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MEDIA RELEASE

HUMANE SOCIETY PARTNERS WITH THE SALVATION ARMY TO HELP PEOPLE AND PETS IN THE CITY OF STRATFORD

STRATFORD, 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 The Salvation Army Stratford was interested and we're thrilled to work together to support people and pets in Stratford."

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 The Salvation Army Stratford or the Humane Society's Stratford location.

"We recognize that our Stratford Perth animal centre may be harder to reach without access to a vehicle. When people are already accessing services closer to home, we thought – let's make this easier. Let's get pet supplies to them," stated Calla James, director of community engagement and outreach, HSKWSP. "We started reaching out to human food bank locations in our service areas and asking if we could supply their locations with pet items."

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. For more information on programs and services offered by The Salvation Army Stratford, 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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