



## MEET FINAL REFUGE FOSTERS BRAD NOWLIN AND OLYMPIA & AARON DAVIS



When you stand in front of the door to Brad Nowlin's apartment you see a poster that Brad calls his "rogue gallery." Photographs of the dogs Brad has loved and cared for over a period of many years are pasted to the door. Clearly this is a man who values the dogs that have been and are a part of his life.

Brad is a retired electronics engineer, specializing in software, who also taught electronics at Seattle Community College for several years. These days his time is spent on the Internet exploring his favorite subjects: history, archeology, and travel. Brad doesn't do much traveling any more but he finds great pleasure in "traveling from my armchair."

Another interest that plays a major (he would say the most important) part in Brad's life is being a Final Refuge dad to dogs that need his particular brand of TLC. Brad is especially sensitive to the dogs that have suffered trauma in their lives and he feels it's his mission to help reduce that trauma. He's committed to 24/7 love and care when it comes to his dogs.

Brad's current Final Refuge dog Rocky ended up in a rescue when he was taken from someone who could no longer care for him. Rocky is 14 years old, had bladder crystals, and long term damage to his neck. Since coming to live with Brad he has been on a prescription diet to keep the crystals from becoming bladder stones and he has frequent vet checks. He's not able to lift his head up for long but no damage has been found in his neck. Whether this is a birth defect or an injury that left no other trace, Rocky deals with it calmly. He loves to ride in the special stroller that Brad made for him because he's able to rest his chin on the rim and watch the world go by.



As far as Brad is concerned, Rocky is in charge. This little "tyrant puff ball" feels much better now that he's receiving the love and care he needs and is content to sleep, enjoy meals, and spend time with his dad. Brad feels that Rocky "is enjoying his retirement as much as I am mine and I could not have any better purpose in life than caring for him. Thank you for allowing me to be his last refuge."



Olympia and Aaron are the two human members of a family including five Chihuahuas, a min pin, a Brussels Griffin, seven exotic birds and a cat. Considering the backgrounds of all of these animals and birds, it would seem that the word "Rescuer" is clearly tattooed on both Olympia and Aaron's foreheads.

Olympia and Aaron have been fostering for ODH since 2008. Their two current ODH dogs are Nikki and Marmaduke. (see photo left) Nikki "has a very large personality" and can often be seen with Marmaduke at events. She also helps him look for lost pets in the area. Marmaduke is the "perfect size to be swept up into a long hug with kisses, and the perfect temperament to grumble about it good-naturedly if he was hoping for a treat instead."

Aaron helped a bird rescue called 911ParrotAlert before and during Hurricane Katrina by posting lost and found birds in a database that was accessible online from all over the country. He was also part of the Stealth Volunteers, a group that worked online to reunite people and pets separated by that same tragedy. He's been using Facebook to cross-post animals in need of a safe environment since 2008.

**Olympia:** "I always thought death was the worst thing that could happen to someone, but I was wrong. The worst thing that can happen is neglect, disinterest, mistreatment, and carelessness. I probably overdo in the other direction and spoil everyone rotten, but I consider that a privilege and have no intention to change.

**Aaron:** "I have enjoyed getting to experience the personalities that are typical of certain dog breeds. I have learned that all animals have their own individual personalities just like people. They should be respected for their likes and dislikes. Allowing them to cross the Bridge is still very difficult for me and probably will never be something I deal with as well as Olympia, but I know that giving them a dignified ending is a gift. I personally believe in reincarnation and feel the spirit of certain animals around me at times.

"We consider what we do and the caretaking of souls to be a gift. It is enriching and rewarding beyond measure to have an old dog wag its tail at us for the first time or the thousandth; to see a dog, once starving and neglected, sleeping peacefully in a soft bed with a full tummy; to experience a dog comfortable enough to dash forward in an act of affection or play in who knows how long; or, once shocked by a spontaneous hug, eagerly give one back. The house is sometimes noisy and boisterous beyond endurance; it's also often calm and peaceful and filled with contentment. We can't imagine having it any other way."

## FUNDRAISING BENEFITS FOR OLD DOG HAVEN

We're always very grateful that so many individuals, groups and small businesses take it upon themselves to host benefits for ODH. This kind of unsolicited generosity is a wonderful compliment, as well as a tremendous boost to our financial ability to help old dogs. We'd like to especially thank the following groups and individuals :



**Dogalaties**, a Pilates class Fundraiser, held a special event for ODH called "Old Dogs New Tricks" and raised a significant amount of money for our dogs.

*Pictured left are Alexa Robbins, her teaching partner Joe Ruiz and friends. Joe is holding their mascot Dora, a puppy mill survivor.*

**Companion Animal Wellness Center** in Poulsbo did a sponsorship drive in conjunction with their open house.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our **Giving Tuesday** Drive. Over \$20,000 was raised for our dogs!

**K-9 Korral in Lake Stevens** again "adopted" ODH at their client Christmas party with donations of cash and a sleigh full of supplies. Thanks to the Schlossers and their clients, who have been loyal ODH supporters for years.



**The Dining Dog** chose the dogs of ODH to benefit from a fun dining event where the dogs enjoyed a four-course meal consisting of a doggie cocktail, appetizer, entrée, and choice off the dessert cart.

**Northwest K9 Sniffers** benefited ODH with proceeds from their holiday party and silent auction.

**Healthy Paws Pet Insurance** held their first ever Penny War FUNDraiser as a competition between offices to benefit ODH. The Healthy Paws Foundation matched the amount raised!



**BARK espresso and Great Dog** held a silent auction to benefit ODH.



Mezzo-soprano Joy Baldrige, soprano Kristin Colburn, cellist Heidi McBride Fritts, violinist Anna Furmann-Ferenczy, and pianist Rose Fujinaka held a **Songs of the Heart** concert to benefit ODH.

**Serious About Fitness** held a resolution run to benefit ODH.

**Seattle Barkery** always donates money from their tips jar to ODH.

**Yoga: From Dawn to Dusk** held a two day event to benefit ODH.



Our wonderful long-time supporters at **Paddywack** held their annual ODH sponsorship drive in February and matched the first \$1,000 in sponsorships.

Thanks to the following businesses that hosted photos with Santa to benefit ODH:

**Ash Way Pet Supply**  
**Summer Mud Bay**  
**Wally Pets**  
**Crown Hill Pets.**

*Photo by Julie Austin*



The following businesses hosted Giving Trees for ODH during the holiday season. Many thanks to them and *especially to their customers* for purchasing such wonderful gifts for our dogs:



**Frontier Village Veterinary Clinic**  
**Great Dog**  
**Lucky Dog Outfitters**  
**Paddywack**  
**Mud Bay Mill Creek**  
**Mud Bay Puyallup**  
**Mud Bay Maple Valley**  
**Mud Bay University Village**  
**Seattle Veterinary Specialists: Kirkland & Seattle**

**Woodhaven Veterinary Clinic** had no room for a tree but they cleverly hung ODH bookmarks to raise funds for our dogs.

Special thanks to the many **vendors who sold our calendars** in their shops. We appreciate your support!

**Trupanion** (Seattle office) held a raffle to benefit ODH.



### BECOME A GOLDEN GUARDIAN TODAY!

Join the circle and become a Golden Guardian Monthly Donor. **Golden Guardians** help ensure that we have the funds to care for the over 300 dogs in permanent foster care. Our vet bills are approximately \$80,000 per month and we would love to have more caring and devoted Golden Guardians.

**OLD IS GOLD**

Please help us reach our year end goal of \$10,000 per month in donations from our Golden Guardians. Just sign up once and you'll help the dogs over and over again. Visit our web site, [www.olddoghaven.org](http://www.olddoghaven.org) and get started today.

**A BIG ARF OF THANKS to the Golden Guardians who are already signed up for a monthly donation to Old Dog Haven!**



## THE MAGICAL DONATION CAN

Thanks to Special Projects Administrator Shirley Stallings for writing this article and for coordinating the Magical Donation Can program.

Many of you who read the Old Dog Haven newsletters have seen the little acrylic doghouses sitting on store or clinic counters, or have seen them at ODH events. These little guys may be the way you first became aware of ODH. As one container volunteer says, "A donation can is not just a donation can. They are a way of spreading the word about Old Dog Haven and what we do." They don't just bring in several hundred dollars per container each year, but they also bring new foster homes, volunteers, and a fan base.



Sandii Berkshire began volunteering for the ODH container donation program in 2011 after adopting a dog from ODH. "I started doing the containers because we had our own old dog and as a part of the ODH group, I realized how important fund raising was for saving old dogs. I continue because I love this job and realize how much money is required to help all of these old dogs. The businesses I work with are so enthusiastic about Old Dog Haven and I feel we all work as a team.

"I would highly recommend this job to others because, if you love dogs, this is one of the most rewarding jobs you can have. You are making a difference for old dogs by helping pay medical bills from donations. It is also a flexible job, as you can choose the days and times you collect. In other words, you own it! It is also social, and if you are retired like me it gets you out of the house doing something that is so worthwhile."

Want to be part of Old Dog Haven and make a difference in the lives of old dogs? Have limited funds to donate; not in a position to foster a dog; don't have a lot of time or availability; think you are too far away? Donation containers are the perfect way to participate. We particularly need sites beyond the greater Puget Sound area. Place a donation container where it can do its magic.

If you're interested in being a donation can volunteer contact Shirley Stallings at: [shirleys@olddoghaven.org](mailto:shirleys@olddoghaven.org).

## MEET PHOTOGRAPHER ERIN LYNCH

Erin is a dedicated ODH volunteer who specializes in showing our dogs at their best. Thank you Erin.



"I am a professional pet photographer here in beautiful Seattle. Prior to being a full-time photographer, I worked as a veterinary technician for over ten years. When my husband and I moved to Seattle last summer, I joined the team at Seattle Veterinary Specialists in the ER department and that is how I learned about Old Dog Haven. I was the triage nurse for one of

the Final Refuge dogs that was ill, and I was amazed by the tremendous amount of support that was provided to that pup by Old Dog Haven.

"In the Fall of 2016, I opened my photography studio in Mill Creek and offered my services to ODH families by offering complimentary portrait sessions. I have also had the honor of photographing at ODH events.

"Meeting the families and hearing the stories of ODH dogs is truly inspiring and heartwarming. It is never known how long a senior dog will be with their family, so creating art for them to cherish forever is what I love most about volunteering with Old Dog Haven.

"When I am not busy in my studio, I love to get out and enjoy the city with my husband and our dog Bella. We often walk with her in her stroller in the Mill Creek Town Center or take her for a bike ride in her trailer. She will be 11 years old this summer and has been paralyzed three times, so we do what we can to make her life fulfilling because she brings us so much happiness."



Erin's photographs of ODH dogs Gramma Rose (L) and CeCe

Yes! I want to help Old Dog Haven. Enclosed please find a donation in the amount of :

☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 Other \_\_\_\_\_ Please make check payable to Old Dog Haven.

Old Dog Haven is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support! Please mail your check to: 621 State Route 9 NE, PMB A-4, Lake Stevens, WA 98258-8525.

Want to donate Online? You can choose to give a one-time gift or become a Golden Guardian monthly donor.

[www.olddoghaven.org](http://www.olddoghaven.org)

Did you know many employers match charitable donations? Your gift could have twice the impact for Old Dog Haven. Visit your human resource department to see if they offer employee giving.

**THANK  
YOU!**

If you would like to help by fostering or providing a Final Refuge home, please contact us!  
(360) 653-0311

March 2017



## A MESSAGE FROM "MADAM OLD DOG" (aka Executive Director, Judith Piper)

ODH reached a major milestone at the end of 2016: over 300 dogs in our care. (There are 315 dogs as I write this.) As I've mentioned before, we have been developing partnerships with several shelters and rescues to help them place their senior dogs (sometimes paying for surgeries, dentals and lab testing when those procedures will make an otherwise healthy dog adoptable). It's really a win-win situation: More seniors find homes from the shelters and we avoid a permanent commitment (foster space or expenses) to them. In addition, we've been so successful in marketing adoptable senior shelter dogs that shelters and rescues are much more willing to take in seniors.

The downside of this: The dogs coming to us now are the unadoptables. They have major medical problems, which are very expensive and require much effort from their ODH families, or they have chronic medical issues which can be treated but the expense would deter an adopter. Our veterinary costs keep increasing as we try to give these dogs really good care. We are now caring for *a lot of dogs* with serious needs. The Maranda Fund (for one-time special procedures) is a big help and makes it possible for us to take on a dog that needs a surgery right away, or a dental specialist, or a hospital stay to get over pneumonia—and to care for a dog already with us who has an accident or needs his spleen removed or has a heartworm diagnosis. We can use this fund without needing to turn down another dog because of the expense. Please consider the Maranda Fund for your next donation! And please join me in thanking our wonderful foster families who take their dogs to endless appointments and far-off specialty centers, give countless drugs and eye or ear treatments, give medicated baths, and help them recover from surgeries or illnesses. All this is so worth it—just look in the eyes of the dogs on our website's Final Refuge page and see their gratitude.



621 SR 9 NE, PMB A4  
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

### DOG ACTIVITY 2016

313 DOGS IN CARE AT YEAR END  
222 ACTIVE FOSTER HOMES (MORE NEEDED!!)  
638 NEW DOGS HELPED  
201 PLACED IN ODH FOSTER HOMES  
91% OF THOSE FROM SHELTERS AND RESCUE GROUPS  
9% OF THOSE FROM INDIVIDUALS  
381 DOGS ADOPTED (27 ODH & 354 REFERRALS)

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SEATTLE WA  
PERMIT NO. 1997

## MAILING WARRIORS HARD AT WORK AGAIN



Thanks to our intrepid Mailing Warriors Elizabeth Woche, Jane Sims Rotunno, Michele Rotunno, Maryke Burgess, Dianne Marlow, Kathryn Thurman, Gabrielle Flanagan, Christine Flanagan, Shari Lau, Donna Adams, Donna Mathews, and Genese Harney for their time spent mailing out tax statements.

We appreciate you!

Newsletter Editor  
Ardeth De Vries

The dogs featured in the header on the front page are Final Refuge dogs Duke (L) and Bridget Rose

The 6th Annual Old Dog Haven Walk for Old Dogs is just four months away. (July 23) If your company is interested in becoming a corporate sponsor for this year's walk, email [paulam@olddoghaven.org](mailto:paulam@olddoghaven.org) for more information.

### OLD DOG HAVEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ardeth De Vries, Gabrielle Flanagan, Dianne Marlow, Deeanne Matz, Laura Milleville

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Administrator/Special Projects: Shirley Stallings  
Telephone & Fax: (360) 653-0311  
email: [office@olddoghaven.org](mailto:office@olddoghaven.org)  
web site: [www.olddoghaven.org](http://www.olddoghaven.org)  
Mailing address: 621 State Route 9 NE, PMB A-4  
Lake Stevens, WA 98258-8525