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AWA Receives a \$40,000 Match Gift for Their Building & Expansion Campaign

1/24/2020

Voorhees, NJ – The Animal Welfare Association (AWA) is raising money to construct a new multi-million state-of-the-art animal shelter and humane education center. *Building a Place Where Happiness Begins* is more than just a building, it will revolutionize what people think of an animal shelter. In memory of Anne E Rausch, her dear friend Ms. Gerrie Smith is gifting \$40,000 to encourage new campaign donations by matching gifts 1:1 – up to \$40,000 until March 15, 2020.

Staff at the Animal Welfare Association (AWA) said the facilities update is necessary for their continued success in the community. Executive Director Maya Richmond said, “AWA’s day-to-day adoptions, community programs and operations are constantly impeded by frustrating space shortages, inefficient layout, and deteriorating building conditions.”

“The campaign’s \$2.5 million dollar campaign goal gave me pause because it is a lot of money” said Richmond “but after fundraising all 2019 we’ve raised nearly \$1.8 million dollars.” Ms. Smith hope that her matching-gift in honor of Ms. Rausch will help AWA reach the campaign’s goal so AWA can break ground the spring. “I am amazed by our donors and the community’s support of this project,” Richmond said, “while we are so close we are still need the public to contribute.”

The new space is triple the original building’s size and will feature more comfortable areas for shelter pets and room to save an additional 1,000 animals each year. Plans also feature more space for volunteers, an education center to expand outreach programs, and space for indoor storage, pet food pantry and laundry room. Richmond said these elements will help the AWA continue to increase their efforts to save more pets and increase programming for the community. Plans to break ground on the new shelter will happen as early as this spring.

For more than 70 years, the nationally recognized and award winning Animal Welfare Association has been dedicated to saving the lives of companion animals in our community. AWA boasts a 97 percent save rate, one of the highest in the country.

If you would like more information about AWA and naming opportunities for the capital campaign, visit: awanj.org/capital-campaign, or contact Maya Richmond at 856-424-2288, ext. 109, email director@awanj.org.

Animal Welfare Association, a private, non-profit, 501(c)3 animal welfare organization, serves the people and animals of southern New Jersey. AWA is dedicated to eliminating animal suffering, promoting the importance of the human-animal bond, and improving the role of animals and the well-being of people. Through a variety of programs including adoptions, veterinary services, pet therapy, and humane education, in 2019 over 22,600 pets were served by AWA. AWA is South Jersey's leader in progressive companion animal care.

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Renderings of new animal shelter and education center

