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INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

GREENWICH SENIOR CITIZENS RECEIVE SUPPORT TO KEEP AND CARE FOR THEIR BELOVED PETS

In honor of National Senior Citizens Day on August 21st, the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary is highlighting the needs of older pet owners struggling to support their animals.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Whenever the weather allows, you will find Donna and her dog Einstein walking in nature enjoying every minute together. But when Donna, a senior Greenwich resident, found out that her four-legged friend would need prescription diet food costing more than $75 a month to prevent on-going medical issues, she thought their time together might not last much longer.

The reality is that Donna, like so many older adult pet owners, is struggling to pay for both their basic needs. The prospect of finding the funds for her dog's veterinary wellness visits and the now needed prescription pet food seemed insurmountable. Einstein was her world and the thought of losing him due to financial hardship was heartbreaking.

In honor of National Senior Citizens Day on August 21st, the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary is putting a spotlight on the increasing stress older pet owners face in trying to provide for the basic needs of their animals. Stories like Donna's are not uncommon and the sanctuary is working to address this growing problem. According to the latest American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, 22% of Connecticut senior households have an annual income of less than $20,000. Many of the older adults the sanctuary supports are left with less than $50 at the end of month. And with the increasing prices of food, gas and necessities compounded by unexpected expenses, something as simple as a veterinary visit or change in pet food needs can set an older adult into a financial pitfall. To cope, many compromise their own nutritional health, veterinary care for their pet, or medical care for themselves.

By partnering with municipal housing authorities and non-profit senior housing providers, the sanctuary's Senior Paw Project is identifying those who quietly face these challenges every single day and provide, at absolutely no cost to the older adults, veterinary wellness and prescriptive care, monthly pet food support and, when needed, temporary foster care for animals - helping both the pet and their caregiver.

The Senior Paw Project serves 31 towns across Connecticut including Greenwich, home to a senior community with one of the greatest needs. In the past two years, 400 animals have been part of the program and over 459,935 pet food meals have been served.

As the needs increase for this underserved and often overlooked population, the CVH Animal Sanctuary is working harder than ever to increase assistance to senior pet owners and their animals. Jennifer Hubbard, President of the sanctuary, is in awe of the impact their services have made over the years. "We're humbled our support is offering comfort to humans and animals alike and will remain steadfast in providing assistance for as long as needed to keep older adults with their beloved pets."

As for Donna, she could not be more grateful for the support. "I don't know what I would do without Einstein. He's the best companion I could have and I'm so thankful for all the Senior Paw Project has done for us."

The Senior Paw Project relies on generous pet food and monetary donations from the public and any support for the program is greatly appreciated. To donate to the Senior Paw Project or to learn more, please visit: cvhfoundation.org

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About the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary:

The Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation is a Connecticut-based nonprofit organization working to promote compassion and healing through human-animal connection. The foundation was started in 2013 to commemorate and honor the life of Catherine Violet Hubbard, a six-year-old victim of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy and passionate animal lover. In 2014, the Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation was awarded more than 34 acres of Connecticut state farmland by a unanimous legislative decision, which would become home to the Catherine Violet Hubbard Sanctuary. Since its inception, the organization has raised more than $8 million in funding, supporting its breadth of programming that by honoring the human-animal connection, is providing tools and skills that translate into compassionate and accepting human-human interactions. Specifically, the sanctuary focuses on environmental stewardship, provides no cost humane education curriculum and community workshops, aid for seniors to keep and care for their pets, and property revitalization efforts. By caring for animals, the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary is helping the world become a kinder and gentler place for all.

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About the Sanctuary's Senior Paw Project:

Honoring the bond between caregivers and their pets, the sanctuary's Senior Paw Project provides pet food, veterinary care assistance and foster/respite care to senior pet owners struggling to keep or care for their animals. The Senior Paw Project is a referral-based program partnering with municipal housing authorities, non-profit senior housing providers, food pantries and veterinarians. The reality for many senior pet owners living off a limited budget is that they will forego food or care for themselves in order to provide for their dogs or cats. The Senior Paw Project helps to eliminate that need to make a choice and proudly serves 31 towns in Connecticut.