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## HELP the Animals Shelter Needs HELP from the Community.

Established in 1989, HELP the Animals Inc. has celebrated years of providing a no-kill haven for homeless, abused and abandoned animals in Wayne County and beyond. Since its inception, the goal has been and always will be to provide a loving and caring environment for sick, injured, frightened, abandoned or mistreated animals while they are waiting for permanent homes.

So far this year we have cared for over **850** animals and counting. It is not unusual for us to take in community kittens, cats, dogs and puppies every year. The intake numbers are higher this year which has made it harder than usual for us to provide the care they need. Included in these numbers are the injured and sick animals who come to our door. While we make every effort to help medically, this means using extra funds that overburden our already limited resources. This year has proven no different with these special needs cases and **like many organizations our donations are down and our many fundraisers have not provided as much revenue as they have in the past.**

It is with great reluctance that we feel we need to reach out to the community and let you know of our situation. We are asking the public for help, monetary help to be specific, so that we can continue to operate our shelter, provide necessary vet care and spay/neuter all the animals who come through our doors.

HELP does not receive any funding from the City of Richmond, the County or State. We depend solely on donations and fundraising. We are very grateful for the the recent grants and gifts that were given to us to improve the shelter, but without additional monetary help, we are worried about our future and our ability to carry on. It is our community that helps to keep the shelter running and able to care for and place animals. The majority of our staff are paid minimum wage and the the members of the Board of Directors serve without pay. Everyone involved with HELP are there because of their love for animals and their belief in what they do.

We desperately need funding to keep our doors open and continue to intake animals. We have created a sponsorship program in order to support the facility and its services and invite the public to participate financially. The program is called **Guardian Angel Sponsorship**, where donations are directly sponsoring a kennel or cat cage and the care of an animal residing in that home. Businesses and corporations are invited to participate as well, with several benefits that we can offer them in return.

The economy is still recovering and other non-profits in Wayne County are struggling as well, but we are asking this because we know our community cares about the animals as much as we do. Please find out more about our new **Guardian Angel Sponsorship Program** or just make a **direct donation at the shelter or online** and make a difference in the life of an animal. All donations and sponsorships are tax deductible.