

# Fieldhaven's new shelter needs dollar donations

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NEWS MESSENGER REPORTER

While the roof, walls, windows and doors of Fieldhaven Feline Rescue's new shelter are all constructed, some finishing touches are needed on the new cat habitat.

Between \$50,000 and \$60,000 is still needed to finish the shelter, according to Joy Smith, Fieldhaven's president and co-founder.

The new shelter still needs flooring, electrical outlets and switches, light fixtures, cabinets and more, according to project manager Leslie Brinskele.

Shelter construction began in September.

Fieldhaven has been offered a one year interest-free loan, but to accept it, it must know they can pay it back, according to Smith.

"We need to know we can make the payments of \$5,000 to \$6,000 a month," Smith said. "What we are doing is asking people to pledge a certain amount every month so we can know we'll be able to make the loan payments."

If 200 donors pledge \$25 a month, Smith said, Fieldhaven will be able to make the loan payments.

Currently, 20 to 25 donors have committed to the pledges.

## KNOW AND GO

### FIELDHAVEN FELINE RESCUE

Where: 2754 Ironwood Lane.

Phone: 434-6122

Website: [www.fieldhaven.com](http://www.fieldhaven.com).

Home Depot and Lowe's gift cards

are also accepted, Brinskele said, and would be put toward items such as faucets, switch plates and energy-efficient light bulbs.

A wish list of items needed is also available on Fieldhaven's website.

The new shelter is about 3,000 square feet, and the old one was 1,000 square feet, according to Smith.

While the shelter will not increase the number of cats Fieldhaven can have on site, which is 25 to 30, Smith said the shelter will increase Fieldhaven's efficiency.

"With much better operating efficiency and stress/disease control for the cats, we plan to move cats much quicker through the adoption process," Smith said.

The adoption process will be quicker because the cats will "show better" to possible owners since they will be healthier and less stressed out, according to Smith.

The shelter has a series of "community cat rooms," which will hold four cats each, according to Brinskele.

There are also individual rooms for cats that don't like to be with other felines but would still make good pets in a home with no other cats, according to Smith.

Each of the rooms, whether they are community or independent, have access to an outdoor enclosure via cat door so they may enjoy the fresh air and view the outdoors, according to Smith.

The rooms also have cage doors so that those visiting Fieldhaven with the intent to adopt can look at all of the cats and visit with them.

Other shelter features are an adoption room, a sick room with a separate air supply to keep the other cats from getting sick and a medical examination room, Brinskele said.

Fieldhaven currently has 48 cats and kittens that have been placed in foster homes while the shelter is being built and they are up for adoption.

Smith's hope for the new year is to get the shelter operating at its full capacity, which includes educating the public about cat care and finding homes for Fieldhaven's cats.