

For Immediate Release: August 8, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Kelly Proudfit, Executive Director
724.470.9713, Cell 412.352.9210
Kelly@washingtonpashelter.org

WASHINGTON AREA HUMANE SOCIETY TO BREAK GROUND ON NEW BUILDING

EIGHTY FOUR – After years of planning and fundraising, the Washington Area Humane Society (WAHS) will break ground on a new 10,000 square foot building on their current property in Eighty Four, PA. The facility will provide much needed improvements to support programming and services to the surrounding community.

“We have been working toward this goal for many years and it is thrilling to finally see progress start on the new facility,” said Kelly Proudfit, Executive Director. “Careful financial management by our Board of Directors, along with several generous bequests from long-time supporters, have allowed us to move forward with construction.”

The total project will cost \$5 million, \$3.5 million was already in place including a \$300,000 grant approved through the Local Share Account from the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Washington. The WAHS Board voted in February to launch a \$1.5 million fundraising campaign to raise the additional funds needed.

“Our board really stepped up to the plate when we launched our New Home New Hope campaign, generously donating more than \$95,000. Additional gifts have brought our total commitments to over \$850,000,” shared Ami Andy Hillebrand, Campaign Co-Chair and WAHS Board member. “In the coming months, we will be reaching out to the community to help raise the additional funds needed to complete the construction.”

Increased space in the facility designed by STRADA Architecture will reduce animal stress by providing more space both inside and outside for animals to live and play. The new state-of-the-art facility will reduce utility costs by utilizing energy-efficient central air and heating, upgraded lighting and better insulation. Other features include an isolation unit for Humane Case animals, a modern animal wellness clinic, a large community room for education events and dedicated space for volunteers.

“For some time now our facility has limited our ability to meet the needs of the community, staff, volunteers and most importantly, the animals,” said Dave Kassekert, WAHS Board President. “This new building will greatly expand and upgrade the footprint of WAHS, vastly improve operations by improving working conditions for both staff and volunteers while ultimately allowing us to better care for the animals that desperately need our help.”

Preparations for the groundbreaking are underway, Graziano Construction was awarded the construction contract and has been working to secure the necessary permits and prepare the site. Construction is expected to take about a year to complete.

A ceremonial groundbreaking for the new building is planned for September 13 at 10 am. Officials, donors and volunteers have been invited to participate in this celebration of a new home for the Washington Area Humane Society and new hope for animals in need in Washington County.