



News Release

Russell M. Pry – Summit County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Humane Society Of Greater Akron Receives Donation, Executive Pry Unveils Graffiti Art Project

On Thursday, August 2, 2007, Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry joined Direct Energy in awarding a \$10,000 donation to the Humane Society of Greater Akron at a press conference held at the Summit County Animal Control facility, located at 460 E. North Street in downtown Akron.

“Direct Energy is committed to being a part of the communities in which we operate,” said Cory Byzewski, director of pricing and planning for Direct Energy. “This donation signifies our appreciation to Summit County for partnering with Direct Energy to supply its businesses and residents with natural gas. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the county, both as its supplier and community partner.”

“I would like to thank Direct Energy for giving back to the Summit County community,” said Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry. “The Humane Society of Greater Akron will benefit greatly from this donation.”



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“We are extremely excited about this gift,” said John Fickes, board president of the Humane Society of Greater Akron. “It is great to know that the services we provide to the community are valued and appreciated.”

The Humane Society of Greater Akron is an animal organization that: promotes the humane treatment of animals; rescues and rehabilitates sick, injured, abused and abandoned animals; finds new homes for animals; investigates reports of animal cruelty throughout the community; educates the community on pet care; and introduces and maintains companion animals in the lives of people who would benefit by their presence.

The press conference also served as an opportunity for Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry to unveil the 2007 Youth Employment for Success (YES) Graffiti Art Project.

In an effort to improve operations, the Summit County Division of Animal Control opened a Spay-and-Neuter Operation Center, a trailer that has been permanently stationed behind the Animal Control facility.

“Once the interior of the trailer was redesigned and equipped with spay-and-neuter operation equipment, we realized that the exterior of the trailer needed some work,” said Summit County Animal Control Manager Christine Fatheree. “To address the exterior design we enlisted the Summit County Youth Employment for Success Program.”

Summit County Youth Employment for Success (YES) is a program that provides academic support, leadership development, job skills training, and subsidized employment to Summit County youth, ages 16-18, as a way to help participants meet their academic and career goals.

The graffiti art project, facilitated by local artist Marcie Bircher, was established as a way to educate YES participants on the history of graffiti, the various forms of graffiti art that exist throughout the world and the difference between graffiti as an art form and graffiti as vandalism.

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“YES participants benefited greatly from this partnership,” said Summit County Youth Employment for Success Coordinator Lynn Parmentier. “Participants gained a better understanding of the services offered at the Summit County Animal Control facility, as well as a better understanding of graffiti as an art form.”



“The graffiti art project performed on the Spay-and-Neuter Operation Center is a great representation of a successful partnership,” said Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry. “The Animal Control Spay-and-Neuter Operation Center will brighten up the urban landscape of downtown Akron for years to come.”

For more information on the Humane Society of Greater Akron click on www.summithumane.org. To learn more about the services being offered through the County of Summit click on www.co.summit.oh.us, or dial 330-643-2500.

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