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Michigan Humane Launches New Resource Distribution Hub to Benefit Pets and People in Metro Detroit

New pet food warehouse location maximizes impact thanks to expanded community support and partnerships

DETROIT, JUNE 23, 2023 - Michigan Humane, in partnership with Gleaners Community Food Bank, officially opened the Caplan Family Pet Food Pantry on Thursday, June 22. The new 26,000-square-foot facility, leased by Michigan Humane at the Detroit headquarters of Gleaners Community Food Bank, reflects an ongoing commitment to increase the reach of the Caplan Family Pet Food Pantry in metro Detroit.

In addition to the expanded relationship with Gleaners Community Food Bank, Michigan Humane also works alongside Forgotten Harvest, Greater Good Charities, and more. The move to the larger facility was made possible thanks to generous support from Ralph Caplan and Strategic Staffing Solutions.

The new location, located in Detroit's lower east side, is now the base of operations for several of Michigan Humane's initiatives under the Humane Communities vision, which includes outreach services, a community veterinary program, and additional support services. These programs not only help pets and their families, but they also represent an effort to mitigate the factors that lead to animals being surrendered to shelters.

"We know that many of us put our pets' wellbeing before our own. We want to make sure that they are healthy and fed, often before we look to care for ourselves," said Michigan Humane President & CEO Matt Pepper. "This is why partnerships with human services organizations, like Gleaners Community Food Bank, is so important. Together, we can serve the whole pet family."

With over 1.6 million pounds of pet food distributed in 2022, Michigan Humane's pet food distribution program continues to see increased demand from the community. While not open to the public, a new community-based distribution model will see pet food and supplies available to pet owners at a growing number of human services organizations in the area, including those supported by Gleaners Community Food Bank.

"Our communities are stronger when every member of the household, including pets, has the nutrition they need to thrive, and a majority of the people Gleaners serves has at least one pet," said Gerry Brisson, president and CEO of Gleaners. "We are grateful for the partnership with the Michigan Humane team to help take the worry of hunger off the table for our neighbors and their household best friends."

Creating partnerships between animal-and human-centric organizations has been a priority for Michigan Humane for the last several years. Their goal is to serve the needs of the whole community and reduce the barriers that can prevent people from seeking support. For those in the community who may need

support, resources are available at michiganhumane.org/pet-pantry-program/ or by calling 866-MHUMANE.

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 helping the animals of southeastern Michigan, whether in our shelters, our veterinary clinics, or out in the community. Michigan Humane operates seven facilities dedicated to caring for animals and their families throughout metro Detroit; adoption partnerships with Premier Pet Supply, Petco, and PetSmart; and a Cruelty Investigation Department and a Statewide Animal Response Team. Learn more at michiganhumane.org.

About Gleaners Community Food Bank

Headquartered in Detroit, Gleaners serves five Southeast Michigan counties: Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, and Monroe. Gleaners provides food to more than 400 partner agencies, including schools, soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and others across the region, and supplements the efforts of those partners by offering direct service drive-up grocery distributions. Every dollar donated provides three meals, and 92 cents of every donated dollar goes to food and food programs. For more information, visit gcfb.org.

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