



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

## **HUMANE SOCIETY PARTNERS WITH IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO HELP PEOPLE AND PETS IN LISTOWEL**

**LISTOWEL, ONTARIO:** The Stratford Perth Humane Society (SPHS) is expanding their crucial Pet Pantry program to support more people and pets across Perth County. In 2020, SPHS launched an Emergency Pet Food Bank to support pet owners after identifying an urgent need for the service during the pandemic. Now, the Humane Society's Stratford location will be growing that service to bring pet food and other essential supplies to where people are already accessing food bank programs.

"Going into the new year, we decided to make our food bank program a permanent one and transitioned the name to "The Pet Pantry" at both our Kitchener and Stratford locations," stated Kathleen McCaughey, manager of community programs, The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth (HSKWSP). "We also knew that we wanted to form partnerships and offer food and supplies to existing programs in the community. We are so happy that It Takes A Village was interested, and we're thrilled to work together to support people and pets in Listowel."

Running entirely on donations, people can access food and basic pet supplies, including litter, small animal bedding, collars, leashes and more through the program. The goal is to ensure that people and pets can remain together, even when faced with a crisis. Support can be accessed directly from It Takes A Village or the Humane Society's Stratford location.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Humane Society. We want to ensure people and their pets are healthy and cared for. In our experience with community members struggling financially, with food security, or living unsheltered, the concern is often for their pet family members before their own needs. The reality is that pets keep people going when life seems unbearable," stated Andrea Charest, It Takes A Village.

For those looking to support the Pet Pantry program and help people and pets in the community, the most needed items are currently:

- Cat food
- Dog food
- Cat Litter
- Small animal bedding
- Small animal food
- Monetary donations

For more information on the Pet Pantry program and how to access supplies through SPHS, please visit [kwsphumane.ca](http://kwsphumane.ca). For more information on It Takes A Village programs and services, please contact them directly.

*We are leaders in animal welfare in our communities and committed to promoting the human-animal bond, while focusing on the responsible treatment of animals through education, collaboration, compliance, advocacy and care. Charitable BIN 11898 3550 RR0001*

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