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New Animal Care Center Planned Gifts from Covelli and Cafaro Families Launch Development

A project designed to dramatically improve the quality of care for abused and abandoned animals, while also providing new educational opportunities for local students will soon be coming to northeast Ohio. The Animal Welfare League of Trumbull County has unveiled plans for an all new Animal Welfare Care and Education Center in Champion Township. The Covelli family and Cafaro Foundation have partnered with matching donations of \$250,000 each to launch the project. Caryn Covelli expressed her hope “that the initial gifts from Mrs. Cafaro and I will encourage other organizations and individuals to contribute to the fundraising effort.” Phyllis Cafaro noted “This is the type of community resource that is sorely needed. It will improve the care of helpless pets that have been abandoned or neglected by their owners. Even more importantly, it will provide new opportunities for young people striving for careers as veterinarians, zoologists or veterinary technicians.”

Trumbull County is donating eight acres of land near the Kent State Trumbull Campus as the site for the new facility. The structure itself will encompass approximately 25,000 square feet and more than double the housing capacity of the aging, inadequate shelter the League currently operates on Brunstetter Road in

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Lordstown. “We believe this will be the first of its kind.”, said League President Barbara Busko. “It will create a public/private partnership between the county, Trumbull Career and Technical Center (TCTC) and the Animal Welfare League.” The arrangement will allow the existing county dog pound to close and the dog warden to work from the new facility. The existing dog pound has long been regarded as too small to properly care for all stray animals within Trumbull County.

The new Animal Welfare Care and Education Center will include state-of-the art features for providing veterinary care. It will be a “green” building, incorporating technologies that will enable it to be LEED certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. Moreover, it will be able to accommodate classes of students in the Animal Management Technology Program at TCTC, allowing them to have hands-on training at the new shelter.

The overall cost of construction is estimated at \$6.6 million. The League is offering donors the chance to purchase “naming rights” for all or part of the new facility. “With sufficient private donations, we stand a good chance of accessing public grant money to help fund the project.”, Covelli said. Mrs. Covelli is co-chair of the project along with Cindy D’Amico and Rufus Sparks, DVM.

The Animal Welfare League of Trumbull County is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization that has been serving the local community for nearly 40 years. Tax deductible contributions may be made by contacting the Animal Welfare League of Trumbull County at 330-394-3512. The League’s fundraising consultant, The Bentz Group, is also processing donations sent to its local office at 303 Washington Street, NW, Warren, OH 44483, 330-306-5743.

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