



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF NORTH TEXAS**



**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF NORTH TEXAS RECEIVED A \$125,000 GRANT FROM  
PETSMART CHARITIES® TO HELP LOW-INCOME SENIOR CITIZENS CARE FOR  
THEIR PETS**

**May 31, 2023—Fort Worth, Texas** – The Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) received a \$125,000 grant from PetSmart Charities, Inc. to expand the Rae of Hope Program to help low-income seniors keep their pets by their side. Research shows that senior citizens who have companion animals receive important physical and emotional benefits; however, many North Texas senior citizens live on a fixed income and have trouble affording basic veterinary care for their pets. Through the Rae of Hope program, HSNT provides free basic veterinary services for the pets of low-income senior community members, which include vaccines, microchipping, flea & tick treatment, and heartworm testing and prevention.

“The Humane Society of North Texas is thankful for this grant funding from PetSmart Charities to help keep seniors and their pets together,” said Destiny Vandeput, Director of Communications at the Humane Society of North Texas. “These pets are unbelievably important to so many of our seniors in underserved communities. For many, they don’t have family nearby and their pets are truly their life companions. We’re so grateful to PetSmart Charities for providing the funding to not only continue our Rae of Hope program, but to expand it to serve more seniors than ever before!”

Phyllis Martinez, of Haltom City, says she loves HSNT’s Rae of Hope program and has attended for several years. She said Rae of Hope is important to her because she is on a fixed budget, and she does not have access to affordable veterinary care outside of this program. “I’m afraid that I would lose my pets if this program didn’t exist,” Ms. Martinez said. “Being able to take my pets to receive these free services has been such a blessing.”

HSNT’s goal is to use the PetSmart Charities grant to serve 2,300 pets of low-income seniors over a two-year period. One year into the grant, HSNT has reached a phenomenal milestone of helping 1,389 pets of older adults and is well on the way to surpassing its stated goal.

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**About the Humane Society of North Texas:**

Since 1905, the Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) has worked to eliminate animal cruelty, promote humane values and end animal homelessness in North Texas. As an independent nonprofit organization,

HSNT relies on the generosity of the public to help ensure there is a safe place for abused, injured, and homeless animals in the community. To make a lifesaving donation, please visit [hsnt.org/donate](https://hsnt.org/donate) or [Facebook](#). To learn more about HSNT, visit [hsnt.org](https://hsnt.org), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [TikTok](#). **Pets and People, Saving Each Other®**

**ABOUT PETSMAK CHARITIES®:**

PetSmart Charities is committed to making the world a better place for pets and all who love them. Through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart® stores across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities helps up to 400,000 pets connect with loving families each year. PetSmart Charities also provides grant funding to support organizations that advocate and care for the well-being of all pets and their families. PetSmart Charities grants and efforts connect pets with loving homes through adoption, improve access to affordable veterinary care and support families in times of crises with access to food, shelter and disaster response. Each year, millions of generous supporters help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities directly at [PetSmartCharities.org](https://PetSmartCharities.org), while shopping at [PetSmart.com](https://PetSmart.com), and by using the PIN pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart® stores. In turn, PetSmart Charities efficiently uses more than 90 cents of every dollar donated to fulfill its role as the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, granting more than \$500 million since its inception in 1994. Independent from PetSmart LLC, PetSmart Charities is a 501(c)(3) organization that has received the Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator for the past 18 years in a row – placing it among the top one percent of rated charities. To learn more visit [www.petsmartcharities.org](https://www.petsmartcharities.org).

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