EAST SACRAMENTO NEWS



Life in the Village. Crossword Puzzle. Door-to-Door ... ■ What's Happening



East Sacramento's Uriiah Faber presents new gym to community



East Sacramento residents needed for United Way's Day of Caring

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3 beds • 2 bath • 1,799 sqft 3 beds, 2 baths, 1,504 sqft

Welcome to River Park

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RedRover celebrates 30 years, national headquarters stationed in East Sac

By ELLEN COCHRANE

The next time you head over to Pete's or Starbucks on I and 38th in East Sacramento take a look across the street. On the bottom floor of the unassuming medical building is the national headquarters for one of the nation's first-responder organizations for animals in crisis—RedRover.RedRover's mission is to bring animals out of crisis and strengthen the bond between them and people. They do this with a triad of humane support programs—disaster grams—disaster response teams, financial relief for animal care and a social-emotional learning reading program focused on the humane treatment of animals. All this was founded and headquartered right here in Sacramento.

RedRover Responders

When hurricanes Irma and Harvey roared in the RedRover Responders were ready for them. The SPCA of Texas asked RedRover to help with the temporary sheltering of animals displaced by Harvey. Volunteers were on the ground every day during the crisis setting up temporary kennels and cages, organizing donated supplies, feeding and walking the animals and providing com-fort when they needed it the most. In Florida, RedRover is doing the same.

During major natural disasters The Responders work with law enforcement, local agencies and animal organizations to provide lifesaving care and shelter for animals displaced by natural disasters. (Sadly, the team will also respond to cruelty and neglect cases.) The all volunteer corps is committed to helping animals in need and are the backbone of these efforts. This program is often described as the "Red Cross for animals."

RedRover Relief

Sometimes comfort is not enough. The cost of an animal emergency can overwhelm family finances. RedRover Relief has helped thousands of animals by giving financial assistance, resources and emotional support to families. Relief goes to the heart of the problem and gives help where it's needed most: helping pet owners care, emotionally and financially, for companion animals in lifethreatening situations.

Part of this work includes supporting programs that focus on human victims. When women and men flee to shelters to escape abusive homes they can take their children and some belongings. They cannot usually take their pets.

Red Rover Relief provides grants to help victims of domestic violence escape abusive environments with their beloved pets. Domestic violence offenders often have a pattern of abusing all members of the household – including children and pets. It is estimated that as many as 65 percent of domestic violence victims stay in abusive homes or delay leaving because of concern for the safety of their pets. Relief helps women and men leave an abusive situation and know that their pets will also find temporary shelter, with with them or in a foster home.

The organization partners with non-profits like Sacramen-to's WEAVE to provide grants to assist the victims and in some cases to build co-shelters that can house the animals until the humans find a safe haven.

RedRover Readers

Neuroscientists say that empathy is hard-wired into our brains. But some children need structure and nurture to bring out their best empathetic selves. The Readers program helps elementary school children understand the emotional states of others, develop the skills needed for empathy and explore the bond between people and animals through select stories and discussion about animals.

Teachers and educators trained in the RedRover Readers curriculum read to children and lead discussions - helping children increase their level of empathy for people and animals. RedRover has offered this program to districts pro bono for many years.

Sacramento City Unified embraces the program. "So-cial Emotional Learning is fundamental to advancing eq-uity work in Sacramento City Unified School District, SEL programs, such as Red Rover Readers, are one of the many ways to build SEL skills in order to support equitable out-comes for all," said teacher, Janet Maira. "The RedRover Readers program is fantastic and a great resource for accessing Social and Emotional Learning through literature."

Second grade teacher, Sar-ah Kesty, 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year, Twin Rivers School District explains how children are affected. "The program is able to change perspectives. The kids no longer throw rocks at cats. They say... I never thought of it from the cat's perspective... this makes me want to be a better brother."

Anniversary

Thirty years ago in South Land Park Belton Mouras helped start United Animal Nations to provide emer-gency shelter, disaster relief

and financial assistance for The Responders animals in crisis situations across the globe. Mouras, a World War II veteran, devoted his life to caring for and writing about animals. In the early 2000s, the organization streamlined its work and took on the new name, RedRover. Today there are more than 50,000 members with a publication circulation of more than 700,000. It's best to make the best change where we live," says Karly Noel, RedRover Education Manager. At RedRover I love that I get to blend my three passions - children, education and animals - into the work I do.

Three decades of empathy, down to earth help and growth. RedRover is the real deal. If you'd like to be trained to help, join or just learn more, visit RedRover.org or Come. Sit. Celebrate. The anniversary party is on Thursday, Sept. 28, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Sactown Union Brewery, 1210 66th St. B, Sacramento, CA 95819. One dollar of every pint purchased goes to

- 180 deployments, 84 of which have been natural disasters
- Been to 38 states and provinces, as well as Japan and Poland
- Heldmorethan 340 volunteer training workshops
- Trained more than 9,000 volunteers

The Readers

- Ten years of free curriculum and work with children
- Reached more than 67,000 children,
- Read with 501 different classrooms or groups Served 195 different
- schools nationwide and in lower Canada.
- More than 1,220 teachers, humane educators and volunteers trained

The Relief

- Vet emergency money
- Domestic violence, safe escape, working with human
- Grants for people and animals in crisis
- Non-profit partnering

