

May 9, 2024

My name is Mary Waggoner, and I have the privilege of representing the Waggoner Family. As a long-time animal advocate, I am tremendously excited to share with you the news of a significant milestone in our community's efforts to enhance animal welfare in Billings, the construction of a new animal shelter for our city.

In memory of our extraordinary mother and wife, Beth Waggoner, my family is proud to announce our pledge of \$2,000,000.00 as the Lead Gift for the "Paws and Rebuild" Campaign for the Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter. This campaign seeks to raise \$12,000,000.00 for the construction of a beautiful new, state-of-the-art animal shelter in Billings; a shelter which will enormously improve the lives of the animals within its walls.

The importance of this venture cannot be overstated. Our city's animals deserve the best possible care, and it is our responsibility to provide them with a safe and nurturing environment. The proposed new shelter will offer ample space, natural light, and proper ventilation, reflecting our commitment to treating every animal with the compassion and respect they deserve. We will have an animal shelter our city can be proud of and an animal shelter on par with our peers.

Under the solid leadership of Triniti Halverson, Director of Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter, and her dedicated team committed to the mission, we have witnessed remarkable strides in Billings's animal shelter care in recent years. With a proper facility in place, the potential for even greater achievements will finally be within our reach. With your help, we can make this vision a reality.

As we embark upon this journey, I am reflecting upon the profound responsibility we bear towards our community's animals, that through no fault of their own end up in our shelter. It is imperative we meet our city's current and future needs for the animals in our care by building a new shelter deserving of our great city's integrity, values, and morals. I heard this simple but extraordinary comment on the radio in Dallas a few years ago, "The caliber of a city can be measured by how it treats its animals." This simple statement perfectly underscores the essence of our mission today.

My family and I are overjoyed to present this donation, and it is our sincere hope our gift will serve as a catalyst to inspire significant generosity from our community. Please join us by helping ensure the success of the "Paws and Rebuild" Campaign. Together, we can champion the cause of animal welfare in Billings by helping care for those who cannot speak for themselves. Please look to your heart and show your compassion and vitality. This is our opportunity to showcase the "Best of Billings."

On behalf of the Waggoner Family, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generosity and support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Waggoner". The signature is written in dark ink and features a large, elegant loop at the end of the name.