



November 13, 2020

Press Release: WCHS Capital Campaign and New Building

The Wadena County Humane Society (WCHS) has launched a \$2 million capital campaign after acquiring the Freshwater building located on Highway 10 east of Wadena.

The Wadena County Humane Society's campaign began with a simple goal: to save cats and dogs and to provide resources to Wadena and surrounding areas. Although a small and rural shelter, WCHS has helped over 800 animals this year alone through community programs, microchips, foster, and adoptions.

Continued success at the WCHS starts with a new facility. The current shelter no longer meets the modern-day standard for proper care. Several issues include:

- Lack of sufficient air flow for animals and people
- Absence of indoor space to provide healthy exercise for shelter pets
- Inadequate kennel sizes
- Increased stress to animals due to lack of space
- Lack of space for community programs and gatherings
- Minimal space for parking

In early November, WCHS hired TWM Architecture to finalize floorplans, and begin with Phase One of the project.

“We see the capital campaign occurring in two phases. The first phase is the remodel of the Freshwater building, and the second phase is the extension to the building to provide more space. This will allow us to begin the project while still caring for the hundreds of animals we save right here in Wadena. We know the community is proud of the work we do, and we want a facility that represents the work we put in”, said Tracy Adams Kooman, President of the WCHS Board of Directors.

An open house will take place pending COVID cases for those interested in learning more about the project and touring the new facility. For more information visit [www.wadenacountyhumanesociety.org](http://www.wadenacountyhumanesociety.org). The organization mailed an annual report to all residents in a 30 mile radius. Take a peek inside for insight on the life-saving work happening in our small community.