



# News Release

**Russell M. Pry – Summit County Executive**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE:** October 28, 2009

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Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry  
to Issue a Community Development Block Grant to Hattie Larlham, \$100,000

Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry will soon issue a \$100,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to Hattie Larlham, an agency dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for children and adults with severe developmental disabilities. Summit County Council's Personnel Committee recommended passage of Pry's grant request during a Committee Meeting held on Monday, October 26, 2009 at the Ohio Building, located at 175 South Main Street in downtown Akron.

County Council will officially vote on the proposal on Monday, November 2, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Hattie Larlham plans to use the funding to expand its vocational training program by opening a Hattie Larlham Doggie Day Care & Boarding facility in a structure soon to be occupied by the Humane Society of Greater Akron. The building is located at 7996 Darrow Road in Twinsburg Township.



The non-profit agency currently operates a cage-free Doggie Day Care & Boarding facility on Arlington Road in south Akron.

"The mutually beneficial interaction between individuals with developmental disabilities and pets is allowing us to provide additional employment opportunities for people with disabilities," stated Hattie Larlham Chief Executive Officer Dennis Allen. "We are finding great success with this endeavor."

Hattie Larlham projects the new worksite will provide forty employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities, four, full-time job coaching positions, an opening for a site manager and a dog groomer.

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"These jobs will help adults with developmental disabilities supplement their income and become more self-sufficient individuals," added Allen. "The employment opportunities will also help to relieve the financial burden commonly placed upon their family members or guardians."

Hattie Larlham anticipates having the worksite build out completed by February 2010.

In addition to the Doggie Day Care & Boarding function, top executives at Hattie Larlham plan to implement a Constant Companions Day Program at the facility. The program will provide participants with the opportunity to care for and nurture rescued animals in need. Relocating a segment of Hattie Larlham's administrative offices to the building is also a topic of frequent discussion.

"We are very excited to bring these two popular Hattie Larlham programs to northern Summit County," stated Darryl Mast, executive director of the Hattie Larlham Foundation. "Teaming up with such a mission-driven organization like the Humane Society of Greater Akron will bring great opportunities to Twinsburg Township."

If all plans progress, the agency will occupy 13,048 square-feet of the 1.5 acre structure soon to be leased to the Humane Society. The vacant building is owned by the Summit County Port Authority.

"The pet-related services being offered by Hattie Larlham will be a wonderful compliment to the function of the Humane Society of Greater Akron," stated Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry. "This exciting, new community partnership has my administration's full support."

The Summit County Executive's Office is a proven advocate of both community organizations. Pry's Division of Animal Control works closely with the Humane Society of Greater Akron in an effort to alleviate animal suffering, prevent and investigate animal cruelty, protect the welfare of animals and provide quality adoption services to citizens. His staff also maintains close working relationships with Hattie Larlham to assure the agency has the resources needed to provide quality services to children and adults with severe developmental disabilities. Both organizations have also benefitted from Pry's monthly networking program, *Change for Change*.

For more information on the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), contact Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry's Department of Community and Economic Development at 330-643-2893, or visit [www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/dev.htm](http://www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/dev.htm).

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