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AWA KICKS OFF ITS NEXT 70 YEARS WITH A GOAL TO BUILD A NEW ANIMAL ADOPTION CENTER

An 18 month, \$2,500,000 capital campaign named “Building a Place Where Happiness Begins” will underwrite the construction of a new 15,000 square foot shelter.

Voorhees N.J., November 8, 2018- Today, the Animal Welfare Association (AWA) announced one of its largest fund-raising efforts in its 70-year history; the construction of a new 15,000 square foot shelter on the current Centennial Boulevard site. The ambitious 18-month, \$2.5 million capital campaign, ***Building a Place Where Happiness Begins***, will replace the outdated 5,000 square foot shelter and allow for contemporary programming. Modern animal sheltering saves the lives of the most in need pets, keeps pets in homes through programs like an animal food pantry and offers public activities like summer camps or reading to animals. It strengthens the pet, person bond through programs like pet therapy.

The new adoption center will allow AWA to continue to services the community and its animal needs by:

- Having twice the space dedicated to adoption services
- Providing twice the medical space to care for ill or injured animals
- Allowing 1000 additional animals to be helped every year; a 42% increase in the number of pets housed and cared for daily
- Rehabbing 80 more cats and dogs, and 80 more neonatal kittens every year
- Having classrooms/training space for human education and volunteer programs
- Housing a pet food pantry.

“For 70 years, AWA has focused on delivering quality care for animals in need. We have evolved from an animal shelter into a community center, and are one of the largest, and most active shelters in South Jersey. Unfortunately, the space has not grown with us,” said Maya Richmond, Executive Director, AWA. “This new building will help us adopt out more than 3,000 pets and provide enhanced programming for the public.”

The Project

In 2010, AWA developed a two-phased master plan. Phase one was completed in 2013 with the construction of a pet clinic to increase the spaying/neutering of animals and to provide low cost wellness services. The new adoption center is phase two of the plan and will require \$5 million to construct. AWA has already obtained pre-campaign commitments and financing for the first \$2.5 million needed and is announcing the capital campaign for the additional funds. The new center is expected to open by the summer of 2020. AWA will remain in operation during the nine-month construction.

“Our goal with the new space is to improve care to south Jersey’s most vulnerable and needy animals, as well as, to be a welcoming place for our community’s pet loving friends,” added Richmond. “I am hopeful that with corporate and community support we will open a place where happiness begins.”

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About AWA

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 in the well-being of people. Through a variety of programs including adoptions, veterinary services, pet therapy, and humane education, in 2017 over 23,000 pets were served through AWA programming. AWA is South Jersey’s leader in progressive companion animal care.