



# Volunteer Voices

AN RCDAS VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER—RIVERSIDE EDITION



## Volunteer of the Month Leslie Nelson

April 2015



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# Volunteer of the Month

## Leslie Nelson



By Elvira Valenzuela and Melissa Garcia

Leslie has been a volunteer with the Department of Animal Services since June 2014 and was brought here due to her love of animals. She said that her pets give her so much joy, and she wanted to give back to animals that aren't as fortunate as hers. At the shelter, Leslie spends most of her time at the kiosk and socializes cats and dogs that are there.

To describe herself, Leslie says that she is soft hearted and soft spoken, but is willing to help in any way she can. So far, her most memorable moment at the shelter has been every time she sees a family leave with an adopted pet.

She says that she doesn't know who's luckier, the pet or the family. The last time that Leslie volunteered she felt good, but also feels sad when she sees people that have to surrender their pets.

Leslie has an 11-year-old dog named Abby and 2 cats named Eddie (18 years old) and Madeline (3 years old). Some of Leslie's hobbies include walking, hiking, reading, doing crossword puzzles, sewing, and cooking. She wishes that others knew that she can be reserved and quiet, but once you get to know her she's pretty nice and a very good friend! Leslie says that the staff she has met, such as Elvira, Rudy, Candace, Jackie, and the ACT's have all been very nice. When she told her husband about volunteering at the shelter, he was glad that she's here, but petrified that she'll come home with more pets.

Leslie's message to all the volunteers is: "I've really enjoyed working here. Always stay positive, know that each and every one of you are making a difference in these animal's futures."

### FUN FACTS

Favorite Movie? *Wizard of Oz*

Movie last seen? *Cinderella*

Craziest thing she's ever done? *Backpacked through Hawaii at age 18*

Craziest thing you've ever eaten? *Snails*

Phobias? *Heights/Planes*

Last Book Read? *Doll House*

# MEET THE STAFF

## Tonya Ornelas

Tonya has always loved working with animals, and this love for them brought her to the Department of Animal Services. She has been working with Animal Services for about 4 years and was first hired as a Vet Tech. Before being an employee with Riverside County, Tonya was a volunteer at the shelter and she worked for the Lexus of Riverside as a receptionist.



Tonya's favorite part of her career here at the shelter has been working with the injured animals, getting them adopted, and working with some of the wildlife we get, such as a deer, raccoons, and opossums. Some of Tonya's hobbies outside of the shelter include visiting the Mirage hotel in Las Vegas to work with dolphins, and shadow a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT). She also enjoys spending time with her fiancée and going to the river. Tonya's favorite memories at the shelter happened when she was able to persuade her friend to adopt an injured dog that was hit by a car. Tonya owns one cat named Boots.

Tonya's message to volunteers is: "Thank you for your hard work, we wouldn't adopt out as many animals without you." And her message to the employees is: "Keep up the good work, we're all here for the animals."

### Fun facts

Favorite Movie? *Horrible Bosses 2*

What is your favorite food? *Fiancée's mom's cooking*

If you could be any animal, what would it be? *A Dolphin*



# Your Fellow Volunteers

## Isidro Avina

Isidro has been a volunteer at the shelter for one month and decided to start volunteering because of Platt

**College's** requirement and his love for animals. His job at



the shelter includes learning how to handle animals and educating people about animals. His favorite task is socializing with the dogs.

**One of Isidro's favorite memories at the shelter** was when he helped get a dog adopted. Isidro has three dogs and three horses. Horseback riding is one of Isidro's hobbies.

**His message to the volunteers is:** "Continue coming because it helps the shelter. Volunteers make a difference"

### Fun Facts

Favorite Movie?

Transformers

If you could be any animal, what would it be?

A horse.

Favorite Sport & Team?

Football & San Diego Chargers

## Alejandra Robles

Alejandra started volunteering for the Dept. of Animal Services 4 months ago and decided to do so because she has always loved animals and always wanted to work with them. Alejandra says that her favorite task is to socialize with the



**dogs because she doesn't own any big dogs,** "so it's nice to be able to take them to the agility yard and see them **run around.**" She also says that the amount of affection that you receive being around them is nice too.

Alejandra has four dogs of her own, which are three Chihuahuas and one Maltese Poodle mix. Their names are Princess, Twinkie, Manchita, and Lulu. Alejandra says that she has an odd talent in which she can whistle like a bird.

Her message to send the volunteers is that she has really enjoyed working with them and keep up the good work.

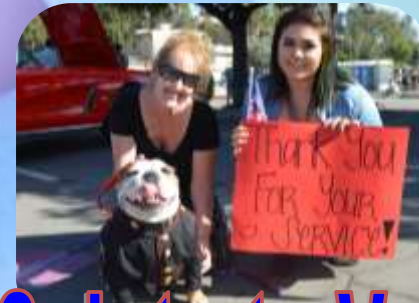
### Fun Facts

Favorite Color? Red

Favorite Season? Fall

Favorite Candy? Jelly Beans

# Shelter HAPPENINGS



# 10th Annual Salute to Veterans Parade

# Shelter HAPPENINGS



# Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

# Shelter HAPPENINGS



**Larry Rudolph**  
**2014 Volunteer of the Year**



# New Volunteers



Mariam Abusharar  
 Elsa Mae Argumedo  
 Christine Bautista  
 Raelyn Chumley  
 Sarah Fisher  
 Vincent Furman  
 Evelyn Gonzalez  
 Camille Hawkins  
 Adrian Hernandez  
 Taylor Jarrett  
 Catherine Johnson  
 Lizeth Lopez  
 Bianca Lopez  
 Pedro Martinez  
 Alexandra McBride

Patrick McElroy  
 Anayeli Mendez-Sanchez  
 Jasmin Munoz  
 Gilbert Murillo  
 Hannah Myatt  
 Alexandra Orozco  
 Ruchir Patel  
 Mariela Perez  
 Kristen Reed  
 Desi Robba  
 Juliet Robba  
 Danali Robles  
 Mayra Salazar  
 Nathan Anthony Solis  
 Geneses Soto

Ellen Summerour  
 David Valadez  
 Jose Vasquez  
 Rene Villanueva  
 Roman Williamson  
 Morgan Wray  
 Viktorija Zavala

# Birthdays



Natalie Preciado 4/1  
 Evelyn Sierra Guillen 4/2  
 Vanessa Zamudio 4/2  
 Kellie Erkel 4/3  
 Angelique Foust 4/3  
 Kuljeet Bhele 4/3  
 Angela Su 4/4  
 Murray Brown 4/5  
 Julieanne Garcia 4/7  
 Raelyn Chumley 4/7  
 Melainie Gregg 4/7  
 Erik Castro 4/7  
 Cynthia Herrera 4/8  
 Rene Villanueva 4/8  
 Liliana Cristales 4/8  
 Michelle Briseno 4/8  
 Sarah Borgelt 4/8  
 Maria Islas 4/8  
 Alex Torres 4/8  
 Jose Gonzales 4/8  
 Kandy Mercado 4/9  
 Lyla Paul 4/9  
 Priscilla Ramirez 4/10

Deangelo Jabido 4/10  
 Naya Riasat 4/12  
 Felina Rosales 4/12  
 Rosa Retzer 4/12  
 Nicholle Teel 4/12  
 Kiana Enriquez 4/13  
 Karen Leduc 4/14  
 Stacey Gutierrez 4/14  
 Alex Battiest 4/14  
 Janet Spellman-Marsh 4/14  
 Lizeth Lopez 4/15  
 Judie Kaczoroski 4/15  
 Vanessa Garcia 4/15  
 Alexis Mendoza 4/15  
 Nayeli Quintero 4/16  
 Samantha English 4/16  
 Wendy Davis 4/17  
 Baley Dean 4/17  
 Jeffrey Gomez 4/17  
 Jessica Gil 4/18  
 Ming-Han (Jonathan) Chen  
 4/19  
 Analyse Long 4/20

Dalton Miller 4/20  
 Erica Franco 4/21  
 Caitlynn Smith 4/23  
 Luciana Caro 4/25  
 D. Marie Foraker 4/25  
 Fiona Lee 4/25  
 Marisol Montoya 4/26  
 Heather Happoldt 4/26  
 Elizabeth Stewart 4/27  
 Arvin Kim 4/28  
 Tuzday Martinez 4/28  
 Myrian Figueroa 4/28  
 Jacquelyne Tallackson 4/28  
 Desi Robba 4/29

***Please take a moment to congratulate these volunteers for their dedication to the animals***

Be Sure to Seek Out and Welcome our New Volunteers!!



# Animal Trivia

## Did You Know?

### Rabbit

- ◇ During warm months, rabbits will nibble on herbs, peas, grasses, clover, lettuce and greens. In the winter months they eat twigs, bark and buds.
- ◇ Rabbits can be very crafty and quick. To get away from a predator, a cottontail rabbit will run in a zigzag pattern and reach speeds of up to 18 miles an hour



### Chick



- ◇ With 25 billion chickens in the world, there are more of them than any other bird species
- ◇ Chicks need warmth until they are feathered. A common heat-ray lamp kept 15 to 20 in. above the chicks is an inexpensive choice for a small flock.
- ◇ Baby chicks can breathe before they hatch. An eggshell may seem solid, but it actually contains about 8,000 pores large enough for the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide.

### Squirrel

- ◇ More than 200 squirrel species live all over the world, with the notable exception of Australia.
- ◇ only five inches (thirteen centimeters) long from nose to tail.



**Quote:** “Volunteers do not have more time—they just have more heart” - Anonymous

Thoughts? Opinions? Ideas?  
We want to hear it!!  
Contact your Volunteer Coordinator  
in person or via our website for more details.  
[www.rcdas.org](http://www.rcdas.org)