

the Pet Gazette

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WESTCHESTER

Hudson Valley Pet Food Pantry Awarded A Grant By The Banfield Charitable Trust

The Hudson Valley Pet Food Pantry, which recently moved to larger quarters in White Plains because of the growing demand for its services, has been awarded a grant by the Banfield Charitable Trust.

Part of the mission of the Banfield Charitable Trust is to support programs to keep people and pets together to ensure that no pet owner will ever have to surrender their pet. This coincides with the mission of the all-volunteer Hudson Valley Pet Food Pantry, which currently serves approximately 220 client families and individuals suffering economic hardship or disability each month. The pantry has saved an estimated 1,100 animals from being surrendered to shelters or abandoned since its inception two years ago, while distributing an estimated 32,000 pounds of pet food at no charge to recipients.

"The \$5,000 grant from Banfield will be of tremendous help as we expand to meet the growing demand for our services in the current economic climate," said Susan Katz, President and Founder of the Pantry. "We are grateful for their generosity and proud to been recognized for trying to keep pets at home and out of shelters, or abandoned," she added.

Kathy Ferri, Vice-President and Pantry Director who oversees inventory and distribution, noted that new applications for help have been increasing, both from individuals and referrals from government social service agencies. Some clients need temporary assistance, while for others the need is chronic. Veterans with service animals, senior citizens on fixed incomes, the temporary or long-term unemployed, and individuals with disabilities are among those who may meet guidelines for services. Ferri noted that the Banfield grant is allowing the Pantry to resume accepting new clients after a brief period of having to turn people away.

For more about the Pantry, including an application for services and information about volunteering or donating, visit their web site at: www.hvpetfoodpantry.org or call 914-907-3487 or 914-907-3433.

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