

## **HUMANE SOCIETY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY**

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Their best chance for a second chance.

### **Monroe Bank and the Humane Society of Hamilton County Partner to Find Homes for Senior Pets**

Noblesville and Bloomington, Ind., February 24, 2009 –The homeless senior canines and felines of Hamilton County have found a new and loyal friend in Monroe Bank. The bank has signed on as the Humane Society for Hamilton County's (HSHC) P.A.W.S (Partnering Animals with Seniors) sponsor, subsidizing the animal shelter's P.A.W.S program which is designed to offer a significantly discounted adoption fee for senior pets (age five and older) to citizens age 55 and older. Monroe Bank's cash-only sponsorship is valued at \$12,000.

"Monroe Bank's generous support provides our senior pets, which are harder to adopt and don't fare as well in a shelter environment, a better chance to have a second chance at a loving home," said HSHC Executive Director Rebecca Stevens. "With so many folks wanting to adopt puppies and kittens, older pets are often overlooked. Today's economic climate is making this more challenging and distressing as our shelter, and others nationwide, are seeing an uptick in owner-surrenders of older dogs and cats because people can no longer afford the cost of their food and medical care."

John Christy, Regional President of Monroe Bank, stated, "Our partnership with the Humane Society for Hamilton County will help support their efforts in finding loving homes for all of their adoptable senior animals. This community-focused initiative demonstrates Monroe Bank's commitment to forming valuable partnerships and strengthening the communities we serve."

Monroe Bank's sponsorship will allow the shelter to offer senior pets at a reduced adoption rate of \$75. If the adopter is age 55 or older, the adoption rate is reduced even further to \$45. Standard adoption fees typically range from \$90 to \$250 depending on the age, breed and size of the animal.

"Older pets are usually house-trained, are well past the chewing stage, generally know basic commands, typically have lower activity levels and are just looking for loving homes," said Stevens. "What this sponsorship does is provide an added incentive for folks in our community, especially seniors, to seriously consider adopting an older pet with plenty of unconditional love yet to give."

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Monroe Bank's sponsorship will also include featuring some of the P.A.W.S pets it is sponsoring in some banking center locations and will partner with HSHC in hosting events at its Noblesville banking center throughout 2009.

#### **About the Humane Society for Hamilton County**

The Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. It is not a United Way Agency, and is not affiliated with any other animal welfare group in the United States. The HSHC also serves as the animal control facility for Hamilton County, and, as such, receives partial funding from Hamilton County. The majority of the HSHC budget is funded by private donors. The HSHC will not euthanize animals for space and time, and will treat sick and injured animals if there's an outlook for recovery and a high quality of life. Many animals are hit-by-car injured, heartworm-positive, malnourished, or otherwise wounded and/or sick. The HSHC will provide most of these animals with life-saving treatments, surgeries and medications as their best chance for a second chance and until they are re-homed.

**The Humane Society for Hamilton County. Saving Lives. Educating Communities. Completing families.**

#### **About Monroe Bancorp**

Monroe Bancorp, headquartered in Bloomington, Indiana, is an Indiana bank holding company with Monroe Bank as its wholly owned subsidiary. With a current asset size of \$777 million, Monroe Bank was established in Bloomington in 1892, and offers a full range of financial, trust and investment services through its locations in Central and South Central Indiana. The Company's common stock is traded on the NASDAQ® Global Stock Market under the symbol MROE.

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