



FRIENDS FOR ANIMALS OF METRO DETROIT
2661 Greenfield Rd., Dearborn, MI 48120
metrodetroitanimals.org
313-943-2697

Media Contact: Sarah Rood
srood@metrodetroitanimals.org

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Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit Announces 2022 Big Heart Award Recipients

DEARBORN. August 28 – Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit (FAMD) announces the recipients of the annual Big Heart Award are:

- Individual Award – Mike Kirk, Retired Principal at Neumann/Smith Architecture
- Corporate Partner Award – Colleen Robar, President, Robar PR
- Public Service Award – Debbie Dingell, Michigan’s 12th Congressional District

The Big Heart Award is given to recognize the dedication and compassion of individuals, business, and community leaders who unselfishly give their time and talent to support the Friend’s vision to create a community free of homeless and neglected pets.

The Big Heart Award is given annually, with the recipient traditionally being honored at FAMD’s Black Tie & Tails gala in October.



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To be considered for this award, nominees must meet several criteria. They must:

- Exemplify the mission of Friends, which is to provide loving care and sanctuary to animals, encourage adoptions and reunions, and promote respect, responsibility and compassion for all animals.
- Exemplify true support of the humane treatment of animals, through thought, word and deed, whatever the circumstance.
- Consistently donate time, support, financial resources and/or talent to facilitate or further the cause of animal welfare.

All three of this year's recipients have been involved with FAMD for several years. They have served on committees, attended events, donated, provided advice, and have been advocates for the animals in the community. "Friends for Animals cares for thousands of animals each year in the Metro Detroit area. We could not do the work we do if it wasn't for the exceptional volunteers and community supporters such as Mike Kirk, Collee Robar, and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell," said Kim Cross, Friend's President and CEO.

MaryAnn Wright, FAMD's Board Chair and Co-Chair of the Fundraising Committee added, "Our recipients this year have been instrumental in helping us take our organization to the next level. As we continue to grow and serve the animals and people in the community, they are always there for us."

Colleen Robar shared, "My favorite FAMD moment was when we dedicated the MaryAnn Wright Animal Adoption and Education Center in September 2018. I worked with my friends at the Display Group and we dropped a massive curtain to the ground from the roof to unveil the whole building. So



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cool! I'm not going to be happy until we get to do it again from Phase Two of the completed building."

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell stated, "Animal shelters across the country are struggling with the current increase in animal intakes and higher prices for care, food, and staffing. Friends for Animals is no different. As a supporter of improving the lives of this country's wildlife and domestic animals, I wholeheartedly support the work of Friends and am honored to receive this prestigious award".

Mike Kirk said, "I am humbled to be considered for this award by FAMD. I have always thought the board, staff & volunteers of FAMD have far larger hearts than I. Watching them all labor in the dire facilities we soon hope to completely replace, gives substance to my belief. I will gratefully accept the award on behalf of the whole FAMD family."

Past recipients of the Big Heart Award include , Alex Cattelan (Polaris – Corporate Award), Dan and Cindy Miller, Former Dearborn Mayor Jack O'Reilly (Public Service Award), Sophie Bozek, Cheryl Good, Patricia Ludwig, Julie Walker, Pat D'Ambrosio, Councilman Robert and Ms. Mary Ann Abraham, Dr. Linda Schrier, Kay and Doug Neff, Scott Shallop, Dr. Jeff Dizik, Norma Wallis, MaryAnn Wright, Phyllis Moore, Gary Kuhlmann, Michelle Mullen and Aleta Sill, and Jack and Edith Sullivan.

The recipients will receive their awards at the 2022 Black Tie & Tails gala, on October 28, 2022 at The Dearborn Inn. Tickets are on sale now, and can be purchased at <https://www.metrodetroitanimals.org/event/btt22/>
