



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2020.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Pittsylvania County
Program Title: Regional Pet Food Pantry
Program Category: Health & Human Services

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: James McLaughlin
Title: Pet Center Director
Department: Pet Center
Telephone: 434-432-1989 Website: https://www.pittsylvania
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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Richard Hicks
Title: Deputy County Administrator
Signature: 

Pittsylvania Pet Center Pet Food Pantry

On January 1, 2019, Pittsylvania County assumed the management of the Pittsylvania Pet Center from the contracted agent (Lynchburg Humane Society). The incoming Director (James McLaughlin) immediately started looking at resources that the Pet Center could offer to our citizens that would help them, and their animals and hopefully prevent animals from ever having to enter the shelter system. The very first program started was a pet food pantry. Because a consistent, nutritional diet is important to the overall health of the animals in our care, the Pet Center has a food contract with Hill's Science Diet. We would receive a substantial retail discount as part of their shelter program, and our shelter agreed to only feed Hill's Science Diet food. Despite this, well-meaning citizens would drop off plenty of pet food, and even sometimes litter to help the Pet Center. Our shelter would put this aside, and when necessary, find other sources for pet food, and this would supply our Pet Pantry. If anyone needed assistance with feeding their animals, all they would have to do is come see us and we would assist them with supplies. We have had several families that loved their pet, but for one reason or another, found themselves financially struggling, and this program helped keep many pets happy and healthy with the people that loved them. In 2019, the Pittsylvania Pet Center distributed approximately 1,000 pounds of pet food and 400 pounds of cat litter.

In early 2020, as COVID-19 was a growing problem, our shelter Director reached out to GreaterGood.org, a nonprofit organization that had previously assisted our shelter. A proposal was sent to GreaterGood.org for a drive through Pet Food Pantry in anticipation of so many

more citizens and their animals needing assistance. This would be a safe way to distribute supplies to help people through these challenging times. GreaterGood.org agreed and was on board to assist with food for this larger-scale program. GreaterGood.org made a counter-proposal that they would help us with all of the supplies that we needed, but would send much more if the Pet Center was willing to help distribute the food and supplies to other shelters and rescues across the Commonwealth. The Pet Center gladly accepted this offer. Greater Good has sent three tractor-trailers full of food and pet supplies to the Pittsylvania Pet Center. The staff was able to borrow a forklift from a local business and receive over 105,000 pounds of pet food and supplies (103 pallets). We started holding our Drive through Pet Food Pantry every Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Locally, our drive through Pet Food pantry has distributed over 20,000 pounds of food to Danville and Pittsylvania County residents. For seniors that did not feel safe coming to us or shut-in residents that could not come, the staff of the Pet Center and our Animal Control Officers delivered another 1,000 pounds of food to citizens. As the Pet Center re-opened for normal operations in June, we have stopped the weekly drive through pantry, but are still distributing food as people ask for assistance. The last shipment of food and supplies (36,000 pounds) from the total received arrived on June 19. Mr. McLaughlin coordinated with the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies, the Humane Society of the United States, and contacts he had with other organizations to figure out where the food could do the most good. From the first two shipments, 48,000 pounds of food has been sent to 28 other shelters, rescues, and pet food programs throughout the Southwestern part of the state and every region in Virginia. Of the most recent shipment, approximately 28,000 pounds of it will be distributed to other organizations to ensure that as many animals as possible are helped.

Our pet food pantry was created to help as many citizens and their pets as possible, but the foresight of the Pet Center to be prepared to not only step up our citizens in a time of crisis, as well as organizations across the Commonwealth is something our staff is extremely proud of. This program has Pittsylvania County zero money and all of the work was performed by our staff and volunteers, including delivering food when necessary. GreaterGood.org advised us that the fair market value of all of these donations the Pet Center has received was over \$300,000 through this program we have helped our citizens, their animals, and strengthened our connections with fellow animal welfare organizations across the state. This program has been such a blessing to so many and we have been proud to have spearheaded this statewide assistance program. Although we may not always be in a position to help other organizations like this, we will always be here for our citizens, and we have made some new friends that will be there for us, if we need assistance.

Brief Overview –

The Pittsylvania Pet Center prides itself in taking a proactive approach to their mission to help the animals and citizens of our county. The pet food pantry pre-COVID-19 was an effective program that helped establish them as a resource to the community, and not just the stereotypical pound. As COVID-19 started to impact so many, the need grew and the Pet Center rose to the challenge.

Thanks to support secured by the Pet Center, GreaterGood.org donated over \$300,000 worth of Pet Food and supplies to our shelter. To date, over 20,000 pounds of these supplies have been distributed locally and almost 50,000 pounds have been distributed to other animal welfare organizations with similar programs throughout the Commonwealth. Through the hard work and dedication of the staff and volunteers at the Pittsylvania Pet Center animals and the people that love them across Virginia have received the support they needed.

Executive Summary –

We are so proud of the great work happening at the Pittsylvania Pet Center. The pet food pantry is just one of many great programs our shelter offers citizens to take a pro-active approach to the needs of animals and their families in our community. The fact that our shelter was able to help so many animals this year through donations and the in-kind grant from Greater Good is not just our community, but throughout the Commonwealth is a testament to their dedication to helping animals and fostering mutual assistance with their fellow animal welfare organizations. As the impending shut down grew closer, our team at the Pet Center had the vision to find a way to step up their efforts, rise to the challenge, and exceed our expectations. The relationship that our shelter Director has developed with GreaterGood.org was pivotal in the success of this program throughout our county and beyond. We are extremely grateful for their support. This program is a shining example of the leadership our animal shelter has shown throughout our region and beyond.



Richard N. Hicks

Deputy County Administrator

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