RedRover®

FALL 2026

companion



Staying Vigilant for Communities of Pet Families

Keeping Both People and Pets In Sight • A Summer of Community Support • No Vacation for Kindness!



HI FRIEND,

In this issue of *Companion* magazine, we're reflecting on our fourth habit of mind, **Vigilance: in our line of work, that means keeping a careful, intentional watch for opportunities to protect the human-animal bond.** And while staying alert for potential trouble or danger is certainly part of it, we like to think that we stay vigilant for new pathways, new partnerships, and new ways to grow our impact. This means staying curious and humble, and doing all that we can to continue to learn more—more from our constituents, our partners, and the communities we serve. Vigilance means always being on the lookout for ways to improve and understand not just the needs of a community, but its *strengths* too.

It's this vigilance that has helped us expand our **RedRover Relief** Safe Housing grants to homeless shelters; increase the number and diversity of our **RedRover Responders** Community Programs projects; provide more than 10,000 **RedRover Relief** Urgent Care grants; and reach more than 2 million children with *Kind News*™ magazine through **RedRover Readers**. And while we have a small but mighty staff, it's our amazing community of volunteers, partners, and supporters like YOU who are changing the lives of animals and the people who love them.

RedRover
Bringing Animals from Crisis to Care

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Thank you all for helping us keep a watchful eye out for pet families and the human-animal bond!

In community,

KATIE CAMPBELL
President and CEO





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*Cover: This pup was served at our **RedRover Responders** drive-through wellness clinic deployment with our partners at PAWS of Northeast Louisiana in April 2026.*

Tater's Happy Tail – Paying It Forward

OUR COMMUNITY'S IMPACT OFTEN EXTENDS MUCH FURTHER THAN WE'LL EVER KNOW. It's always a pleasant surprise when we receive an unexpected update from a **RedRover Relief** grant recipient.



Three years ago, not long before the holidays, we received an application for a little Dachshund named Tater. Tater was so loved by his family, and unfortunately, he had fallen ill with canine parvovirus. His family was going through several hardships all at once, but they were determined to save their beloved family member.

"The kids even offered to give up their presents so he could receive the veterinary care he needed. I was so touched by their application and my conversation with Tater's mom, Amber, that I shared their story with our RedRover Relief team. They, in turn, decided not only to help with an Urgent Care grant, but also to provide presents for the kids."

♥ Athena Cardiasmenos, Program Coordinator II

Amazingly, it didn't stop there; almost the entire staff of RedRover contributed, hoping that this family could enjoy the holidays with their dog, Tater. They did, and since then their circumstances have improved greatly, and Tater is doing fantastic — healthy and very energetic!

During a recent conversation updating us on Tater's recovery, we had a new application from a family who had lost everything during Hurricane Helene, except for her beloved dog. Thankfully, we were able to help her dog get the surgery she needed. Amber expressed how much our help meant to their family and shared that they have paid it forward to support this same family, who coincidentally lived in her community! Pets are family, and that extends to a network of people who are connected by their deep love for their animals. ♥

No Vacation for Kindness!







THIS PAST SUMMER, SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS WENT THE EXTRA MILE to bring RedRover's *Kind News*™ magazine to kids in their area and keep the kindness going all year!

Humane Society of the North Bay in Vallejo, California, brought the magazine to **800 children!** Their board member, Katie Kogut, relayed that one teacher said, **"[The magazines] were great for the students. They wrote about what type of career they might want to have with animals!"**

Another long-time *Kind News* sponsor, the Humane Society of Missouri, is bringing the magazine to **more than 1,800 children in their community** this school year. At their camp, children learn kindness towards all animals through service projects, animal career studies, becoming "junior humane officers," and making animal enrichment toys.

"We are thrilled to have this fun and meaningful resource available during HSMO Kids for Critters Camp," JoEllyn Klepacki, their director of Education, told us. **"We include the magazine in a resource folder we give to each camper."**



Learn how you can get involved and #Spread*KindNews* at **KindNews.org.** ♥

Stories from Maine: Keeping People and Pets In Sight

BEING VIGILANT MEANS PAYING ATTENTION — not only to what's happening, but to what might be needed next. At RedRover, that means keeping both people and pets in sight.

This spring, the **RedRover Readers** program reached an important milestone through a workshop with Safe Voices, a nonprofit organization in Maine that supports survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking. RedRover Program Manager, Minhhan Takemoto, had the opportunity to facilitate training for eight members of the Safe Voices team, exploring how animal-centered stories can serve as a trauma-informed tool to help children develop empathy, practice perspective-taking, and deepen their understanding of the human-animal bond.



While this workshop was a first for **RedRover Readers,** our relationship with Safe Voices stretches back to 2018, when we awarded the shelter a RedRover + Purina Purple Leash Project grant. **That relationship grew into a 2019 collaboration with Greater Good Charities and Purina that made Safe Voices the first pet-friendly domestic violence shelter in Maine.** Since then, Safe Voices has continued to champion pet-inclusive practices and inspire similar efforts beyond Maine.

This shared history is a powerful reminder that our work is deeply interconnected. From creating safe housing and supporting survivors to fostering empathy through stories, RedRover's programs can come together in meaningful ways to support the whole family and help build safer, more compassionate communities for people and pets. ♥

Because "Family" Doesn't Just Mean Dogs and Cats

YOU'VE LIKELY HEARD US SAY THAT, WHEN IT COMES TO PETS, IT'S NOT JUST DOGS AND CATS THAT ARE AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. At RedRover, we know that all types of animals are considered family members, including fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians, goats, pigs, donkeys, and beyond. So, it was extra special for our President and CEO, Katie Campbell, to be able to visit the Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals (MSSPA) last month along with Program Manager Minhhan Takemoto.





Since 2022, MSSPA has been working towards an incredible milestone — building "A Safe Place to Land" barn where survivors' horses can begin their healing journey in a calm, supportive, and loving space. What makes this program special is not just the beautiful spaces that have been created; it's the all-in commitment of the entire MSSPA team, from their staff to volunteers and their supporters.

Their dedication to supporting the healing and safety of survivors and beloved family members is something you feel as soon as you arrive on campus. This isn't just a safe place to land...it's a new chapter for survivors and their family that begins with compassion and community. ♥

The RedRover Responders Team Welcomes Callie!



WE'RE HONORED TO NOW HAVE CALLIE ATTANASIO, VETERAN REDROVER RESPONDERS VOLUNTEER, ON OUR TEAM AS OUR NEW FIELD SERVICES MANAGER. Living in Oregon with her *mutt*ley crew, Callie's home is no stranger to sugar-faced senior pups—fosters and family members alike! Callie has been on just about every type of deployment we offer: she's built safe enclosures for pets during Unchaining and domestic violence shelter builds, handled and cared for animals during spay/neuter and wellness clinics, and responded at the last minute to provide emergency shelters for animals in need.



> "Over the years, I've seen the same thing again and again—people's love for their pets doesn't waver, no matter what crisis they're facing."

Q How many times have you deployed with RedRover, and how many years have you volunteered with us? Which deployments stick out?

A: I've gone on around 38 deployments over the last 4 years! The Unchaining deployments are always the ones that stick with me most—there's nothing quite like watching a dog go from living on a chain to living chain-free in a safe space. Watching that transformation never gets old for me.

Q What was a memorable experience from your very first deployment with us?

A: I didn't realize how difficult it would be to try to clean a kennel with eight beagle puppies all wanting your attention! I had a constant, mischievous entourage that was very good at making sure no work got done—but they were so cute I didn't mind.

Q Why do you want to protect the human-animal bond? What reasons or relationships guide you?

A: Over the years, I've seen the same thing again and again—people's love for their pets doesn't waver, no matter what crisis they're facing. I'd do anything for my own pets, and that's what drives me to help others protect that same bond, especially in life's hardest moments when people need their pets most.

Q What paths in your life or career changes have led you to joining the RedRover team?

A: Right after college, I was involved with an Unchaining organization in the Portland, Oregon, area and was instantly drawn to the work of helping families stay together with their pets. From there, I went looking for unique animal welfare volunteer opportunities, and RedRover fit the bill perfectly. After 4 years and more than 30 deployments volunteering alongside the amazing RedRover team, I'm honored to fully join the team and continue this incredible work serving as RedRover's Field Services Manager! ♥





A Summer of Community Support



This summer was a wild ride for the RedRover Responders team! Between June, July, and August, the team traveled to seven different communities to support pets, people, and, for the first time, wolves!

June

PARTNERING WITH GREATER GOOD CHARITIES (GGC), we kicked off June by traveling to Wolf Haven International in Washington to install more than 600 linear feet of specialized 8-foot fencing to enclose a habitat for a special grey wolf named Billie and her new companion, Nicky.

From there, we continued our work out west with a large-scale spay/neuter clinic on the Navajo Nation in Arizona with our long-term partners, The Parker Project. Our volunteers helped families access vaccinations and wellness services for sick and injured animals, which was an incredible resource in a remote area.

A quick hop, skip, and a jump (with a day off!) landed us in New Mexico to connect with families on a different part of the reservation for our Unchaining program. In 107-degree weather, our team repaired holes in fencing, patched canopy tops, and made sure the dogs had new toys and enrichment items.

At the same time, a separate team made their way to Utah to assist GGC with a domestic violence shelter build. Throughout five days, we partnered to renovate and create space at the shelter to be pet-friendly so that survivors of domestic violence—***both*** pets and people—can find safety together.











July

AFTER A SHORT BREAK, WE GEARED UP TO SUPPORT THE EAST COAST, starting with a free pet wellness clinic in Vermont hosted by the Mobile Pet Food Shelf. Over 2 days, we gave out 800 vaccines, hundreds of doses of flea/tick prevention, and plenty of pet food.

Then we were back at it again for another build at a domestic violence shelter in New Jersey, our third deployment of the summer with Greater Good Charities!

August

FINALLY, WE CLOSED OUT THE SUMMER ASSISTING CHEATHAM COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL with the care of more than 70 dogs in their shelter after they had a large influx of pups surrendered. The **RedRover Responders** volunteers worked diligently to support the shelter's enrichment plan by taking the dogs for long walks and hanging with them for free time in their play yards.



1,076 TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

When all was said and done, 4 RedRover staff members and 44 volunteers who donated 1,076 hours of their time made an incredible difference for 973 animals. WOW! We couldn't have asked for a more successful summer, and it's thanks to readers like YOU who support this work. Thank you! ♥

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How One On-Call Angel Went Above and Beyond



TRACY JOINED THE REDROVER ON-CALL ANGELS TO HELP FAMILIES WITH CATS IN NEED OF URGENT VETERINARY CARE, committing to help one family per quarter. Thanks to Tracy, RedRover approved a lifesaving grant for her first case, a cat named Tom, right away so the veterinarian could move forward with his eye surgery and his mom could have relief after going through a divorce and losing her job. **Tom's case and recovery was so impactful that Tracy soon pledged to help one family per month. Now, she's helping five or six pets a month!**

"All the cases have been so heartwarming! Helping people makes me feel good. I even share the cases with my partner and sixteen-year-old, to teach him the importance of helping others."



Dedicated On-Call Angels like Tracy are saving lives and keeping families together one pet at a time. Are you inspired by Tracy's story and want to learn more? Email Olivia Carpenter at **Olivia@RedRover.org,** or go to **RedRover.org/OCA.** ♥

Thank You for Being a Friend to the Animals



WE WANT TO THANK OUR FUREVER FRIENDS FOR THE MANY LIVES SAVED and communities changed with their contributions every month. Our FurEver Friends allow us to plan for the future and the moments in between crises, ensuring we can protect the human-animal bond—and strengthen it, too. As special members of RedRover, FurEver Friends inspire us to always do more for pets and families when they need us most. We hope they inspire you! ♥

