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Michigan Humane Achieves Record-Setting Food Distribution

Increased adoptions, veterinary education opportunities, and community engagement round out an impactful 2024

DETROIT (Jan. 16, 2025) – Michigan Humane announced today it distributed more than 2.3 million pounds of food into the metro Detroit community in 2024, a record-breaking quantity for the organization and a 45% increase over 2023's 1.63 million pounds given out. Along with more than 75,000 pounds of needed hard goods, 2,792,432 pounds of pet food and supplies went into family homes last year.

Michigan Humane's Caplan Family Pet Food Pantry is committed to ensuring no pets or their family members go hungry. Working alongside human food pantries and community organizations, and partners PetSmart Charities, Greater Good Charities, Gleaners, and Forgotten Harvest, Michigan Humane distributed pet food and supplies to 81 pantries, 31 health and human service partners, 134 rescue partners, as well as making 1,824 home deliveries.

"We celebrate the hard work of our team, our valued partners, and committed community members to do what's right for their pets," said Michigan Humane President and CEO Matt Pepper. "All of us working together hope to ensure no pet goes hungry in what we hope is the not-too-distant future."

Working with community members across Detroit, Michigan Humane's Field Services team went on 6,250 cruelty and rescue runs in 2024, rescuing 1,532 animals. In addition to the work at home, the team was deployed to three national disasters, supporting communities impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, along with the wildfires in Maui.

Rescue is just the beginning of an animal's adoption story. More than 6,000 animals were adopted from Michigan Humane in 2024, a 10% increase from 2023.

Educating the next generation of veterinary professionals continues to be a top priority for Michigan Humane and was a highlight for 2024. From high school summer jobs to veterinary externships, more than 2,300 students participated in Michigan Humane's education programs in 2024, more than double the number of students in 2023. As the United States continues to grapple with a veterinary staffing shortage, it is estimated that the profession will be down 14,500 veterinarians by 2030, leaving 75 million animals without care.

"I am so proud of the work of all of us: our Michigan Humane teams, our volunteers, our partners, and our supporters," Pepper said. "Together we are the medicine, food, and care animals need for the best shelter possible: a home."

Michigan Humane's successful 2024 serving the pets and people of metro Detroit was made possible thanks to donors, longtime supporters and corporations, including Purina, Ralph Caplan, Strategic Staffing Solutions, Delta Dental of Michigan, Frank Venegas, Jr., HAP CareSource, Ingrid Murphy, Toni A. Wisne Foundation, Kroger, Jennifer Adderly, and Bosch.

To learn more about Michigan Humane's programs, resources, and upcoming events for 2025, visit MichiganHumane.org.

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 its shelters, veterinary clinics, or out in the community. Michigan Humane operates four facilities dedicated to caring for animals and their families throughout metro Detroit; adoption partnerships with Premier Pet Supply, Petco, and PetSmart; the Caplan Family Pet Food Pantry; and a Cruelty Investigation Department and a Statewide Animal Response Team. Learn more at MichiganHumane.org.

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