



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

MICHIGAN HUMANE TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS, ADDRESS HUMAN AND ANIMAL ISSUES THANKS TO \$150,000 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES®

September 20, 2022— Detroit, MI – Thanks to generous support from PetSmart Charities, Michigan Humane is moving forward with an ambitious expansion to keep families in need together with their beloved pets.

In Detroit, where more than one third of residents and an estimated 150,000 pets live in poverty, pet owners in crisis often face challenges in accessing services that help address the needs of both human and animal family members. The \$150,000 grant awarded by [PetSmart Charities](#) will empower Michigan Humane to build partnerships with area social service providers to improve assistance to families with pets.

“We’re truly grateful to PetSmart Charities for supporting this critical work to build a healthier, safer and more humane community here in metro Detroit,” said Matthew Pepper, president and CEO of Michigan Humane. “Having the resources and expertise to build out these partnerships will help us keep pets in homes — and prevent families in tough situations from having to go through the additional trauma of surrendering a loved, wanted pet.”

Expanding partnerships with social service providers to facilitate mutual referrals will provide Michigan Humane and its partners critical tools to meet the needs of the whole family. Whether that family comes to the human service partner or to Michigan Humane first, either is equipped to deliver the support they need.

Gleaners Community Food Bank is a key partner in this effort, helping to connect people seeking food assistance to resources for the pets in their families.

“Our partnership with Michigan Humane allows Gleaners to provide pet food to households already receiving food distribution from one of our sites and positions us to meet the entire family’s needs and compassionately address the family’s food insecurity, pets included,” said Gerry Brisson, president and CEO of Gleaners. “Importantly, Michigan Humane is prepared to provide other resources for family pets as needed, empowering Gleaners’ guests with well-rounded, whole family health support, letting families focus limited resources effectively, efficiently and keeping pets in homes. Working together to explore synergies like this is making our community stronger.”

Michigan Humane appreciates the leadership and support of PetSmart Charities in making this critical work possible.

“Pets are important family members,” said Aimee Gilbreath, president of PetSmart Charities. “When pet parents are struggling to put food on the table, it’s likely they lack resources to feed and care for their pets, too. And they often face impossible choices. These meaningful partnerships make a profound impact on families and communities, keeping more pets in home where they’re loved and out of already

crowded shelters. We're happy to support the important work Michigan Humane is doing to deliver sustainable solutions."

Local pet owners in need can learn more about services available through Michigan Humane by calling 866-MHUMANE.

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About Michigan Humane

Michigan Humane, founded in 1877, is the oldest and largest nonprofit animal welfare organization in the state. Michigan Humane is dedicated to building a more humane community by touching the lives of nearly 100,000 families and their pets offering compassionate care, community engagement, and advocacy for humane treatment. Michigan Humane operates five centers for animal care ranging from shelter and veterinary clinics in Detroit, Rochester Hills, Westland, Howell and Clarkston; seven adoption partnerships with Premier Pet Supply, Petco, and PetSmart; and both a Cruelty Investigation Department and a Statewide Animal Response Team. Michigan Humane provides needed subsidized pet food and veterinary care through the Judith Caplan Phillips Pet Food Pantry and community events. Learn more at www.michiganhumane.org.

About PetSmart Charities®

PetSmart Charities is committed to making the world a better place for pets and all who love them. Through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart® stores across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities helps up to 600,000 pets connect with loving families each year. PetSmart Charities also provides grant funding to support organizations that advocate and care for the well-being of all pets and their families. Our grants and efforts connect pets with loving homes through adoption, improve access to affordable veterinary care and support families in times of crisis with access to food, shelter and disaster response . Each year, millions of generous supporters help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities directly at PetSmartCharities.org, while shopping at PetSmart.com, and by using the PIN pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart® stores. In turn, PetSmart Charities efficiently uses more than 90 cents of every dollar donated to fulfill its role as the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, granting more than \$500 million since its inception in 1994. Independent from PetSmart LLC, PetSmart Charities is a 501(c)(3) organization that has received the Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator for the past 18 years in a row – placing it among the top one percent of rated charities. To learn more visit www.petsmartcharities.org.

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