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## **Humane Society of The Treasure Coast ‘no-kill’ dream now a reality**

PALM CITY, Fla. — It started in 2009 with a simple goal to save as many lives as possible. Strategic planning and partnerships added progressive programs and services, a new clinic and isolation ward, and a continued commitment to sound fiscal management. This simple goal became more than a goal. It changed the culture of the organization and the future for the animals at the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast (HSTC).

HSTC is now the only open access, no-kill animal welfare organization operating in Martin County. With 3,000 animals being rehomed annually through aggressive adoption programs and other services, HSTC has joined leading shelters around the state and country as a model organization for lifesaving culture change in its community.

“We maintained our commitment to never turn away any Martin County animal for any reason while reaching a live release rate of 90 percent for the animals in our care,” said HSTC President and CEO Frank Valente. “This is considered the benchmark goal for a no-kill community. We have sustained this level of care for more than a year and we are thrilled to celebrate this milestone and our commitment to ensure that Martin County becomes a no-kill county.”

The next phase of the HSTC’s commitment to saving lives will include two major initiatives.

The adoption campus in Palm City will be growing with the addition of the Mildred and Frank Savastano Dog Play Areas, The Jane and Shirley Wurz Obedience Training Center, and the renovation of the dog, cat and small animal adoption center. At the same time, the HSTC will expand some of the most progressive programs in the area, including the TNVR Community Cat and Return to Field program, Intake Prevention and Pet Retention Outreach and its discount spay-neuter vaccinate programs with its partnering animal rescue groups.

The HSTC will continue to collaborate with the Best Friends Network and the Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at the University Of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. These relationships have been a cornerstone of the culture change over many years. "Best Friends made the bold pledge to reach no-kill in this country by 2025 and is committed to saving the lives of homeless pets through collaboration," said Emily Park, Southeast Regional Specialist for Best Friends Animal Society. "The Humane Society of the Treasure Coast is a shining example of true partnership due to their willingness to try new things, strong partnerships, and exemplary leadership. We look forward to seeing the HSTC continue to impact their community while also inspiring and helping those around them save even more lives."

"We would like to thank all of our community partners, including the Martin County commissioners and administration, Martin County Animal Services, the Martin County sheriff, our community nonprofit partners and the more than 40 animal rescue groups we work with to save lives," said Valente. "Most importantly, our dedicated and compassionate staff, volunteers, supporters and donors and our board of directors have worked tirelessly to achieve this goal. The animals were the inspiration but the commitment from the HSTC community was the key to this lifesaving success story."

*The Humane Society of the Treasure Coast (HSTC) is a no-kill animal welfare organization located at 4100 SW Leighton Farm Ave. in Palm City, FL. Since 1955, it has been the leading advocate for animal protection and well-being in the Martin County area. A 501(c) 3 private, nonprofit organization, HSTC is independent and locally operated, and relies on donations to support its programs and services. Follow the HSTC on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/humanesocietyTC> and Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/hstc1>. For more information, visit <http://www.hstc1.org> or call (772) 223-8822.*

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