

July 2021



## AMAZING GRACES: VIRGINIA AND ERIN GRACE



Virginia with Giorgio,  
Violet Rose & Lulu  
Marie

I was employed at General Hospital of Everett as a secretary in the Department of Education and then as an audio-visual technician. During that time, I bought a home and adopted a newborn girl from India. I was unaware of my scoliosis and Scheuermann's Kyphosis, which was only aggravated by the heavy lifting required from my job, so I had to retire early from a job I loved but kept busy raising my daughter.

For the past five years, I have been fostering for Old Dog Haven with my daughter's assistance. My love for dogs, however, goes back far more years. As a small child, I became friends with every dog I met. Finally, I had my own dog when I was 13. The longest I was without a dog from then on was three weeks. Fearing the pain of loss of a dog, I always selected a puppy or young adult dog.

However, after researching about Old Dog Haven, I realized that the ones who are least likely to be chosen for a new home are the old dogs. So, I justified my loss by joining the ODH family and fostering the needy dogs that have so much love to still give. Sacrificing my time is a privilege when I see how after several weeks and vet visits a new permanent foster dog knows they are home again, safe, and loved. Seeing the health of the dog improve is gratifying. Knowing I'm with that dog until the end may be hard for me, but the dog is at peace knowing he/she is cared for and happy.

So, our home is a revolving door for ODH fosters. You accept a dog hoping for a long stay, but must be mentally prepared that the stay, no matter how long, is never enough. However, there is always another dog waiting to be cared for. So far, we have had six permanent fosters at different times in the past five years with three who crossed over the rainbow bridge. The dog that stayed with us the longest was Lexi, a Yorkie, that despite her multiple health issues lived with us almost five years.

The ODH family supports one another.



Erin with Olive

When I first heard about Old Dog Haven I knew then that eventually I and my mother would become fosters.

Initially, I started as a sponsor. Over several years, I have sponsored three different dogs. I chose to use an online boutique business that I created to help fund the sponsorships. I create jewelry and other accessories for dogs and cats. I also make items for their owners. Art/creative endeavors and animals are my two great passions in life. I am truly at my happiest whether I am

painting a pet portrait, sketching, or just relaxing with a furry butt on my lap. After I lost my job from the pandemic, I chose to return to college, and work toward a BA in Digital Media and Design with a concentration on Web Design. Most days, you will find me sitting on the sofa, working on my laptop, with a dog, or three next to me. Sometimes I have one on my lap, too.

When I am not working on courses, I spend my time sewing, gardening, and enjoy cooking.

There are days that my home truly sounds like a zoo because I have two hook bill parrots, but I love it. It isn't just the dogs greeting you when you walk in the door, but a chorus of barks, howls, chirps, and screeches. This menagerie takes a lot of work to keep up with, but it always has its rewards.

As someone who has literally grown-up having dogs (I've had one since a baby), I learned that each and every dog has their own unique personality and set of quirks. Much like people, they are individuals, and need to be treated as such. There is no set cookie cutter method for living with a dog. Some of the fosters took a few days to acclimate, some a few weeks. They are all very different, and we should never expect them to all act the same way.



Lulu Marie



Violet Rose



Giorgio

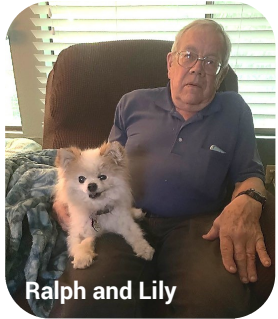
## JUDY AND RALPH THOCHER



Judy, Violet, & Posey

We've had many dogs in our lives, mostly Great Danes, Chihuahuas and Italian Greyhounds.

We became permanent fosters for Old Dog Haven in 2017. Our first ODH Foster was Violet, a tiny three pound long coat Chihuahua. She came to us as an urgent shelter pull, very thin, having seizures, eye issues and constipation. She was such a delicate little thing but she has thrived and become the boss of the household. Pretty much whatever Violet wants Violet gets. She is on anti seizure meds, eye drops and Mira lax. We have had her for three and a half years and hopefully several more thanks to the kindness and dedication of Old Dog Haven. The vast veterinary knowledge and advice that Judith passes on to all of us fosters is incredible.



Ralph and Lily

We now have two more ODH dogs with us. We have Lily, a very opinionated pomeranian who came to us with skin issues and hair matted to the skin, bad back and knees and probably well earned attitude issues. She now seeks out Ralph for pets, scratches and treats even though she pretty much ignores me. We still have to be very careful about picking her up or we will get bitten. It has been a slow come around for her but she is definitely happy and much better about being touched. It's all in her timeframe. Thanks to ODH and the medications she bounces around the house and is a very happy dog as long as she is left on the floor.

The third dog, Posey, is a wonderful yellow Labrador that came with a chronic ear infection and a very large tumor hanging from her abdomen. Fortunately the tumor was removed and not cancerous. She can now run and play with her best friend Wally, a resident Chihuahua. She could only walk before the tumor was removed because it would flop from side to side and also bleed. The ear infection is under control and still being treated. Posey has attached herself to me and has some separation anxiety if I am out of her sight. Needless to say she goes with me most of the time and loves the car rides.

We also have two blind resident dogs, one of whom is deaf, as well as two other older residents. All of them have openly accepted the ODH dogs into their home.

The transformation of the ODH senior dogs is amazing once they have the veterinary care and stability in a caring and loving home. The resilience of these older ODH dogs never ceases to amaze me after what you can only imagine they have gone through before they came into the ODH program.

Thank you ODH for all you have done and continue to do for these precious animals.

## PATTY O'CONNOR



As far back as I can remember, I have wanted to rescue animals. When I bought my own house, I made sure it had a nice back yard for the sole purpose of having foster dogs—I couldn't wait! In 2005 I started fostering adoptable dogs and over time I have probably seen almost 100 dogs come and go from my home; some young, some old; some friendly, some scared; but they all found fantastic forever homes (including my two foster fails, Luna and Walter).



Gidget

After years of fostering, I was looking for more, and a friend told me about Old Dog Haven. I immediately contacted them and started out transporting—picking up dogs from shelters and delivering them to their new homes. Soon enough I ended up taking on my first final refuge foster, Gidget, who I was lucky to have for six years. She was such a good ambassador for ODH, and I call her my "gateway dog" because she opened the door to so many more. Some have stayed for years; others for only a few months. But they all left a piece of themselves with me and took a piece of me with them.



BFFs - Pugsley and Betty

I am currently fostering Pugsley, a Chihuahua/pug cross, Milo, a blind long coat Chihuahua, and Betty, a tiny little Chihuahua who is the "mama dog" of the entire pack; she takes care of everyone. In addition, I have two cats—both of whom love the dogs—and occasionally I take on another adoptable foster.



Milo

But my passion and purpose was found in providing that final refuge home to the dogs who need me most. Losing them is never easy, but there's so much beauty in loving them while they are here. For me, doing this is literally a childhood dream come true. These dogs have taught me resilience, patience and, for someone who has anxiety issues, to just not worry as much. These dogs don't worry about tomorrow or dwell on yesterday, and they've taught me to live that way as well. Plus—extra bonus—there is nothing in the world like knowing an old dog loves you and is here because of you.



Leon, recently passed.



## MEALS ON WHEELS FOR ODH DOGS



Through the kindness and generosity of others, prescription food often becomes available to ODH from pet clinics, shelters or private donations.

For example, Humane Society for SW Washington, through the efforts of Bulk Storage Coordinator, **Amy Libby** and volunteer **Renee Canfield**, send their surplus to ODH. (The last donation was over 900 pounds!)

When food becomes available from any source, Bonnie Orban, ODH Food Transport Coordinator, begins contacting people who are willing to transport food.

Thank you to the following people who have been very helpful in picking up and delivering donations:

**Bonnie Orban**  
**Diane Lee**  
**Kriscinda Hansen,**  
**Erica Stewart**  
**Jaime Barczak Careaga**  
**Sandy Lashbrook**  
**Patty O'Connor**  
**Christine Jallings**  
**Lorraine Healy**  
**Renee Canfield**  
**Mary Schumacher**  
**Sue Hayes**



Also, **Aaron Davis** posts available food on Facebook and notifies Bonnie that donations are available.

This effort by many people is very helpful to our dogs because prescription food is expensive, and often thousands of dollars are saved by using this program. Thank you to everyone for your efforts on behalf of our dogs.

If you are interested in helping to transport food, please contact Bonnie at : [blzabonnie@frontier.com](mailto:blzabonnie@frontier.com)

## FUREVER HOME T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER



Due to ongoing social distancing restrictions we will be unable to hold any large in-person events this year but we're happy to announce our second Furever Home T-Shirt fundraiser. Although we won't be gathering together we can unite by proudly wearing our new Old Dog Haven limited edition T-shirts and help spread the word about our mission.



**The fundraiser runs from July 1 – 31** and we hope to meet last year's total and raise \$65,000 for the dogs. The limited edition tee was unveiled on July 1, and by popular demand we're bringing back our

much-loved Walk for Old Dogs T-shirt design. (As a bonus, this design will be available in more colors, sizes and styles than ever before.)

Because of your support, hundreds and hundreds of abandoned senior dogs have had furever homes with one of our permanent foster families. Without you they may have never found a safe, caring and loving place to live out the remainder of their lives. Thank you!

Every T-shirt sold and every donation made during this year's Furever Home fundraiser helps ensure many, many more furever homes for senior dogs crossing their paws in the hopes of being rescued and welcomed into kind and loving arms.

Check our website and social media pages for information about how to get your new limited edition tee.  
*by Paula Moreschi*

## DOG ACTIVITY JAN. 1-MAY 31

**300** dogs in Final Refuge homes as of 5/31/21

**63** new dogs were taken into care between 1/1-5/31  
**48** came from shelters  
**15** came from individuals

**70** new dogs were posted for adoption to help others

**47** dogs were adopted 1/1-5/31

**133** new dogs were helped between 1/1-5/31

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**

July 2021

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

## ODH REMEMBERS DAVE LEE



"Dave was an essential part of the Lees' fostering efforts: 41 dogs in the 15 years they have been part of ODH, in the first years sending many off to wonderful adoptive homes and then shifting to Final Refuge care. He was quiet support for so many ODH activities over all those years and gave so much of himself and his time to the cause. He is very much missed." *Judith Piper*



"My remembrances of David were chats we had in the many visits to our home and at ODH events. Conversation came easily and as his health declined he remained outgoing and positive. Our last conversation was at the last Walk for Old Dogs where like so many other ODH events, David was a constant source of help. He also was a courier for supplies and medications. On his way home from Boeing, he would drop off or pick up packages at my work in Redmond for distribution in the Sout King County area. David was devoted to his son and the many foster dogs in his family." *Lee Piper*



"He was a constant at events —always did whatever you asked him to do—walk dogs, set up, tote heavy things. He was a gentle soul that every dog seemed to gravitate to; even if a dog was supposed to be afraid of men, they were not afraid of Dave. I really relied on him for stuff at a lot of events. Even when he was no longer steady on his feet, he would stand beside me while I was on a chair or ladder and steady me while I set up. I personally feel a great loss of the gentle sweet soul that he was." *Aaron Davis— Events Coordinator*

Our hearts go out to Dave's wife, Diane, who hopefully is smiling about the wonderful memories she and Dave made during their life together.



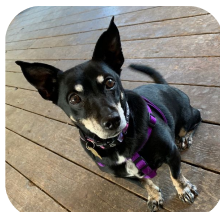
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## FUNDRAISER THANK YOUS



**A BIG THANK YOU to all of our amazing supporters** who gave **REALLY BIG** to Old Dog Haven on May 4 and 5! This unprecedented outpouring of support made GiveBIG 2021 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!



Thank you to our friends **Jennifer and Jason Sonker** who held a **Shadow's Forever Friends** fundraiser for Jason's birthday, which was so successful they donated thousands of dollars to ODH. Pictured left is Zoey, adopted by Jennifer and Jason through an ODH post in 2018. Zoey became their #1 fundraising teammate until she recently went on to her next expression of spirit.



**MUD BAY**

Thank you to **Mud Bay** for donating VERY generously to ODH as part of their Tons of Love campaign. Mud Bay partnered with their manufacturing partner, **Petcurean**, to give this much appreciated gift to our dogs.

Newsletter Editor: Ardeth De Vries

Dogs featured in the header on page one are (L-R): Woolfie, Foxy, Fiona, Macy, Nino. and Mama T.