



Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit Celebrates Opening and Dedication of MaryAnn Wright Animal Adoption and Education Center

DEARBORN, September 18, 2018—Dozens of homeless dogs and cats moved into new digs while awaiting their “forever homes” as the Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit (FAMD) today celebrated the opening and dedication of phase one of its new, state-of-the-art shelter, the MaryAnn Wright Animal Adoption & Education Center (AAEC).

The new 10,000-square foot center is named for MaryAnn Wright, a passionate animal welfare advocate, Board Chair of FAMD and pioneer in sustainable mobility technologies at Ford Motor Company, Collins & Aikman and Johnson Controls. MaryAnn’s relentless passion for animals led her to spearheading the fundraising effort for AAEC and bringing the center from concept to reality.

Tater, a shelter rescue dog, pressed the button that revealed the new name of the building. The dog was accompanied by FAMD board members, elected officials and the community at the new building dedication ceremony.

“After nearly a decade of fundraising and planning, the animals have been moved to the MaryAnn Wright Animal Adoption and Education Center, and we’re open for business,” said Elaine Greene, executive director, FAMD. “MaryAnn’s never-ending support and commitment to the animals, the City of Dearborn and community donations made the completion of phase one possible. Through their generosity, we have created a safe, healthy environment that the animals, staff, volunteers and community deserve.”

Phase one of AAEC, located at the former Amtrak station in Dearborn at 16121 Reckinger Road, houses large, double-compartment housing for adoptable pets, cage-less community space for cats and acquaintance rooms where adopters can meet and interact with animals.

AAEC replaces the adoption function of Dearborn Animal Shelter, a 30-year-old shelter located at 2661 Greenfield Road. FAMD will continue to utilize the Dearborn Animal Shelter for animal services and administrative offices, until phase two of AAEC is complete.

The land for the new center was donated to FAMD by the City of Dearborn, and \$5.1 million was raised through a capital campaign to fund phase one of the building.

The second phase of the project, which will require an additional \$3.5 million in capital funding, is 6,000-square feet and includes space for animal intake and evaluation, medical facilities and administrative offices.

“The new center will allow Friends for Animals Metro Detroit to better serve the 3,000 dogs and cats they care for each year, while helping them find their forever families,” added MaryAnn Wright. “As musician Paul Shaffer said, ‘everyone should have a shelter dog, it’s good for the soul.’ If an animal has ever touched your life, please consider joining me and donating to the second phase of this campaign.”

Neumann/Smith, one of Michigan’s most prominent architectural firms, is responsible for the design of AAEC, with partner Ghafari Associates leading engineering and Taktix Solutions coordinating project management. Phoenix Contractors, of Ypsilanti, is handling the construction.

To donate to the phase two capital campaign, visit www.metrodetroitanimals.org.

About FAMD

After more than 25 years of nurturing more than 52,000 animals, the Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit has embarked on the second phase of their “Our Animals Need A Home” capital campaign to construct the remainder of the Adoption & Education Center at the site of the former Dearborn Amtrak station on Michigan Avenue. For more information about FAMD, visit metroetroitanimals.org

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