



ARLGP Announces "Future Fund" Campaign ARLGP

\$6.5 million fundraising effort will finance much-needed new facility



WESTBROOK, Maine – February 26, 2014 -- The Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland (ARLGP) announced today the launch of the public phase of its "Future Fund" capital campaign. Funds raised will be used to finance the design and construction of a new facility at the current Stroudwater Street location in Westbrook. Patsy Murphy, executive director, made the announcement at a press conference today at the Westbrook Performing Arts Center, noting that the silent phase of the campaign has already generated significant support for the project, raising \$4.3 million of the total \$6.5 million campaign goal.

"Governor Percival Baxter had the wisdom and foresight to create the shelter in 1911, but our current facility has been here since 1956 without any significant upgrades, and it has simply outlasted its usefulness," said Murphy. "There is no way to rehabilitate the current space, and it's time for us to lay a new foundation, evolve to our next phase and plan for our next 100 years of service to this community and the 14 surrounding municipalities we serve. The capital campaign and the resulting new facility are the cornerstones of our future."

Plans for the new 25,000-square-foot facility include a modern surgical center for care and spay/neuter services, isolation rooms for sick animals, outdoor play areas, updated amenities and a welcoming adoption center. Murphy also plans to offer meeting rooms and community spaces for local meetings and events such as birthday parties. The center will be built on the ARLGP's existing property at 449 Stroudwater St. The location will be farther away from the street, reducing traffic and road noise and providing better use of the picturesque grounds. In addition, there will be no interruption in service at the shelter while construction is in progress.

"First and foremost, the new space will be compliant with current animal welfare industry standards, but it will also allow us to redefine our role. We will always be a safe haven for homeless and displaced animals, but our goal is to become a premier adoption center, a destination for innovative workshops and education, field trips and performance events, all for the benefit of the animals that need our help."

Murphy and her team began the silent phase of the campaign last fall and have made significant progress thanks to the generosity of key citizens and organizations. Local businessman Art Girard and his family have committed \$1 million dollars to the project. A longtime supporter of the ARLGP, Girard is known for his love of animals and was compelled to share his business success with the ARLGP. In addition, the ARLGP has also received foundation support from the Doree Taylor Charitable Foundation and the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation.

The new facility is designed by Blue Sky Animal Care Architecture, a Massachusetts-based company specializing in animal shelters. Local companies involved in the project include Allied Cook Construction, which will act as construction manager, and Sebago Technics, which will serve as the land-use architect. Portland-based design firm Pulp+Wire was retained to create contemporary campaign materials that captures the ARLGP's vision for the Future Fund.

The Future Fund campaign officially kicks off February 26, and the public can expect to see online advertising, increased media exposure, events and fundraising opportunities throughout the coming year. Those interested in donating should visit www.FutureFund.me or contact Risa Bridges-Hall at 207-887-7217 x103

About the ARLGP

The Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland provides temporary care and shelter for more than 4,000 stray, abandoned and relinquished animals each year with a goal of placing as many as possible into responsible and caring homes. Every animal is given the time it needs to find a home regardless of its age, color or medical condition. Located in Westbrook and serving 14 surrounding communities, the organization also works to create awareness and support for the humane treatment of all animals and to end animal overpopulation through education and the promotion of spaying and neutering. The non-profit shelter was established in 1911 and has served the community for more than 100 years, because "everyone deserves a happy home."

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For follow-up interviews or media queries please contact Lynne McGhee (community relations Manager at the ARLGP) at [207-887-7217x102](tel:207-887-7217x102) to set up a conversation with executive director Patsy Murphy.