

Press Release

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Humane Society Silicon Valley President Named To Top 100 Women of Influence List by San Jose Business Journal



SANTA CLARA, Calif., March 18, 2009 -- Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV) President Christine Benninger has been named one of Silicon Valley's Women of Influence by the San Jose Business Journal. The newspaper will hold a Women of Influence awards celebration tonight at The Fairmont in downtown San Jose. Presented by the Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal and El Camino Hospital, the Business Journal will honor 100 women who are making a difference in business, government or nonprofits in Silicon Valley.

According to the Business Journal, the 2009 Women of Influence honorees exercise power and influence within their industry and throughout the valley and serve as role models for future generations of leaders. The complete list of honorees was revealed in a special supplement in the March 6th issue of the Business Journal. Benninger was named for heading HSSV, which is leading the way in both humane animal care and green building design with its new Animal Community Center in Milpitas slated to open March 28, 2009.

"The Board of Directors is thrilled that Christine has been named one of Silicon Valley's Women of Influence," says Kate Mulligan, HSSV Board Chair. "Christine has turned her vision to build the country's first environmentally green certified Animal Community Center that combines an adoption program with a full spectrum of pet services into a reality. Her leadership and determination have helped HSSV lead the nation in both humane animal care and green building design."

"It is an honor to be named to the San Jose Business Journal's Women of Influence list," notes Benninger. "Successfully managing people in the passion-filled animal welfare environment has been the biggest challenge of my career but also my greatest reward. The goal of our new Animal Community Center is to change the way our community views their pet companions. I would like people to see the beauty and the benefit of adopting a shelter pet and to be able to support that relationship with a variety of fun and interactive programs and services."

Benninger believes HSSV's new Animal Community Center will help change the way the public views animals, treats animals and lives with animals. With its enlightened architecture and design, and home-like habitats for animals awaiting adoption, the Center offers a healthy, friendly and comfortable environment for both people and pets.

"We're breaking out of the old paradigm of an animal shelter being a warehouse full of cages for unwanted pets," Benninger remarks. Key features of the new Animal Community Center include an Adoption Galleria, affordable Medical Center, Community Dog Park and Training Center, Doggie Daycare, Grooming and Boarding, an Education Center, a Veterinary Hospital with a public viewing alcove, a community room, a pet store and a pet-friendly café.

Environmentally Friendly "Green" Center

In addition to leading the way in humane animal care, HSSV's new Animal Community Center is expected to be the first animal welfare agency in the United States to provide the variety of programs and services and to earn LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Key green features include an extensive onsite Photovoltaic solar system on the roof and carports, which is expected to generate 40% of the center's energy needs from renewable sources; a highly efficient kennel cleaning system to ensure proper disinfecting while reducing water use; a reflective "cool" roof to reduce solar heating of the building and lower A/C bills; heat recovery wheels in all HVAC systems to capture and reuse heating & cooling during the frequent air ventilation cycles required to prevent the spread of illness among the animals; onsite bioswales to naturally clean rainwater run-off before water enters the sewage treatment system, and artificial turf and native plants in the dog park areas to lower the demand for irrigation water.

Open House

HSSV will hold an Open House for the public at its new Animal Community Center in Milpitas on March 28 from 10 am to 6 pm to showcase the center's environmental features, programs and services. The Animal Community Center is built at 901 Ames Avenue in Milpitas on 4.8 acres of land near Milpitas Boulevard and Montague Expressway. The center is easily accessible to Highways 101 and 237 and Interstates 680 and 880. The \$25 million project is funded through public donations.

About Humane Society Silicon Valley

Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV) is an independent, non-profit agency offering quality adoptions, medical care and education programs to enhance the human-animal bond. Established in 1929, HSSV has served Silicon Valley for 80 years and found homes for more than 500,000 animals. HSSV is an "open door" shelter and accepts animals 24-hours a day, seven days a week, regardless of any temperament or health related problems. HSSV's new Animal Community Center, opening in March 2009, will feature an adoption galleria, affordable spay/neuter medical center, doggie daycare, a boarding and grooming center, education center with programs for children and teens, community dog park and training center, pet store and pet-friendly café, community center, and veterinary hospital with a public viewing room. Additional information about HSSV can be found at www.hssv.org.

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