

COCHECO VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY—Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Humane Society receives \$1 million Towards New Facility

Dover – Cocheco Valley Humane Society (“CVHS”) is pleased to announce that longtime philanthropist Lyman Pope, Jr. has pledged \$1 million over the next 4 years for the construction of CVHS’s new 11,000 sq./ft. facility in Dover, NH. With his gift, 80% percent of the funding for the facility is now secured and In his honor, the organization will now be known as **The Pope Memorial Cocheco Valley Humane Society (PMCVHS)**.

A lifelong animal lover, Pope has supported more than 38 shelters in the New England region. Four individual shelters; the Pope Memorial Humane Society of Knox County, the Pope Memorial Frontier Shelter in Orleans, VT, the Pope Memorial SPCA in Concord, NH and now the Pope Memorial Cocheco Valley Humane Society in Dover, have been selected by him for major donations to continue the good work and services that they provide. All have been named in his honor. Development Director, Debbie Shelton, explains that Pope offers much more than just financial support. “He has been to all these shelters, and he knows what works and what doesn’t work,” she said. “He tells you what you’re doing well and where you can improve, so he has raised the bar. His insights and experience in working with multiple facilities is invaluable.”

Lyman Pope, 89, of Jackson, NH, has always been passionate about dogs - specifically german shepherds, but Pope came late to philanthropy. Pope began visiting shelters around 1999 and was dismayed at the number of abandoned or abused animals he saw. “If you care about dogs, you know once they arrive at an animal shelter, they are in some trouble,” he said. “The shelters are always in trouble. They never have enough money. It doesn’t take long to become empathetic, very sympathetic, because it’s a difficult thing for the people who manage them and for the animals who are in there.”

PMCVHS is excited to partner with Mr. Pope to make the new facility in Dover a reality. This has been a long-term project that has received tremendous support from the community. Campaign co-chair Karen Zaramba explains, “The current CVHS facility is extremely limiting due to its size and condition, and this new space will be a wonderful reflection of the quality care and services already provided by the staff and volunteers of CVHS and will provide new space for community engagement through a variety of training classes and outreach programming. Beyond the important work of adopting homeless animals into loving, forever homes, the community has come to realize the impact of the many services that CVHS provides to thousands of area residents each year,” according to Zaramba. These services include specialized veterinarian technician training in partnership with the University of New Hampshire; humane education at schools and civic groups; supportive services for veterans suffering from PTSD as well as individuals with medical, mental or physical challenges; partnerships with area domestic violence organizations to provide safe housing for pets as well as low-cost rabies and microchip clinics.

CVHS continues to work through pre-construction processes such as site permitting and is working with local lending institutions to finalize a loan facility so that construction can begin in the Spring, 2018.