



Alleghany Foundation Support Gives Hope to Homeless Animals



This time last year, JoJo, known to The Alleghany Humane Society as a sweet and gentle pit bull mix, would have had a slim chance of finding a loving home. The Humane Society's remote, 850-square-foot facility only housed 38 animals at a time, and did little to inspire prospective pet owners to take one home. Today, thanks to over \$1.1 million dollars in grant funding awarded by The Alleghany Foundation, the Humane Society has moved to a brand new 8500-square-foot building on Rich Patch Road in

Low Moor, specially designed to facilitate the adoption of abandoned animals like JoJo.

Tammy Stephenson, Humane Society president, says JoJo's story is a great example of the difference an inviting space in a prime location can make in a homeless animal's life.

"When JoJo came to our shelter, we all fell in love with him, but if he'd arrived at the old location, he wouldn't have made it. The Alleghany Humane Society takes all of the strays collected by animal control officers in Covington, Clifton Forge and Alleghany County, as well as abandoned pets brought in by local citizens. Last year, 1000 animals came through our doors, but we had no space for visitors to interact with them. Because of the access we're now able to offer, JoJo's new owner had the luxury of getting to know him over the course of several weeks before taking him home and introducing him to his new family."

The new, state-of-the-art building, which the Humane Society has occupied since November, has separate wings for dogs and cats. In each wing, adoptable animals are housed together in spacious rooms accessible to the public. Two visitation areas provide prospective owners looking to adopt a comfortable place to get acquainted with new pets. Special isolation rooms are available to rehabilitate animals that are sick or unready for adoption. Litters of puppies and kittens are kept together, and overflow housing is available in the garage area, if needed. The facility also offers better sanitation, better ventilation, and an easily accessed location with ample parking for both visitors and staff.

Stephenson says the new building is especially meaningful, as the Humane Society wouldn't be in operation today without The Alleghany Foundation's support.

"The old building didn't meet state standards, and they were threatening to close us down. However, they knew we were working hard towards a new facility. The grants awarded

to us by the Foundation funded over 70% of the building project. How do we even begin to say ‘thank you’ for that?”

Plans are currently underway to add an outdoor play area for the animals, as well as landscaping around the facility. Both outdoor projects are being funded by the most recent \$55,000 grant awarded by The Alleghany Foundation.

“This building project represents much more than a positive change to our physical campus,” says Stephenson. “The new facility has presented us with an opportunity for growth and increased effectiveness within the community. For the first time, we have very active volunteer committees taking charge of our fundraising, marketing and public education efforts. We have in its infancy a foster parenting program where volunteers will take shelter animals home to train and socialize, better preparing them to be good pets.” Stephenson adds that the Humane Society has been approached by area businesses like Food Lion and Wal-Mart to host Adopt-a-thons and pet food drives on store properties. The Humane Society will also donate man hours to an Old Town Covington *Rock the Block* party and an Eagle Rock wine tasting in exchange for proceeds from those events.

“Our staff willingly goes above and beyond their role as kennel attendants to man fundraisers, make calls and search the internet on their days off in an effort to find homes for shelter animals,” says Stephenson. “We have dedicated board members and volunteers, and we all are extremely grateful to The Alleghany Foundation for making it possible for us to move forward in our efforts to protect the welfare, health and life of all animals.”

“The quality of care the Humane Society is now able to provide for the homeless animals in our community reflects the quality of life we strive for here in the Alleghany Highlands,” says Beth Webb, executive director of The Alleghany Foundation. “We are pleased to support the construction of this new facility, and it is rewarding to know that funds provided have saved the lives of many of the homeless animal population in the area.”

Since its inception, the foundation has granted over \$26 million to the following 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations with the purpose of improving the quality of life in the Alleghany Highlands:

- Alleghany County
- Alleghany County Parks and Recreation
- Alleghany County Public Schools
- Alleghany County Sheriff's Office
- Alleghany County United Fire and Rescue Association
- Alleghany Health District
- Alleghany Highlands Arts & Crafts Center
- Alleghany Highlands Arts Council
- Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board
- Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Authority
- Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation
- Alleghany Highlands Free Clinic
- Alleghany Highlands Genealogical Society
- Alleghany Highlands YMCA
- Alleghany Highlands Youth Soccer Association
- Alleghany Historical Society
- Alleghany Humane Society
- Alleghany Mountain Radio

American Diabetes Association
American Red Cross
Appalfolks of America
Art Museum of Western Virginia
Bath County
Bath County Health Department
Bath County Historical Society
Bear Trust International
Blue Ridge Public Television
Boiling Springs Elementary School
Boiling Springs Fire Department
C.O.P.E.
C & O Historical Society
Callaghan Elementary School PTO
Charles P. Jones Memorial Library
City of Covington
Clifton Forge Little League
Clifton Forge Main Street
Clifton Forge Nursery School
Clifton Forge Public Library
Clifton Forge Volunteer Fire Department
Covington City Schools
Covington Fire Department
Covington Rescue Squad
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Diabetes Education Support Group
Falling Spring Elementary School PTO
Falling Spring Fire Department
Falling Spring Rescue Squad
Greater Alleghany Highlands School Health Consortium
Jackson River Enterprises
Jackson river Technical Center
League of Older Americans
Mill Mountain Theatre
Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District
Mountain View Elementary School PTO
Rockbridge Area Community Services Board
Safehome Systems
Science Museum of Western Virginia
Scott Hill Foundation, Inc.
Sharon Elementary School PTO
Sharon Volunteer Fire Department
Shenandoah Autism Center
Southwest Virginia AHEC
Southwest Virginia Second Harvest Foodbank
Special Olympics
Total Action Against Poverty
Town of Clifton
Forge
Town of Iron Gate
Unified Human Services Transportation System (RADAR)
West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
Western Virginia Emergency Medical Service Council