

Florida Blue Volunteer of the Year 2022

Elizabeth Rogan began volunteering to help animals after she adopted Colbie, a boxer-Labrador mix puppy. Seven years ago, she became a volunteer with Animal Care and Protective Services and two years ago, she began volunteering with [Friends of Jacksonville Animals](#).

She took on tasks like cleaning kennels, working at adoption events, and fostering special needs dogs who are waiting for their forever homes.



For the last two years, Elizabeth led the Secret Santa program, where people donate gifts and supplies to the shelter's animals. Her publicity efforts on social media last year led to approximately \$7,500 in donations that resulted in gifts for more than 150 animals – an increase of 20% over the previous year.

As the Volunteer of the Year, Elizabeth received a \$1,000 grant from the Florida Blue Foundation that she directed to Friends of Jacksonville Animals.

“I am over the moon excited about this recognition,” Rogan said. “I hope it motivates others to get involved in whatever way makes them happy. Watching my foster dogs heal and helping them find a happily-ever-after home makes it all worthwhile.”

Other finalists for the award were:

- **Brian Denby**, whose volunteer work with the North Florida Council Boy Scouts of America includes serving on the staff for two leadership courses. He also was an adult leader for a weeklong trip to the Florida Keys for a SCUBA adventure with his scout troop.
- **Shatavia Eady**, who creates cards for women at Hubbard House who have been abused and bags to give to people who are homeless. She also volunteers with the Lotus Flower Project, where she writes letters to prisoners and is in charge of the volunteers.

According to Debbie Moore, employee engagement manager, Florida Blue employees averaged 60,000 volunteer hours per year before the pandemic. She adds that Independent Sector, a coalition of nonprofits, foundations and corporate giving programs, estimates the national value of one volunteer hour is \$29.95. That means Florida Blue employees' service has a value of \$1.797 million a year.

Florida nonprofits interested in engaging Florida Blue employee volunteers should send an email to [Florida Blue Volunteers](#).

