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## **Group Effort Raises Hundreds of Dollars for Food, Supplies at Animal Shelter**

GRAND RAPIDS, MI –Mindy Smith Pierman has long supported the mission of the Kent County Animal Shelter. Last year, she and several dozen friends asked for donations on Facebook, and held a garage sale in hopes of raising enough money to provide the Kent County Animal Shelter (KCAS) with Thundershirts. This year, news of the shelter being at- or near-capacity all summer sparked her into action once again.

Last year's Thundershirt effort started when Mindy saw the anxiety her rescue dog Murphy (a female) showed during noise from fireworks or thunder. Murphy passed away in the spring of this year, but Mindy decided to keep giving in Murphy's name. "As a re-homed stray, she had always made me aware of how unfair life can be to animals who have done nothing to deserve it," Mindy said. "Last year's sale was a lot of fun and very successful. This year we decided to put our efforts into keeping our shelter pets happy and comfortable until they get a forever home. This is starting to look like an annual event!" KCAS has seen great success in reducing stress in dogs wearing the Thundershirts, especially around July 4<sup>th</sup>.

This year's sale netted about \$1400, and Mindy is donating \$1200 in food, supplies and toys to KCAS on Friday, August 22. "The shelter staff appreciates the support Mindy and her friends have shown our homeless pets," said Adam London, Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. "We are so fortunate to have people like Mindy and her friends supporting our mission." (Mindy donated \$200 to C-Snip, a member of the West Michigan Network of Animal Protectors.)

"We are fortunate to have the support of Mindy and her friends," said Dr. Laurie Wright, Shelter Veterinarian for the Kent County Animal Shelter. "In addition to the usual summer strays and pet surrenders, we've had many additional pets taken from a suspected hoarding situation in June. We have been going through a lot of food, supplies and toys in the past two months. This generous contribution will help us provide increased comfort for the pets in our care."

**PHOTO OP: Mindy will deliver the donation to the Kent County Animal Shelter on Friday, August 22, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. The shelter is located at 740 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids, in the same complex as the Health Department. Mindy Smith Pierman and Adam London will be available at that time for additional comment. Please come by for this event!**

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).