



RedRover®

FALL 2024

companion



Collaboration makes magic happen!

Supporting community efforts for a kinder world • Bridging the gap for family dogs • Helping Heroes: Bandit's Happy Tail



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Because of this partnership, more students are learning to care for animals, the land, and nature through the EAGLES program.

We've also collaborated with the Parker Project and Detroit Dog Aide multiple times to move family dogs from chains to more freedom in safe and secure enclosures with more protection from the elements. Seeing the joy on the faces of the families and their beloved pets fills my heart with joy each time!

Additionally, our joint efforts with Purina, PetSmart Charities, and Greater Good Charities have allowed more domestic violence shelters to become pet friendly through grants, technical assistance, as well as the actual physical work to renovate the shelters. Joining our team onsite to make these transformations happen has shown me the profound impact of these projects for everyone involved — from the volunteers to the shelter staff and survivors, to all of the organizations involved in making it happen.

Hi friend!

COLLABORATION IS A WORD WE USE OFTEN AT REDROVER, and as I reflect back on our efforts this past year, it couldn't be more evident — we simply could not do the work we do without collaboration.

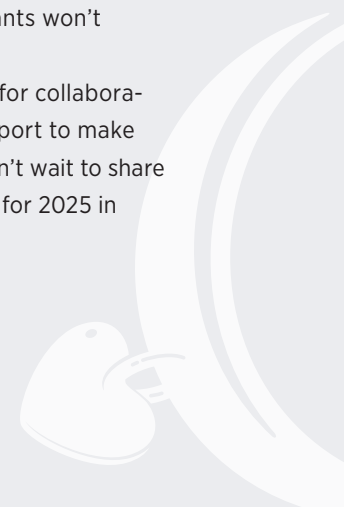
In this issue, you'll read about how we renewed our partnership with Sacramento Native American Health Center for the second year, allowing us to work alongside their staff and teens to co-create a culturally sensitive curriculum for local Native youth.

And working with our On-Call Angels truly enables us to help animals with more costly emergency veterinary care that our RedRover Relief Urgent Care grants won't typically cover.

We are so grateful for collaboration, and for your support to make this work happen. I can't wait to share what we have in store for 2025 in our next edition!

In community,

KATIE CAMPBELL
President and CEO



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Supporting community efforts for a kinder world



REDROVER HAS ONCE AGAIN PARTNERED WITH THE SACRAMENTO NATIVE AMERICAN HEALTH CENTER (SNAHC), a Federally Qualified Health Center located in Sacramento, California, to co-create Native-centered curriculum as an extension of the RedRover Readers program. Both groups carefully selected additional Native-authored children's books and co-created culturally sensitive curriculum for the The Early Ages Gathering to Learn Empathy through Stories (EAGLES) Program. This new program focuses on how children respond to certain books.

During a recent EAGLES Program reading, Leia and her little sister Bella arrived first to a large open room where the reading would be held. With a sweet smile and cheerful demeanor, Leia sat down and started drawing and quickly

bonded with RedRover's Karly Noel, who was there to read with the children. Leia and Karly discussed their favorite colors and what they were looking forward to: Karly said that

she was looking forward to reading the story *Winter's Gifts* to the children, and that she was feeling curious to see how they would like it. Leia shared that she was looking forward to starting Kindergarten in the fall, but that she was nervous, wondering if she will make new friends. Leia looked down at her drawing then up at



Karly and said, "I'm sure it will be great because look, I drew a rainbow."

Leia listened to the story, participated in the curriculum activities, *and* met a new friend on her first day at the EAGLES program! The two girls shared giggles and coloring markers while they drew pictures of animals that are important to them. Karly made a point to tell Leia that the first day of the EAGLES program is like the first day of Kindergarten, because we are all meeting each other for the first time. We are excited to hear more stories about the new friends —

both animals and people — in her life as the program continues.

RedRover is excited to partner with community groups to learn more about what individual communities need and how we can support their efforts to create a kinder world together. Kids in our community like Leia are part of the second round of the EAGLES Pilot Program, bridging the success we saw in the first program with this round like a rainbow ♥



New RedRover Readers Native-authored stories

Five new Native-authored books and one Native-centered book have been chosen through our partnership with SNAHC.

Explore these books along with many others and find out how to implement the RedRover Readers program at RedRover.org/on-demand!



Bridging the gap for family dogs



IT'S NOT UNCOMMON TO RECEIVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE FAMILIES AND DOGS HELPED THROUGH OUR UNCHAINING WORK—it can be difficult to see dogs living in conditions that may not be what we provide for our pets at home. Often, we come from a different lived experience, culture, environment, and have access to entirely different resources. This can make it challenging to understand what other people are going through without our own biases getting in the way. As such, community outreach programs must be steeped in compassion, empathy, and relationship building.

Dogs live outside for a variety of reasons, many that can only be understood by living in these communities. With 20 million pets and people experiencing poverty, often without resources and access to care, families are doing the best that they can. Along with cultural differences surrounding pet care, finding housing that will accept pets of a certain breed or weight, monthly pet fees or deposits, and increased costs for veterinary care and basic supplies like pet food, keeping pets with their people has become increasingly difficult. Housing a dog outside chained or tethered is often the most affordable way to keep pets safe outdoors. Fencing is costly, and the dangers of letting a dog run loose are risky. Our country's animal shelters are at or over capacity, so surrendering a dog there could likely result in euthanasia.



At RedRover, we cannot begin to express the gratitude, appreciation, and love the families that we work with have for their dogs, and our Unchaining work.



Instead, with partners like the Parker Project and Detroit Dog Aide, and our supporters, we aim to bridge the gap in resources. Veterinary care, food, enrichment, spay/neuter surgery, and building a large enclosure for outdoor dogs improves the quality of life for both the pets and their people. At RedRover, we cannot begin to express the gratitude, appreciation, and love the families that we work

with have for their dogs, and our Unchaining work. Through handwritten cards, fresh fruit, hugs, and tears from families experiencing hardship with their pets, we know that kindness, understanding, and meeting people where they are at is what it's all about. **Together we are truly making a difference and changing lives.**



Want to support **RedRover Responders** Community Programs with your time and talents? Complete the training at **RedRover.org/JoinResponders** ❤️

Staff Stories from our Colorado domestic violence shelter build

“It’s true, all of our domestic violence shelter builds with our friends at Greater Good Charities are special, but the one we completed this July in Colorado was extra special for me! We met the folks from Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN) in May of 2023 when they joined us for a Don’t Forget the Pets workshop. They brought all of their “no’s” (“We can’t be pet friendly because XYZ”) with them and, by the end, they were inviting us over for a tour of the shelter so we could help them become pet friendly. Just over a year later, we helped transform ALL of their rooms to accommodate pets and build three outdoor exercise areas. A true example of getting from “no” to “YES!”

♥ Katie Campbell
President and CEO



“Supporting SPAN in renovating their housing to become pet friendly was an incredible experience. I worked alongside staff and volunteers from Rescue Rebuild, local Colorado animal shelters and community organizations, our friends with Purina, and of course, our amazing **RedRover Responders** volunteers. Everyone assisted with tasks of all sorts, such as painting, landscaping, and flooring installation, making each day exciting and full of new learning opportunities. There were also days where we endured a bit of a heatwave, which motivated us even more to finish the project that would ensure people and their pets could find comfortable safety indoors. **My favorite part about the SPAN deployment was seeing the community join together** to collaborate and share resources and knowledge to help pets in crisis, all while enjoying the beautiful Boulder scenery.”

♥ Ketia Johnson
Community Outreach Coordinator II

“At my first RedRover Responders domestic violence shelter build deployment, I had the privilege of collaborating with the incredible folks from the Rescue Rebuild team and Purina to make a domestic violence shelter pet friendly. The experience was heartwarming and empowering in more ways than one, as we enhanced the shelter’s environment to better support survivors and their pets. I’m so grateful to have had the opportunity to contribute to such a meaningful cause. This project truly demonstrated the difference we can make to help people and pets heal together.”

♥ Minhhan Takemoto
Program Manager

“My time in Colorado was truly memorable! And we can only do work like this with an extensive amount of collaboration. SPAN’s shelter renovation was made possible through RedRover + Purina’s Purple Leash Project and Greater Good Charities’ funding. But beyond funding, all three organizations “walked the walk, and talked the talk” by sending volunteers onsite to complete this project! A big thank you goes to Bryna Donnelly’s Greater Good Charities’ Rescue Rebuild team and their amazing ability to coordinate such a large project. Our partners at KONG toys sent a box of cat and dog toys and treats to welcome the first pets onsite too. **Knowing that at the end of the project there would be safe and secure spaces to welcome survivors’ pets was very motivating and heartwarming.”**

♥ Sheri Madsen
Director of Public Relations and Partnerships



Eight NEW pet-friendly programs at Domestic Violence shelters

THANKS IN PART TO PURINA AND PETSMAST CHARITIES, REDROVER AWARDED \$414,527 IN SAFE HOUSING GRANTS to nine domestic violence shelters to create or expand pet housing programs for survivors' pets this granting round.

RedRover President and CEO Katie Campbell said, "We're thrilled we can help eight shelters create programs to welcome survivors' pets for the first time, and expand services for another. With each new pet-friendly shelter, lives are saved on both ends of the leash."

Shelter renovations included adding pet-friendly flooring, enrichment, outdoor play yards, outdoor dog runs, building dog and cat enclosures, creating indoor lounge areas for survivors and their pets, as well as covering veterinary costs, pet supplies, and more.



RedRover + Purina Purple Leash Project DV Shelter Grantees:

- **Colorado:** Boulder County, *Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN), \$60,000
- **Louisiana:** East Baton Rouge County, *Capital Area Family Violence Intervention Center d/b/a Iris Domestic Violence Center, \$60,000
- **Oklahoma:** Payne County, *Wings of Hope Family Crisis Services, \$43,205

DV Shelter Grantees:

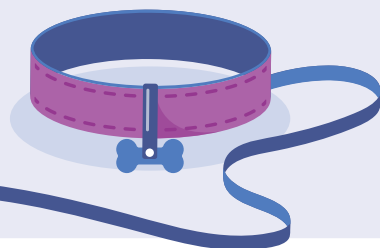
- **Alabama:** Lee County, *Domestic Violence Intervention Center (DVIC) \$60,000 (funded by PetSmart Charities)
- **Indiana:** Marion County, *Coburn Place Safe Haven, \$24,285 (funded by PetSmart Charities)
- **Minnesota:**
 - Hennepin County, *Tubman, \$60,000 (in-part funded by PetSmart Charities)
 - Anoka County, *Alexandra House, Inc., \$60,000
 - Crow Wing County, Relationship Safety Alliance, \$3,510
- **Washington:** King County, *LifeWire, \$43,527 (funded by PetSmart Charities)

*Shelters will become pet friendly for the first time.



Safe Housing grant application deadlines are March 1, June 1, and September 1.

To learn more, visit RedRover.org/SafeHousing ❤️



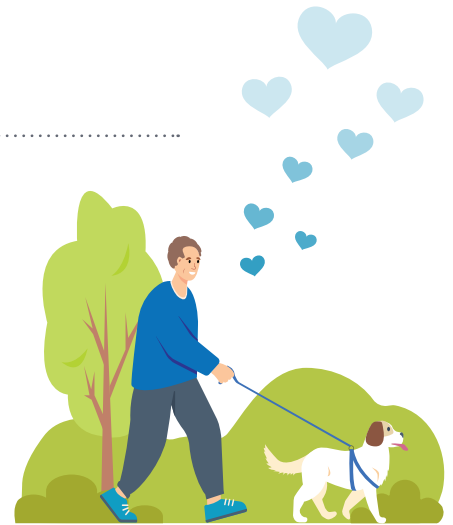
Helping Heroes: Bandit's Happy Tail

ROBERT ENDURED TWO SPINAL SURGERIES AND TWO SHOULDER SURGERIES AFTER LEAVING THE MILITARY. He was told he may never be able to walk the same again and would likely be on pain medication for the rest of his life. Everything changed when he adopted Bandit.

The handsome shepherd mix was destined to be Robert's service dog, getting him out of bed every day for a walk into town to see their friends. They walked several miles a week together, and Robert no longer needed pain medication. Because Bandit saved his life, Robert wanted to pay it forward and save lives as a search and rescue team. Together they deployed to six hurricanes and trained for wilderness and mountain search and rescue. Bandit even inspired Robert to create

a nonprofit search and rescue organization, for fellow veterans to use their skills to help others and stay connected.

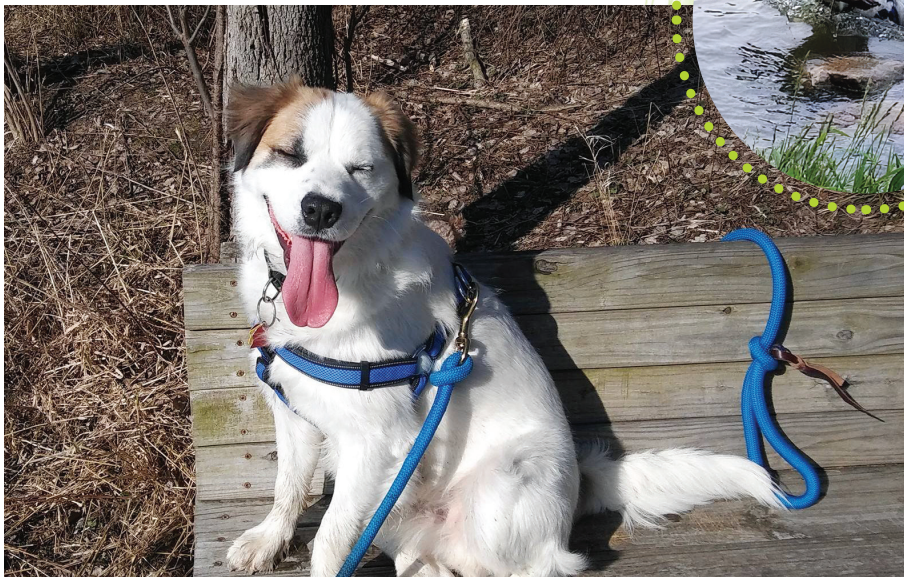
On one of their regular hikes, Bandit kicked to cover his tracks so vigorously that he ruptured his left rear cruciate ligament, disabling him at the knee. It was a debilitating injury, and their days as a search and rescue team would be over without surgery. They made it home safely, but every day brought more confusion as Bandit didn't understand why he couldn't go anywhere with Robert anymore. Robert's PTSD from the military became overwhelming in public without Bandit, and soon his physical and emotional health were affected as he lost his connection to the world.



Because Robert and Bandit were such a fixture of their community, everyone in town began to ask about Bandit. They had made a strong impression, from their sweet and reliable presence to the good work of his nonprofit, that people wanted to help. Robert was fortunate

to raise nearly all the money he needed for Bandit's surgery. He was so close to being able to afford Bandit's surgery between his fundraiser and the 10% discount he would get as a veteran; they just needed that last bit of lifesaving help.

After applying for and being awarded a RedRover Relief Urgent Care grant, Robert brought Bandit in for surgery. He was thinking of the day his good boy would be recovered and ready to resume training as a therapy dog for veterans at their local VA, one of many things they had put on hold. Bandit recovered from surgery beautifully with his slight scar the only sign he had ever been injured. And just as Bandit reached the end of his recovery, Robert was offered a building to convert into a training facility and a headquarters for his nonprofit. **Their next chapter will be moving halfway across the country to save even more lives—because you helped save theirs** ♥



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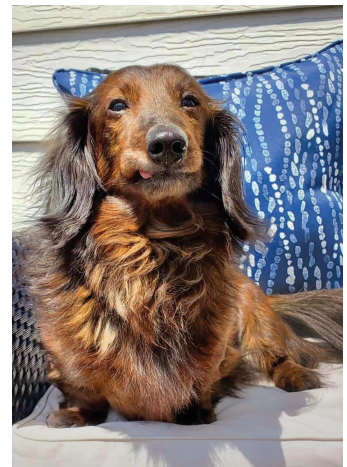
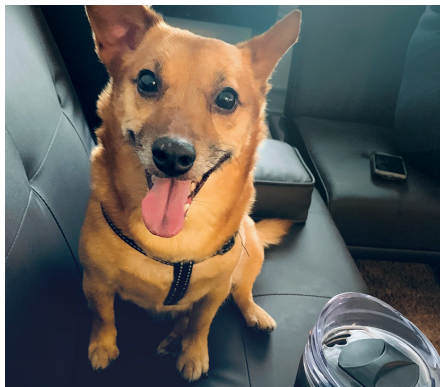
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Share our stories! Leave Companion at your doctor’s office, vet clinic, gym, lunch room, or coffee shop.
To protect your privacy, please clip out or blacken your name and address above.

28 On-Call Angels got their wings this year!

ON-CALL ANGELS ARE SOME OF OUR MOST DEDICATED, GENEROUS, AND COMPASSIONATE DONORS. Instead of giving to a general fund, they pledge to donate regularly to individual pets and families in need – RedRover Urgent Care and Safe Escape grant recipients! When it’s their turn to answer the call, we pair On-Call Angels with a specific case, give them details about the situation (which can include pictures and an update!) and ask them to make their pledge for that pet, directly contributing to the animal’s care.

Being an On-Call Angel is one-on-one lifesaving kindness, when and where it’s needed the most. Learn more at RedRover.org/Angel.



“I love the idea of being able to help animals (and their people) in time-sensitive situations. I like to see the individual stories so I know my impact is real.”
♥ Tammy, West Virginia