

Dubuque Regional Humane Society
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rising to the Challenge of a New Home for the DRHS

DUBUQUE, IA (September 21, 2009) - The Dubuque Regional Humane Society just received a \$125,000 challenge grant from an anonymous donor toward the shelter's land acquisition project. The DRHS is now calling on Dubuque area residents and businesses to rise to the challenge and be an important influence in the future of our community and the shelter.

The Dubuque Regional Humane Society (DRHS) has until December 1, 2009 to raise the \$125,000 challenge match which, in conjunction with the \$125,000 grant, will complete the funds needed for the land acquisition (\$485,000). The purchase of 13+ acres from Grand View United Methodist Church (behind Star Cinema) would allow DRHS to build a new shelter for the ever-increasing numbers of lost and abandoned animals of the tri-state region.

The numbers of lost, abandoned, and unwanted animals DRHS cares for has been skyrocketing over the past three years. On average, they take in 16 animals and process six adoptions every day, seven days a week. The shelter's animal intake has increased by 69% since 2005.

"We currently have many animals in hallways and buddied-up in kennels that were built for one," comments Jane McCall, President/CEO. "Our many active volunteers must walk dogs up and down a city street. Since 1996 we have made several renovations and developed numerous programs in an effort to alleviate some of the space issues and promote an increased number of adoptions, but we are now land-locked."

The DRHS was founded in 1901 and serves as an animal resource center for the entire tri-state region caring for nearly 6,000 animals annually. They serve as a shelter for homeless and unwanted animals, a rescue operation, a placement agency, an educational and advocacy organization and a pet care resource center. They cater to people as well as animals and provide an essential service for our community.

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