

JOY

THE MAGAZINE OF
joybound
PEOPLE & PETS

FALL 2025

INTRODUCING A
NEW CHAPTER
IN SERVICE
DOG TRAINING

Host Your Next
Special Event
at Joybound

PLUS

The Future of
Boarding is
(Almost) Here



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From Our CEO

Dear Friends,

Autumn is here, bringing with it all the seasonal feel-goods: pumpkins glowing on porches, the buzz of back-to-school, and crisp days just right for strolls with a beloved pet. At Joybound People & Pets, our hearts are warmed by feel-good moments too, like celebrating our 53,000th adoption since our founding in 1991! Yahtzee, a 7-year-old Miniature Poodle mix, has found his forever home right here in the East Bay. And another huge feel-good? Those 53,000 adoptions mean over 100,000 people’s lives have been brightened by furry family members, all thanks to your ongoing support.

In this issue of JOY, you’ll meet some of the inspiring individuals who embody this feel-good spirit. Steve and Glenda Spero, longtime Joybound volunteers, have lovingly delivered more than 40,000 blankets to pets in our care over the past two decades, a fitting reminder of how generosity radiates warmth. You’ll also learn how our McCoy Education Center has come to life, forming new skills and connections. You’ll discover the story of Espy, a therapy dog who, along with his human, helps people heal through Joybound’s Pet Hug Pack® program.

Sensing the present and into the future, our beloved organization is innovating to meet pet families, and future pet families, where they are, in the ways they need us most. Most recently, developmental work has begun on Joybound’s “Pet Play & Stay” boarding and daycare program, a new expression of our mission that will provide loving, trusted care and deepen the bond between people and pets.

This and all Joybound services advance our mission to form and support even more pet families where dogs and cats can be cherished and human lives enriched through the unconditional love pets share.

As our adopters, donors, volunteers, and team members see every day, and as science affirms, the unconditional love of a pet inspires health and happiness. That joy, and your support inspires us to create countless more heart-connecting moments between pets and people in the years ahead.

With gratitude,

Susan

Susan Lee Vick
President & Chief Executive Officer



Fall Fun with Your Furry Friends

Crisp air, colorful leaves, cozy nights? Yes, please! Think pumpkin spice for you, and playtime for your furry besties. Check out a few fun ways to enjoy autumn with your pet.

1. Scenic Hikes & Park Strolls

Autumn trails are full of sights and smells pets adore. Take your dog on a nature hike or give your cat some safe outdoor time with a harness or cat backpack.



2. Cozy Couch Time

Cooler days call for warm snuggles. Cats and dogs love curling up on a blanket during a movie night.



3. Leaf Pile Playtime

Raking leaves? Turn it into a game! Dogs love leaping into piles, and cats can enjoy batting around crinkly leaf toys indoors. Pro tip: make sure those outdoor piles are safe and free of sticks or debris.

4. Back-to-School Vibes

As the kids head back to class, keep your pets sharp too! Puzzle toys, interactive feeders, or a quick Joybound training refresher course to challenge their minds and keep good manners fresh.

Visit joybound.org/training to learn more.



5. Pumpkin Patch Walks

Many pumpkin patches welcome leashed dogs and even cats in backpacks or strollers! It’s a fabulous spot for fall photos and seasonal sniffing adventures.



Connect with us online at joybound.org and on social media.

Happy Tails Adoption Updates!

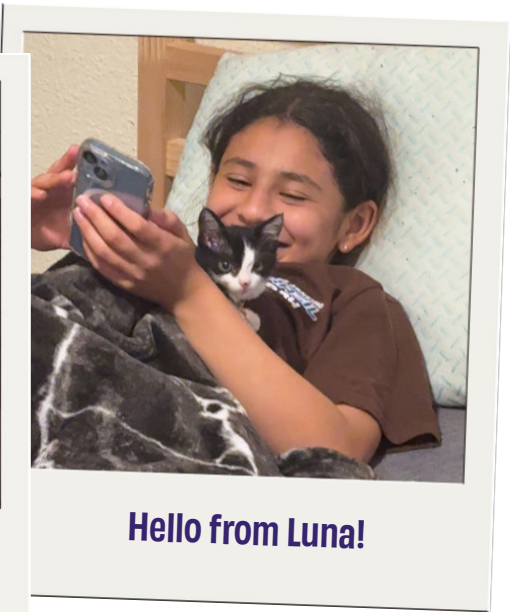
Visit joybound.org/story to Submit Your Adoption Story



Hello from Bobby!



Peanut's legacy of Love!



Hello from Luna!

”

She's playful, loving, and so sassy. She is my first cat and I enjoy every minute of cat parenting.

”

Adopted in 2010, Peanut brought 15 years of joy, tradition, and love to our family.

”

I'm really grateful that Joybound allowed me to find such a special companion.



Shout Out to Our Corporate Partners

Their Support Helps People and Pets Find Help, Hope, and Each Other



The Joy of Fostering Together

How Volunteers Team Up to Train Future Assistance Animals

What if you didn't have to foster a future service dog alone? Joybound's Shelter to Service program has launched an innovative Cohort Training model that gives volunteers the chance to share the journey of fostering together.

Instead of shouldering the responsibility by themselves, volunteers can team up with friends, neighbors, or family members to form a foster group. Working as a team, they coordinate care and training, exposing the dog to different homes, people, and routines while easing the day-to-day commitment for each volunteer.

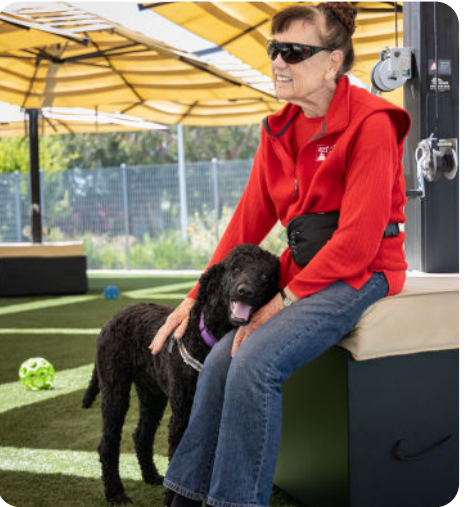
Michelle, Carissa, and Connie were the first to take part in this new approach. For Michelle, curiosity and compassion sparked her involvement. "I wanted to build on my prior shelter dog training experiences and help someone who needed a service dog," she explained.

Her cohort's foster dog, Murphy, quickly became the highlight of the experience. "The best part was witnessing how much more confident and affectionate Murphy became every week," Michelle shared.

Balancing city traffic, work, and training classes for 12 weeks would have been hard to manage on her own; by sharing the responsibilities with her cohort members, Michelle was able to be a part of Murphy's path to becoming a service dog. Together they laughed through challenges, stayed patient, and embraced the joy of being part of something bigger than themselves. "You feel a sense of awe and pride knowing you've helped prepare a dog for life-changing work." 🐾



Carissa, Michelle, Connie, and Murphy!



Be Part of the Story!

Will you join the movement that rescues not just one life, but two—bound by compassion, not just a leash.

joybound.org/shelter-to-service

From Puppy Kisses to Therapy All Star

Meet Espy, Cuddler-in-Chief of the Pet Hug Pack®

If Espy had a LinkedIn, his headline would read: *Professional Mood-Booster, Specializing in Kids and Cuddles*. This six-year-old sweetheart joined Joybound's Pet Hug Pack® in 2024, but his road to therapy dog stardom started long before that.

Back in 2019, Stanley and his wife spotted a litter of puppies on Joybound.org and rushed over. By the time they arrived, only one pup remained. An adorable 9-week-old then named Honor. "We knew he was our dog as soon as he kissed us as we held him in our arms," Stanley recalled.

From the start, Espy had a calm, steady vibe. "He's always been patient and unflappable, especially around kids,"

Stanley says. "We realized those qualities weren't just great for us at home, they were exactly what makes a great therapy dog."

A few years later, they signed up for the Pet Hug Pack®. Stanley says it was "a chance for Espy to share his gentle nature with the community." True to form, Espy sailed through Joybound's basic obedience and Canine Good Citizen training with ease.

Today, this mellow charmer spends his days visiting schools from kindergarten to college, radiating calm like it's his superpower.

One memorable visit? A local church shelter, where Espy formed an instant bond with a young child experiencing homelessness, melting hearts (and probably stealing snacks) in the process.

Stanley swears Espy knows when he's 'on duty.' With his vest on, his attitude turns professional. The result? A dog who's both humble and proud of the joy he brings. 🐾

Wanna join the pack?

"If you know your dog is great with people, can adapt to different situations, and you want to find a way to volunteer your time, go for it!" exclaims Stanley.

Learn more at
joybound.org/pet-hug-pack.



From classrooms to hospitals, Espy proves joy is always in style.

The Future of Pet Care, Joybound Style

Joybound's Upcoming Boarding Facility Goes Beyond Day Care



Joybound People & Pets is thrilled to announce a new boarding and daycare facility for dogs and cats, opening Fall 2027. The new operation will offer high-quality pet care at a reasonable cost, along with dedicated professional services to help dogs and cats with behavioral challenges. Pet families in the Bay Area can look forward to this new resource for expert, loving, affordable boarding, daycare, and behavior specialty care conveniently located alongside other Joybound offerings such as grooming, training, adoptions, community veterinary care, and more.

Beyond its regular services to the community, this new facility will also support Joybound's broader commitments to the human animal bond. The operation will provide emergency care for pets in communities facing natural disasters and crisis boarding for the pets of guardians facing medical challenges, domestic violence, short term housing insecurity, and similar situations that need emergency care for a feline or canine family member.

The integration of boarding and daycare for the community with these important support services reflects Joybound's commitment to meeting pet families' needs in every way possible.

The new operation will offer high-quality pet care at a reasonable cost

The project also achieves a key goal in Joybound's strategic plan, which committed to a mission-aligned use for the remaining 1.7 undeveloped acres on the organization's Walnut Creek campus, transforming that vacant land into a resource for the community. Construction on the state-of-the-art facility will begin in 2026, with doors opening in 2027. To learn more, visit joybound.org/boarding. 🐾

Wrapped In Love

How Steve and Glenda Turned a Simple Idea Into 44,000 Blankets

When Steve and Glenda Spero first walked into Joybound more than two decades ago, they never imagined they'd become the unofficial "Blanket Dream Team." Back then, our shelter used soft, white ambulance gurney blankets provided by a local nurse. Perfect for keeping dogs cozy, but terrible at hiding accidents. When the supply stopped, the Speros looked for a solution.

"I started calling local hospitals," Steve recalls, "but I was told the corporate paperwork could take years." The Speros weren't about to keep our animals waiting that long. Instead, they went straight to the charge nurses at John Muir's Walnut Creek and Concord hospitals with a simple plan: place clean, gray ambulance gurney blankets in a barrel by the ambulance bay, and the Spero's would pick them up weekly. The nurses agreed. And, 20 years later, they're still saying yes!

Together, Steve and Glenda now deliver about 2,000 blankets a year. More than 44,000 in total.

"They get used until they can be used no more," Steve laughs. First, they warm dogs. If chewed, they're trimmed for safety. Eventually, they're cut into smaller pads for cats recovering from surgery.

As a former Animal Care Specialist, Steve knows the behind-the-scenes hustle. "It's thankless work sometimes," he says. "People don't always realize how much happens before that happy adoption photo."

For Glenda, it's simple: "We enjoy providing something useful, and we know it makes a difference."

This dynamic duo has wrapped thousands of animals in comfort, literally. Their legacy is as warm as the blankets they deliver. 🐾

Want to start your own feel-good tradition?

Visit [Joybound.org/volunteer](https://joybound.org/volunteer) to learn more about volunteering with Joybound.



Glenda & Steve: wrapping pets in love for 22 years.

The McCoy Education Center is Buzzing

A Legacy in Action: From Birthdays to Doggie Diplomas

If walls could talk, the McCoy Education Center would be gushing with good news. This wing has always been a hub of activity, but with its new name honoring longtime supporter Greg McCoy, it has even more reasons to celebrate.

This space is constantly buzzing with energy:

Children's Camps: Kids learn what it takes to become a veterinarian and discover how an animal shelter runs behind the scenes.

Birthday Parties: Celebrations where animal lovers learn, laugh, and make memories that last a lifetime.

Joybound's Grooming Academy: Future dog groomers find new skills and live paths through the art of the “before and after.”

Looking for a Unique Venue?

When not in use, many areas of the Joybound campus, including the McCoy Education Center, become a community rental space! Perfect for adding built-in ‘aww’ to any event.

joybound.org/rental

The vibrancy of the space reflects the collective support of many, with Greg McCoy playing the central role. As Joybound’s Board President for 30 years, and a faithful major donor, Greg’s long-standing commitment has helped fuel the organization’s growth and impact. In recognition of his enduring legacy, Joybound’s Education Center proudly bears Greg’s name, serving as a tribute to his generosity and his unwavering dedication to making a difference.

So, whether you’re here for a child’s big day, a new leash on life through training in dog grooming, or just to witness the next generation of animal lovers in action, remember, you’re standing in a space built on loyalty, generosity, and maybe just a sprinkle of puppy hair. 🐾



Joybound Around Town on Broadway

Costumes, Connection, and 25 Years of Joy



On Sunday, September 14, 2025, the 25th Anniversary of Joybound Around Town on Broadway transformed Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek into a lively hub of wagging tails, happy families, and four-legged fun.

The 1-mile Paw-rade Walk was a crowd favorite, the costume contests were colorful and over-the-top, live music kept tails wagging, and the Pet Wellness Festival was buzzing. The event brought together approximately 8,000 pet lovers from our community.

A highlight of the Paw-rade was honoring the top walk fundraiser, Ray the Stray, a



Congrats to Our Top Fundraiser!

The Paw-rade spotlight shone on Ray the Stray and his guardian and fellow Pet Hug Pack® volunteer, Laura Hooper.

Huge Thanks to Everyone Who Fundraised.

once-lost pup turned therapy pro and proud member of Joybound's Pet Hug Pack®, the squad of tail-wagging healers who visit venues like hospitals, schools, and community events as Joybound ambassadors of love and compassion.

From start to finish, Joybound Around Town on Broadway was a celebration of connection, compassion, and a whole lot of furry fun. 🐾

Relive the highlights (or catch what you missed) at joybound.org/JBAT2025Photos.





2890 Mitchell Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94598



The JOYBOUND Hoedown

- 🐾 Live Band
- 🐾 Line Dancing
- 🐾 BBQ Dinner
- 🐾 Beer, Wine, and Soft Drinks
- 🐾 Treats & Sweets

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 5:30 - 9:30 PM
21+ ONLY | [JOYBOUND.ORG/HOEDOWN](https://joybound.org/hoedown)

