



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

HAVEN FOR HOPE OF BEXAR COUNTY RECEIVES \$20,000 GRANT FROM PETSMART CHARITIES® TO HELP KEEP PETS AND PEOPLE TOGETHER

September 25, 2019— San Antonio, TX— Haven for Hope received a \$20,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities](#) to help keep more pets in loving homes and out of shelters in San Antonio.

As the face of family changes over the years, what remains constant is the role pets play in our lives. Many people consider pets family members and it can be challenging to find resources when facing life changes and issues such as homelessness, lack of pet-friendly housing, military deployment or fleeing domestic violence in search of a safe-haven. Pet parents in these and other at-risk situations often determine they have no options beyond surrendering their beloved pet to a local shelter.

With this grant, Haven for Hope will help preserve the bond between pets and their people by supporting the organization's kennel and cattery. Since 2010, the organization has offered kennel services for the pets of individuals and families experiencing homelessness and is the only homeless service provider in San Antonio that permits dogs and cats to accompany clients as they access services.

"Often people who are experiencing homelessness are hesitant to receive shelter services for fear of being forced to leave their pets behind as most homeless shelters do not allow animals. For many of our clients, their pets are the only family they have," said Kenny Wilson President and CEO of Haven for Hope

"As an organization dedicated to pets and the people who love them, we are proud to support Haven for Hope's work to keep pets and people together in San Antonio," said Kelly Balthazor, regional relationship manager at PetSmart Charities. "With this funding, individuals experiencing homelessness can receive the resources they need to transition to permanent housing without fear of having to leave a furry family member behind – never having to decide between a safe place to sleep and their beloved pet."

Since 1994, through its partnership with nearly 4,000 humane societies, SPCAs and pet rescues across North America, PetSmart Charities has helped more than 8.5 million pets to find loving homes via its in-store adoption program in over 1,600 PetSmart® stores. The leading funder of animal welfare has also donated nearly \$400 million to improve access to veterinary care, to positively impact communities, to connect people and pets and to help preserve families through initiatives like this one with Haven for Hope.

About Haven for Hope

The mission of Haven for Hope is to offer a place of hope and new beginnings. We do this by providing, coordinating and delivering an efficient system of care for people experiencing homelessness in San Antonio. For more information about Haven for Hope, please visit our website at www.HavenforHope.org

Haven for Hope is a nonprofit organization with the mission of transforming and saving the lives of people experiencing homelessness in the San Antonio area. Haven for Hope offers shelter, food, clothing, and comprehensive services through 184 organizational partnerships. Since opening in April 2010, thousands of individuals and families have graduated from Haven for Hope and moved from homelessness to permanent housing.

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About PetSmart Charities®

[PetSmart Charities, Inc.](http://www.petsmartcharities.org) is committed to finding lifelong, loving homes for all pets by supporting programs and thought leadership that bring people and pets together. Through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart® stores across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities helps to find forever homes and families for more than 600,000 shelter pets each year. Each year, millions of generous PetSmart shoppers help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities 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 almost \$400 million since its inception in 1994. Independent from PetSmart Inc., PetSmart Charities is a 501(c)(3) organization that has received the Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, a third-party organization that reports on the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of nonprofits, for the past 16 years in a row – placing it among the top one percent of charities rated by this organization. To learn more visit www.petsmartcharities.org.

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