



Purdue University

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## **Purdue University and Amie's Place Foundation Partner To Launch A Multi-Phase, County-Wide Project That Will Prevent Forced Separation Of Families And Pets. Tippecanoe County Will Serve As A Model That Other Mid-Sized Communities Can Follow.**

August 2013, West Lafayette, IN and New York, NY

The Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine, Purdue School of Nursing, and Amie's Place Foundation have partnered to provide a Multi-Phase Project designed for the Center for the Human-Animal Bond to prevent the unnecessary forced separation of families and pets.

Consistent with our shared mission, this "first-of-its-kind" initiative will develop a comprehensive model, community-wide effort aimed at safely keeping at-risk people in their homes with their pets, and mechanism for self-assessment and improvement. The ultimate goal is to make Tippecanoe County a safe haven community and provide a model that other mid-sized communities can follow. In this way, the impact of our partnership will be multiplied many times over, serve to help both people and animals and ensure the welfare of all involved.

Made possible by a generous grant from Amie's Place Foundation, the first phase in this process is the hosting of a one-day meeting, **People and Pets: Keeping Families Together** on September 16, 2013. A nationally-known speaker will deliver the keynote address, and will invite all interested parties within the community, Purdue University, and the State of Indiana. (More information about the meeting can be found at: [www.conf.purdue.edu/amies](http://www.conf.purdue.edu/amies)) At this organizational and strategic planning meeting, faculty from Purdue's School of Veterinary Medicine and School of Nursing will meet with key community leaders. Barriers that prevent people from remaining with their pets will be identified. Strategies for addressing these problems in a manner that is most effective will be investigated, and then a pilot program incorporating those strategies will be formulated. We plan to have the pilot program put into action shortly after it is developed.

### About the Purdue Center for the Human-Animal Bond

The Center for the Human-Animal Bond at Purdue University's College of Veterinary Medicine was founded in 1982. Its primary mission is to foster interdisciplinary activities by serving as a focal point for the exchange of ideas and development of new information related to animal-human interaction. ( [www.vet.purdue.edu/chab/index.html](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/chab/index.html) ). There is an active group of faculty

at Purdue University in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the School of Nursing that are concerned with assisting families with pets as they pass through various life stages and circumstances. Our vision is to achieve formal, widespread scientific recognition that validates the positive roles of pets and animals in the integrated health of families and communities, leading to informed decisions in human health.

#### About Amie's Place Foundation

It all began in 1982 in Long Beach, Long Island, with the exceptional work of Lewis Gelfand, DVM who provides pet care treatment and assistance for people too ill to care for their pets. Based on Dr. Gelfand's work, Amie's Place Foundation was established in New York City to fund organizations providing programs for people who need assistance caring for their pets, risk losing them during times of crisis, or face barriers limiting access to their pets when they most need each other. In light of the profound healing effect that pets have on individuals who are encountering a difficult, sometimes life-changing event, the Foundation works to provide necessary pet-care assistance and to promote public awareness of the unique relationship a beloved pet and its human companion share. Grants have funded the first Senior Center and hospital-based programs at The Caring Community/1998 and St. Vincent's Hospital/2003 in Greenwich Village, New York City. Amie's Place Foundation has funded programs that include Beth Israel Hospital, FACES (Finding a Cure for Epilepsy and Seizures) at NYU Langone Medical Center, JASA, Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, MedicAlert Foundation International, PAWS NY, Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine, Search and Care and Schervier Nursing Care Center. The Foundation encourages national replication of programs that help prevent the unnecessary forced separation of people from their pets simply because no one is there to help them. <http://www.amiesplacefoundation.org>

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