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**CSNIP Receives $1,000,000 PetSmart Charities Grant to Improve Accessible Veterinary Care**

WALKER, Mich. – November X, 2024 – Community Spay Neuter Initiative Partnership (CSNIP), a nonprofit veterinary care provider based in Walker, has been awarded a $1,000,000 three-year grant from PetSmart Charities. The funds will be used to expand services and increase capacity to help more companion animals and pet families throughout West Michigan.

Since its inception in 2001, CSNIP has grown to benefit more than 255,000 dogs, cats and pet families throughout West Michigan, serving nearly 24,000 pets in 2023. With the support from the PetSmart Charities Accelerator grant, CSNIP will build upon that growth to increase pet families’ access to needed veterinary care. In its new clinic located in the City of Walker, CSNIP will increase its wellness, treatment and surgical capacities, going from three exam rooms to six and five surgery tables to ten. Funds will also be used to expand its diagnostics ability with the purchase of a full body x-ray machine so that more pets can be treated by CSNIP.

"Pets have a significant impact on the health and wellness of the people they love, which is why accessible veterinary care is crucial for maintaining the well-being of our community," said Sharon Caldwell-Newton, executive director, CSNIP.  "Through our affordable, high-quality veterinary services, we are ensuring that all families can access the preventative and essential care that ensures their pets thrive at home and stay out of shelters."

According to PetSmart Charities, 50 million pets in the U.S. experience a lack of access to even basic veterinary care. Rising costs and other barriers mean these pets struggle to access services such as spay/neuter procedures, vaccinations and critical medical and preventative care. With as many as 70 percent of households now including pets, this issue affects families in nearly every community.

“Our veterinary system is in crisis,” said Kate Atema, director of community grants and initiatives, PetSmart Charities. “Rising costs are putting standard veterinary care out of reach for as much as 50% of pet-owning families.”

PetSmart Charities has committed $100 million over the next five years toward improving access to veterinary care. The Accelerator low-cost veterinary care grant program is a key part of this effort. These grants support the expansion of low-cost veterinary care by funding growth and operations for up to four years for nonprofit clinics looking to expand their services, serve their communities better and inspire other veterinary providers by sharing their experiences.

“We need innovative solutions that make veterinary care affordable for the families in every community who want the best for their four-legged companions but struggle to meet the cost of vet care,” said Atema. “We’re inspired by the incredible work CSNIP is doing to create solutions that will build strong families and a healthy community.”

Earlier this year, CSNIP announced plans to construct a new 12,000-square-foot veterinary clinic and headquarters at 1300 Walker Village Dr NW, Walker. The state-of-the-art facility will consolidate three existing clinics from Grand Rapids and Fruitport. Specifically targeting the needs of financially challenged pet owners across 10 West Michigan counties, the new clinic will significantly expand service capabilities that were previously limited at the smaller, part-time satellite clinic in Fruitport. Chosen for its strategic location, the Walker facility is optimally positioned for geographic accessibility, ensuring that all community members, especially those on the lakeshore, have easy access to comprehensive veterinary care. CSNIP is scheduled to move into the new clinic in January.

About CSNIP

Founded in 2001, the Community Spay Neuter Initiative Partnership (CSNIP) is a tax-exempt charitable nonprofit that provides high-quality, reduced-cost veterinary care, including spay/neuter, wellness, dental, and surgical services for the West Michigan community. As the region's first high-volume, reduced cost spay/neuter provider, CSNIP has served over 255,000 dogs and cats since inception, significantly impacting the decline in shelter euthanasia rates from overcrowding. In partnership with Michigan State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, CSNIP also imparts specialized surgical skills and access to care services to senior veterinary students. CSNIP is committed to improving the lives of animals and their caregivers, regardless of their financial circumstances. For more information about CSNIP, visit [www.csnip.org](http://www.csnip.org).

About PetSmart 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 600,000 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. Our grants and efforts connect pets with loving homes through adoption, improved access to affordable veterinary care and support families in times of crisis with access to food, shelter and emergency relief. Each year, millions of generous supporters help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities directly at PetSmartCharities.org, while shopping at 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](http://www.petsmartcharities.org).

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