



## **Peace at Home Family Shelter**

### **Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary Vision**

#### **Safe Haven for Pets in Shelter**

It is not safe for animals in domestic violence households. Animal abuse both correlates highly with domestic violence and is a known tactic of domestic violence. Nearly 30% of domestic violence survivors will delay leaving a dangerous situation if they are unable to take their animals with them. And with good reason. Domestic batterers will often harm beloved pets as punishment especially if they are left behind. Survivors of domestic violence need a safe place for themselves and their pets when escaping violence.

Currently the Peace at Home Family Shelter is not equipped to regularly have pets in shelter. A space is needed so that the health and welfare of family pets can be assured while still keeping a safe space for all residents of the emergency shelter.

#### **Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary**

The Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary will be constructed in loving memory of community advocate, animal lover, and Peace at Home supporter, Candy Clark. This building will provide a safe space for families staying at the shelter to house their beloved pets. With the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary, families will be near their pets and able to see them and care for them every day. It would also allow the pets to be close to their families, but safely separated from the other families in shelter who may have pet allergies or be uncomfortable around animals.

The Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary will make leaving domestic violence safer for our community members and their pets, but it cannot be built on our current site without additional land. It is important that the land the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary is built on is near the emergency shelter so that families can easily walk to care for and play with their pets every single day.

#### **Construction**

According to estimates obtained from a construction company, building a pet sanctuary that would safely house up to 6 dogs and up to 4 cats would cost approximately \$550,000 and require additional land adjacent to the emergency shelter. In addition to construction costs, the kennel would require start-up equipment and supplies such as food, cleaning supplies, care and grooming materials, and a basic veterinary setup. Total initial costs excluding the value of land are estimated to be about \$600,000. We have already secured a lead gift for this project and many smaller gifts.

#### **Ongoing Needs**

Once established, the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary would require some ongoing operational support to care for pets on an ongoing basis. A part-time kennel manager would be needed to oversee the



Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary and ensure all animals are appropriately cared for. Food and supplies would be required as well as some veterinary care expenses. We anticipate ongoing expenses for the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary to total \$25,000 per year, though this figure will likely increase annually with inflation. A generous donor has already committed to covering these ongoing operational expenses in perpetuity.

### **Ongoing Partnerships**

For families with pets to receive the best care while staying at Peace at Home Family Shelter and the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary, strong partnerships with a veterinarian and other animal organizations will be critical. Peace at Home Family Shelter has developed relationships with several area animal hospitals, but would welcome recommendations on organizations and businesses as potential animal care partners.

### **Operations**

Peace at Home Family Shelter's policies and procedures would be updated to reflect the addition of the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary. Peace at Home will utilize the Sheltering Animals and Families Together (SAF-T) manual as a guide for adjusting operations as needed. This guide was specifically designed to help domestic violence programs incorporate safe pet shelter into their emergency shelter programs.

### **Vision**

The vision of the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary is to make it possible for families to safely flee domestic violence with all of their family members, including their animals. This program will give families peace of mind. It will keep survivors of domestic violence and the animals they love safe.

### **Land Request**

Peace at Home is requesting to lease four acres from the City of Fayetteville to build the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary. The City of Springdale has agreed to support the water and sewer needs for the project.