantime, you can read about our DEI Commitment and see our Action Plan at RedRover.org/DEI.

Thank you for your support!

NICOLE FORSYTH
President and CEO

Ballot for election of board directors



ESKEDAR GETAHUN is an Associate Director at the Nonprofit Finance Fund. She is an experienced team leader and strategic thinker with a record of advancing excellence in operations, finance, strategy,

and talent management for organizations making the world a better place. Eskedar is a first-generation immigrant who believes in leading with compassion and integrity and honoring the interconnectedness of humanity. She lives in Philadelphia with her rescue dog Russell, who brings her endless joy and sloppy dog kisses.



JESSICA LANCE began working in the community health center movement in 2011 and currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer of a non-profit community health center in California's Yolo County. Jessica

was raised in a family that values nonviolence and social justice, and this has directed her personal and professional choices. She recently relocated to Sacramento with her spouse Ro and their rescue dog Sage and enjoys spending time with them hiking, biking, kayaking, and playing ball.

Make your vote count

Please mark your vote on the enclosed postage-paid envelope and mail it by March 7. For a director to be elected by written ballot, they 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.

REDROVER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Johnson, Chair
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Answering the call: 2021 deployments and projects

OUR REDROVER RESPONDERS STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS TRAVELED THOUSANDS OF MILES

in 2021, deploying to eight states to help more than 2,500 animals. True to our mission, we answered the call for a variety of needs where pets and people were in crisis.

Last spring we had the opportunity to connect with our friends at the Humane Society of the United States to help care for dogs rescued from

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South Korean meat farms. After assisting with the same rescue in October 2020, our team was thrilled to see the progress of the dogs in their behavior program as well as meet new pups just starting their journey.

The months of April, May, and June brought a trio of domestic violence shelter builds in New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Maine alongside our partners at Greater Good Charities' Rescue Rebuild program. As the summer began to heat up we headed to Texas



to support the Mineral Wells Animal Shelter with an animal hoarding case, before making our way to California on three occasions to support the animals evacuated from the rampant wildfires. We closed out the year supporting our biggest community cat clinic partnership yet with Greater

Good Charities' Good Fix program in Hawaii, followed by a special community initiative with the Humane Society of Marlboro County to build comfortable and secure enclosures for dogs living outside in South Carolina.

We're so grateful we have your support to continue doing this lifesaving work! ❤️



Responders Online Training

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

Learn more at RedRover.org/joinresponders.

Opening windows to others' worlds: Q&A with Dr. Worokya Duncan

IN OUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE REDROVER READERS PROGRAM

and *Kind News* magazine are inclusive and accessible to diverse students and educators, we worked with education consultant Dr. Worokya Duncan.

Dr. Duncan is a professional educator with 20 years of classroom experience and degrees in Public Policy Studies, Political Science, Theology, and Education. Here's an excerpt about our process.

Q | REDROVER: RedRover and other animal welfare organizations recognize that systemic racism has impacted their abilities to help animals and achieve their missions. Why do you feel it is important for the animal welfare sector to address its lack of diversity?

A | DR. DUNCAN: Growing up, there was an idea that certain people had certain types of animals...and there were automatic biases that seemed to be part of the story. I remember seeing a lot of people who had pit bulls (I have a pit bull now), but being afraid of them and the dogs solely based off of what I had seen on television...where every single time you would see a Black person with a dog, or someone with tattoos with a dog, you automatically have to be afraid of that person and animal. Those narratives don't come out of nowhere... There needs to be an excavation of how these stories get created. How do these stories get disseminated? And how can we use the same process that created [these narratives] to reverse the story? I think that is something that RedRover does consistently.



When we think of education as both mirror and window, I should be able to see myself and have the opportunity to see others as they define themselves.

Q | REDROVER: What kinds of advice or changes did you recommend for the RedRover Readers program?

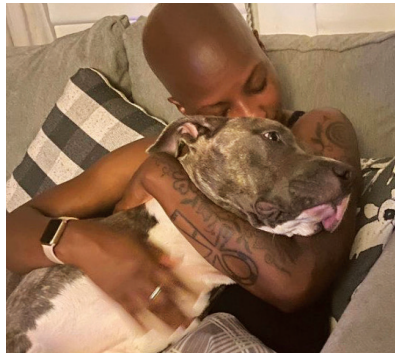
A | DR. DUNCAN: I recommended expanding on topics [like] what diversity, inclusion, and belonging means...It's also important to take into account children who may be on the autism spectrum and weren't able to, for example, judge how a person was



feeling because they don't have the same type of facial recognition awareness that we do. We can't ever assume kids understand animal body language or how animals normally act, how they're treated, etc. That was another reason why I loved seeing the stories from other countries, so that kids don't assume that dogs are pets everywhere. It's almost like geo-political awareness in the most accessible, low-stakes way: through children's literature.

Q | REDROVER: How will these changes be helpful to students and animals?

A | DR. DUNCAN: I remember taking the SATs and there were certain questions about horse care. I never had interactions with horses when I was little. But what [RedRover] is giving kids who might never have that opportunity [to interact with animals] is a window into somebody else's world. When we think of education as both mirror and window, I should be able to see myself and have the opportunity to see others



as they define themselves. I honestly don't see that in a lot of other programs. I see lots of windows, not enough mirrors. RedRover is doing both.

Q | REDROVER: What would you say to educators thinking of implementing the RedRover Readers program or using *Kind News* magazine in their classrooms?

A | DR. DUNCAN: Any class can use it. Just get it, and then gift it to another school that might not be able to afford it. ♥

Learn more about RedRover's DEI action plan at RedRover.org/DEI.



Learn how to use the program!

RedRover Readers Online Course

April 5 – 26

Sign up at
RedRover.org/events.



“In my seventh grade class we have fun with the magazine, reading out loud and students picking one another to read. Sometimes I give them a goal to read on their own, like picking out the main idea of each article or the theme of the magazine. I even make up “Kind” quizzes of my own. I love learning new things myself, so the recent articles about putting rocks in the birdbath or teaching your dog the names of toys keep me reading. **I appreciate you!”**

♥ Joann Prushinski
Middle school teacher, Larksville, PA

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

A Happy Tail for Alfie and Claire

FROM THEIR BIG, CURIOUS EYES TO THEIR FUNNY LITTLE NOISES, guinea pigs are full of love and devotion. Claire knew this to be true — in just five years, her guinea pig Alfie had nuzzled his way into a permanent and irreplaceable spot in her heart.



“Alfie was adopted as an emotional support animal while I was struggling with multiple deaths in the family, college as a neurodivergent person, and a very serious combination of depression and anxiety...In the years since, he’s been my biggest source of comfort and motivation to keep going forward in life. He is my best friend and I don’t have words to express how much I adore him.”

Though Alfie was a tremendous boost to Claire’s mental and emotional well-being, the years after college were hard on Claire and her family — made even more challenging by the COVID-19 pandemic. On the most difficult days, she could count on Alfie’s squeaks and chirps to reassure her that things would be okay.

When Claire first noticed blood in Alfie’s urine, her anxiety quickly consumed her as she feared the worst. The veterinarian determined that Alfie had a very large bladder stone causing all of his trouble and recommended that surgery would be the most effective treatment. Claire took Alfie home with no idea how she would afford his surgery.

Because of compassionate animal lovers like you, we were able to approve a RedRover Relief Urgent Care grant that would cover the cost of Alfie’s surgery, leaving Claire enough of her own money to pay for the things that

would ensure his smooth recovery. Once the bladder stone had been removed and Alfie returned home with Claire, she shared with us this special update:

“We are so relieved to have our baby boy feeling better.

He really is the heart of the family and having him unwell was incredibly stressful. Alfie brings us so much joy and I can’t thank you enough for helping him get better. It’s given my family something to smile about in the middle of a very rough year.”



Hundreds of families like Claire and Alfie facing a veterinary emergency can count on you for the second chances they deserve. Thank you for putting your compassion into action for animals like Alfie and for bringing this family from crisis to care! ♥

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

Domestic Violence Safe Housing grants

REDROVER HAS REACHED A MAJOR MILESTONE IN SAFE HOUSING:

Since the program's inception in 2012, we have distributed \$2 million in grant funding! In the second grant period of 2021 alone, we awarded \$450,165 to 14 shelters nationwide. RedRover's Safe Housing grants enable domestic violence shelters to create pet housing programs, and allow animal shelters to build dedicated housing for animal victims of abuse.

Five of the 14 grants awarded are RedRover + Purina Purple Leash Project grants, an extension of RedRover's Safe Housing grants. One of these is now the first pet-friendly DV shelter in the state of Rhode Island!



The following received Safe Housing grants during the second application period of 2021:

Domestic Violence Shelters

- The Glynn Community Crisis Center, Inc. (Amity House) — Glynn County, GA **\$60,000**
- Bay Area Women's Center — Bay County, MI **\$3,760**
- Community Action Stops Abuse, Inc. (CASA) — Pinellas County, FL **\$20,000**
- REACH of Haywood County — Haywood County, NC **\$20,000**
- The Sexual Assault Spouse Abuse Resource Center Inc. (SARC) — Harford County, MD **\$60,000**
- Embrace Services, Inc. — Rusk County, WI **\$36,600**

Purple Leash Project Domestic Violence Shelter grantees

- The Spring — Tulsa County, OK **\$10,000**
- Services to Abused Families, Inc. — Culpeper County, VA **\$7,950**
- Family Violence Prevention Center of Greene County — Greene County, OH **\$46,055**
- Sojourner House — Providence County, RI **\$21,800**
- YWCA of Bradford — McKean County, PA **\$19,000**

Animal Shelters

- Belleville Area Humane Society, St. Clair County, IL **\$60,000**
- The Animal Protective Association of Missouri — St. Louis County, MO **\$25,000**
- Chesapeake Humane Society — Chesapeake, VA **\$60,000**



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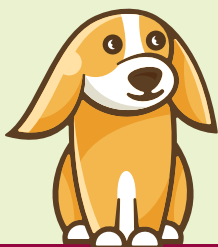
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Share our stories! Leave *Companion* at your doctor's office, vet clinic, gym, lunch room, or coffee shop.
To protect your privacy, please clip out or blacken your name and address above.

Save your spot for our 30-minute quarterly Zoom calls!

Join RedRover staff for a brief (30-minute) Zoom call to learn more about each program's goals, activities, and updates. This is a wonderful opportunity to ask questions and connect with staff.

Get details and RSVP at
RedRover.org/zoom.



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| Wednesday, March 2 | RedRover Readers and <i>Kind News</i> |
| Wednesday, June 1 | RedRover Relief |
| Wednesday, September 7 | RedRover Relief Domestic Violence Assistance |
| Wednesday, December 7 | RedRover Responders |