



MEET FOSTERS SUSIE KUSH & KRISCINDA AND RIK JONES



photo by Aaron Davis

Fourteen years ago, I fell head over heels in love with a little old dog that was only with me for 18 months. He was 15 and had the beginnings of kidney failure and needed a full dental. During that time my younger sister had a major health event and ended up in assisted living. Indy would go with us back and forth to Idaho to help with her. He was the best traveler and really helped our family deal with this devastating change.

And I got hooked on old dogs.

About that time, I heard about Old Dog Haven and I started looking into volunteering with them. My first ODH dog was Benji, a shih tzu with dry eye, horrible teeth and leather instead of skin on his stomach. His yeast was so bad you could smell him from quite a distance. (To this day, I like that smell!) Benji was with us for over seven years. During that time there were a lot of life changes. He was my best friend through all of it and I still miss him.

Once Benji settled in, I took in another one or two dogs. We've always had two or three Old Dog Haven dogs as well as one of my own. I've had cats all my life and I tell friends I'm really a cat person. They look at all the dogs and say, "Yeah right!" Now that I'm retired, I can't believe I managed fostering all those years when I was working. I was definitely a whole lot busier.

I wear several hats for ODH besides fostering. I've been an Area Foster Coordinator for a couple years, and last year I joined the Dog Intake Team helping to evaluate new dogs and those people interested in fostering. Again, I've learned a lot helping in these areas. My favorite hobby is making cards so at the beginning of 2019, I started sending out condolence cards to ODH foster homes when they lose their pup. That little end of life gesture gives me a great deal of satisfaction. It's the least I can do for all the love fosters give.

Through the years, each foster dog has brought their own challenges, love, laughter and tears and I wouldn't change it for the world. My dogs have taught me so much about acceptance, patience and joy. The Old Dog Haven family is warm, welcoming and kind. I am truly blessed.



Zelda in my lap, Dagna in front, Archer in the red sweater in Rik's lap, Yubnub also in Rik's lap. Cameo by Lila, our resident rat terrier.

We have eight dogs in our home—four ODH and four of our own. We are fortunate that our pack has always adapted to newcomers, even if they are blind or deaf (or a little bit of both).

We first learned of ODH about six years ago from our next-door neighbor, who sent us a Facebook post about a dachshund she thought we should 'get.' By the time we researched and decided fostering was something

we would like to do, that specific dog had already found a home. Shortly after, we were sent an email and a photo of a little chocolate brown shih tzu that needed a home. We said yes, and she showed up to our home on Labor Day that year. She is still with us, though a little less chocolate and a lot more attitude!

We initially just fostered, but Rik's job at the time made him available during the day, so he began helping transport dogs that needed to get to a home via Olympia. We both now transport when we can. We also have helped out at the Walk for Old Dogs, and, for the last year or so, have been the event coordinators for the Olympia area. We enjoy sharing the amazing work Old Dog Haven does ... and showing off our entourage!

In our almost six years of fostering, we have welcomed eight dogs into our home. You never know what you are going to get—blind, deaf, mobility issues, a laundry list of ailments, suspected abuse—the list goes on. It is rewarding to watch a new furry family member go from disengaged and disinterested to showing interest, then enthusiasm, then downright bossiness!

In our off time, we can generally be found in the backyard at the grill, playing cribbage, or in the wind on our Harleys. Our ODH dogs have taught us to enjoy the day today—yesterday is over with, and tomorrow? Well, who knows? So go outside, flop on the grass in a sunny spot, and soak up some outside.

Thank you Susie, Kriscinda and Rik for being such enthusiastic ODH family members, and for everything you do for our dogs.

FUNDRAISING BENEFITS FOR ODH

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:



A BIG THANK YOU to all of our amazing supporters who gave REALLY BIG to Old Dog Haven on May 5 and 6! This unprecedented outpouring of support made GiveBIG 2020 the best GiveBIG ever for ODH! We surpassed our goal and all of the money raised goes to help our senior dogs. It was an incredible effort!



Pinball for the dogs!

Thank you to **Oliver Kohut** and his friends who ran a pinball tournament for the second year which benefitted ODH big time.



Thank you to **Sno-Isle Food Co-op** for selecting ODH as their featured nonprofit of the month of March.

Customers participated in a Register Roundup program that offered them an opportunity to round up their purchases to benefit ODH. They did, and our dogs thank them for their generosity.



Andrea Hurst is donating a percentage of her first month's royalties from her latest novel, *Summer of Second Chances*, (now available through Amazon in print and Kindle) to Old Dog Haven to help bring awareness to aging and homeless older dogs. Thank you, Andrea; we believe in second chances too.

SUMMER TEE-SHIRT FUNDRAISER! We can't have the Walk for Old Dogs this year but we can still have some fun! Look for our summer tee-shirt fundraiser this **July 19-31** featuring an all new Old Dog Haven tee shirt designed by Joe Myers! Watch your email, Facebook and Instagram for details.

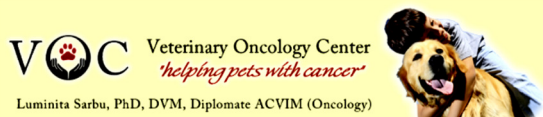


A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR WALK SPONSORS

Thank you to our "would have been" Walk sponsors who still donated their sponsorship money to our dogs even though the Walk was cancelled. Your support is very much appreciated!



NORTHWEST ANIMAL EYE SPECIALISTS
WE SHARE YOUR VISION.



Dogs featured in the header on page one are (L-R): Juno, Neville, Squeekers, Bootie, and Rainbow.

Newsletter Editor: Ardeth De Vries

KUDOS TO VOLUNTEERS WENDY AND FORREST GIBERSON



Wendy and Forrest with Bessie and Della, newly adopted family members posted on our Facebook page.

Wendy and Forrest are longtime volunteers who are very active ODH family members.

Forrest serves on the Board of Directors, is the Walk Manager, helps organize outreach fundraisers and is a "go to" guy who is always willing to do whatever needs to be done.

Wendy makes the beautiful ODH bookmarks

available at outreach events, and, along with Forrest, participates in many ODH events, including staffing the sponsorship booth at the Walk for Old Dogs.

Here's what Wendy has to say about their involvement with ODH:

"We learned about Old Dog Haven in 2008 when we were walking dogs for a local shelter. We wanted to foster an ancient retriever who'd come in as a stray. Judith from Old Dog Haven answered us immediately, and after a flurry of emails at midnight, we were cleared to spring Charlotte from the shelter the next day. 12 years and 15 dogs later, we are still as impressed with Old Dog Haven as we were from those first interactions, and we can't imagine doing anything different.

"One of the things we love most about old dogs is that they are who they are. When we fostered younger dogs for other rescue groups, we were very focused on training them to be good members of society so that they'd succeed in their new homes. Since fostering for Old Dog Haven, those concerns have fallen away—we ARE their final home. We already know it will work out. We are surprised and delighted if, for example, a dog can sit when asked or come when we call, but honestly we don't care. Our whole aim is to make them comfortable and happy.



Rudy Gee Giberson was ODH's candidate for president, but Rudy recently moved on to his next expression of spirit. He will be missed and forever in our hearts..

"Some people think it would be too hard to take in an old dog knowing that their time might be limited, and that is an understandable feeling. But the way we see it, pain is literally unavoidable in life. And often it is hard to find any bright spot whatsoever in that pain. But when rescuing old dogs, we can tell you, 100% of the time there is a bright spot, and it's easy to find. 100% of the time, the dogs we take in end their lives safe and loved. That is the constant (and giant) bright side to any pain we incur, and it is well worth it. If you are reading this newsletter, then you have in some way, shape, or form helped Old Dog Haven in its mission. From donating to spreading the word, we need it—the old dogs keep coming. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for caring!"

Backatcha Wendy and Forrest. Thank YOU Both for caring so much about our dogs.

DOG ACTIVITY JAN. 1-JUNE 10

321 dogs in Final Refuge homes as of 6/10/18

70 new dogs were taken into care between 1/1-6/10
65 came from shelters
5 came from individuals

77 new dogs were posted for adoption to help others

58 dogs were adopted 1/1-6/10

146 new dogs were helped between 1/1-6/10

OLD DOG HAVEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

Board Members: Deanne Matz, Bryan McCarty, Kelly Marlo, Dawn Ford, Forrest Giberson

Director of Veterinary Services/Dog Manager: Judith Piper
 Administrative Coordinator: Deanne Matz
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 Executive Director: Ardeth De Vries
 Telephone: (206) 280-7614
 Email: office@olddoghaven.org
 Web site: www.olddoghaven.org
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 1409, Oak Harbor WA 98277-1409

I would love to help Old Dog Haven by making a general donation. \$_____.

Please make check payable to: Old Dog Haven.

ODH is a 501(c)3 charitable organization: donations are tax-deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ email _____

Please mail your donation to: P.O. Box 1409, Oak Harbor WA 98277-1409

If you'd like to donate online, please go to our website and click on "Ways to Give"

**THANK
YOU**

If you would like to help by providing a Final Refuge home, please contact us!
 (206) 280-7614

July 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FOSTER ADMINISTRATOR SHIRLEY STALLINGS

When you think of Old Dog Haven, you no doubt think of homeless old dogs sitting in shelters and the 300+ old dogs that have permanent foster homes because of ODH. However, the real heart of ODH is our 200+ foster families. They all provide love, security, and care. But being an ODH foster is so much more.



When you see a photo of a happy and often very cute ODH dog, you should know all that our foster parents invest to create that photo: **Commitment**—"It's okay Blackie; we'll make this work." **Patience**—"I'm sorry Blackie; I know you're confused. I'll clean it up." **Time**—"This is the third trip to the vet this week." **Frustration**—"I'll have to cancel my plans again because Blackie isn't doing well." **Anxiety**—"He's sick again. What is it? Are we going to be able to help him?" And sometimes there is **Fear**—"What's wrong? Will I make it to the emergency clinic in time?"

Our foster parents are truly amazing. They may start out with a dog that is hairless, may have open sores, large ugly tumors, bulging eyes, or rotting teeth. The dog may have separation anxiety and may take a long time to trust. Our fosters eagerly take on all of this and the many sleepless nights, even knowing that at the end there will be heartbreak. Many of our foster homes do it over and over again. They celebrate the victories and hang in there with love through the hard times. And all will say they gained a lot more from these wonderful old dogs than they gave.

If this sounds like you, we would love to hear from you.



P.O. Box 1409
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A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

Since we were unable to have our Walk for Old Dogs this year we thought you might like to take a little trip down memory lane at a few highlights from the previous five years. **See you next year!**

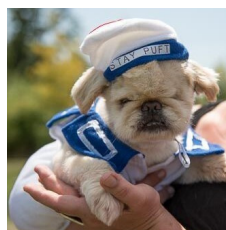
2015

First time at Cromwell Park in record-breaking heat, the Walk was still a huge success.



2016

Marvelous Marvin won best costume prize as the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man.



2017

ODH Alum Floyd won first place in the Dachshund Race for Rescue.



2018

Peabody & Jason Johanson and their team were first prize fundraisers.



2019

ODH KayCee won first prize for being the oldest dog in attendance.

