

## New Kalamazoo Humane Society center to break ground this year

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*The Kalamazoo Humane Society's Executive Director Aaron Winters stands with a sketch of the new resource center. Also pictured is Charles and Lynn Zhang, two of the largest donors toward the project. (WWMT/Contributed)*

**KALAMAZOO, Mich.** — The Kalamazoo Humane Society announced Thursday that its new animal care and resource center is set to break ground this year.

Area donors contributed a total of \$5 million to the society's capital campaign, exceeding its goal of \$4.75 for the new building to be named Charles and Lynn Zhang Animal Care and Resource Center, officials with the society said in a statement. The humane society expects construction to begin in early fall 2019 and to last about a year.

“Once again, this community demonstrates its love and compassion for animals and the people who care for them,” said Aaron Winters, Executive Director of the Kalamazoo Humane Society (KHS). “The new facility will expand KHS’s low-cost spay and neuter services to reduce unwanted litters; increase access to its emergency pet

food bank and other services for pet owners in crisis; and provide humane education activities to promote responsible treatment of animals.”

Officials said the new 11,000-square-foot facility, to be built on 14.9 acres at River Street and the Interstate 94 Business Loop in Comstock Township, will replace the humane society’s long-time home in a converted bridal shop. It will include medical procedure rooms, educational space, offices, and a memorial garden honoring pets that have passed away.

According to Winters, the new center will increase opportunities to serve clients locally and throughout Southwest Michigan. Through the humane society's “Operation Fix-It” spay/neuter program, it has performed more than 73,000 procedures since 2002.