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KALAMAZOO

Animal Rescue Project opens new \$2.5M facility in Kalamazoo County

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New \$2.5M no-kill animal shelter now open in Kalamazoo County



By [Ryan Boldrey | rboldrey@mlive.com](mailto:rboldrey@mlive.com)

KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MI — Animal Rescue Project has officially opened the doors to a brand new \$2.5 million, 11,000-square-foot facility in Comstock Township.

Named after its lead benefactors, The Charles & Lynn Zhang Animal Rescue Center, 1616 Constitution Drive, is double the size of ARP's former Peekstok Drive facility.

With larger runs, separate areas for small and large dogs and increased air flow to cut down on infection risk, staff is already joking that the facility is “the Ritz Carlton of dog shelters,” said Sarah Torrence, VP of ARP’s board of directors.

“We were already providing wonderful care to animals,” she said. “This new facility allows us to just provide a much higher level of care.”



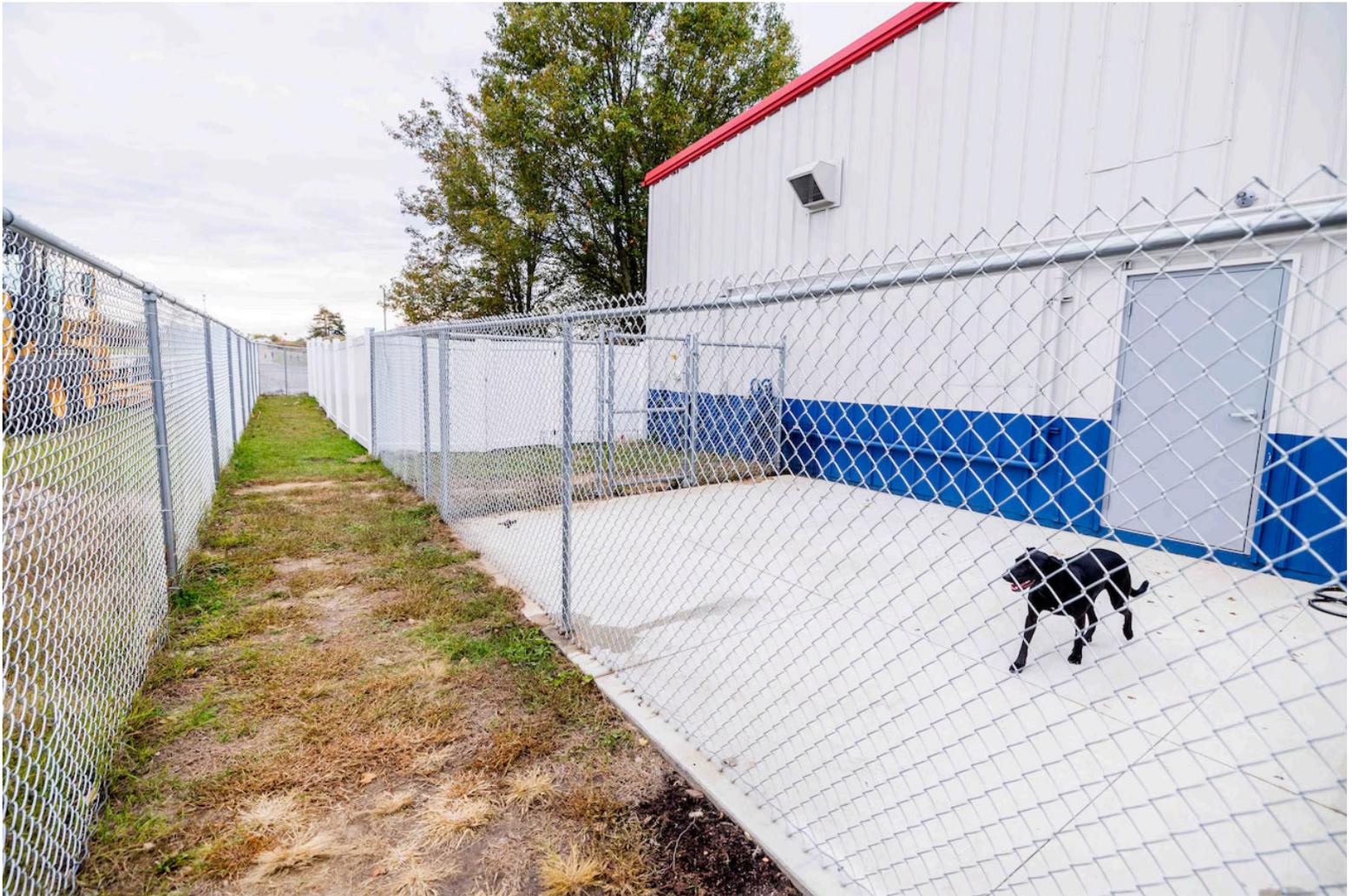
Outside at the Animal Rescue Project, Charles & Lynn Zhang Animal Rescue Center, on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025. Located at 1616 Construction Drive in Comstock Township, the \$2.5M no-kill shelter is now open. (Devin Anderson-Torrez | MLive.com)

For instance, the kennels indoors are set up so animals are not facing one another, she said. Sound absorption is also vastly improved over the old facility.

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Both those improvements, Torrence said, cut down on stress felt by the animals.

The additional space will also allow the 15-year-old nonprofit to ramp up programming efforts.



A walking and outdoor space at the Animal Rescue Project, Charles & Lynn Zhang Animal Rescue Center, on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025. Located at 1616 Construction Drive in Comstock Township, the \$2.5M no-kill shelter is now open. (Devin Anderson-Torrez | MLive.com)

In addition to expanding rescue and adoption services, the organization is growing its “Keeping People & Pets Together” program launched last year.

The initiative, developed through a partnership with Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries, allows unhoused individuals and domestic violence victims to leave their pets with ARP for up to 90 days.

The pets are cared for, fed and provided with vaccinations and needed health care, Torrence said. The only requirement is that their owners are either staying in the Gospel Mission’s emergency shelter or engaged in long-term programming there.

ARP, which introduced the program at its Peekstok facility on a space-available basis, now has dedicated space for up to 10 animals in the program at any time.

Once the program gets fine-tuned and running smoothly, the plan is to expand its reach to other area organizations such as the YWCA, Torrence said.



Dog Room 3, sponsored by Aaron Ziegler, at the Animal Rescue Project, Charles & Lynn Zhang Animal Rescue Center, on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025. Located at 1616 Construction Drive in Comstock Township, the \$2.5M no-kill shelter is now open. (Devin Anderson-Torrez | MLive.com)

The Animal Rescue Project isn’t just involved in its own programming, however.

“We’re so much more than just an animal rescue,” Torrence said. “We have wonderful programs in the community, and our new Consumers Credit Union Community Room is going to allow us to host all sorts of different events.”

The room will also allow ARP to host nursing home patients and school students to engage with the animals, she said.

The facility, which at one time was a car dealership, was purchased by ARP for \$800,000 in 2023.

After receiving \$1 million in seed money from the Zhangs, ARP [launched a capital campaign](#) to fund the remainder of the costs associated with the build-out.

“Without Charles and Lynn Zhang as a catalyst to really get things moving we wouldn’t have been able to pull it off,” Torrence said. “We’re eternally grateful for their philanthropic efforts and really digging into the heart of our organization.

“They have a real passion for animal rescue and are very committed and it shows,” she said.



From left, American Rescue Project Executive Director Jack Frost, benefactors Lynn and Charles Zhang and Sarah Torrence, vice president of ARP's board of directors, cut the ribbon at ARP's new Charles & Lynn Zhang Animal Rescue Center on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025, in Kalamazoo County. Provided by Animal Rescue Project

During the ribbon-cutting and grand opening ceremony on Oct. 30, the Zhangs matched funds, helping ARP to offer half-off adoptions. A total of 21 dogs and 16 cats were adopted that day as a result, Torrence said.

The organization, which relies solely on community contributions, needs \$450,000 to be mortgage-free, Torrence said.

Naming rights opportunities remain throughout the facility, as ARP looks to hit that number, she said. Among them are engraved paw print markers that range in price from \$250 to \$1,000 and allow individuals the chance to honor loved ones.

For more information about the capital campaign, ARP’s volunteer program and animals available for adoption, visit animalrescueproject.org.

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Ryan Boldrey

Ryan Boldrey covers courts, community affairs and human-interest stories for the Kalamazoo Gazette and MLive. A native of Petoskey, he earned his bachelor's degree from Michigan State and a master's from San...more

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