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**Great Plains SPCA's Sew-A-Thon Provides Hundreds of Masks for Animal Control Officers During COVID-19**

Merriam, KS (April 21, 2020) – Great Plains SPCA (GPSPCA), a no-kill animal shelter in the Kansas City area serving nearly 6,000 pets annually, held a Sew-A-Thon to create masks like those recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Two hundred and fifty-nine masks were donated and will be distributed to the shelter's employees and animal control officers (ACOs) in the seven municipalities with which GPSPCA partners.

GPSCPA CEO, Tam Singer said, "Animal shelters are considered "essential" and our staff and ACO partners continue to be here for the animals every day. We wanted to do a little extra for these front-line workers to support them and keep them safe during this perilous time."

Volunteers, foster families, GPSPCA staff, and members of the public all contributed by sewing and donating masks. GPSCPA volunteer, Carol Foster, said the Sew-A-Thon has been a "way to contribute to the welfare of others, while honing up on my sewing skills and putting this time to good use."

The masks will be distributed to the ACOs by the end of this week. The seven municipalities with which GPSPCA partners are the Johnson County Sherriff's Office, Johnson County Park & Recreation District and the cities of Leawood, Lenexa, Lake Quivira, Overland Park and Shawnee.

Craig Herrmann, Sergeant, Community Outreach/School Resource Unit, with the City of Shawnee Police Department said, "We value our continued partnership with Great Plains SPCA. These masks will be shared with those in the community who need them, including our officers' families. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and talents to make these fantastic masks!"

While the Sew-A-Thon has ended, GPSPCA will continue to accept masks by appointment drop-off. Those interested in donating should email [volunteer@greatplainsspca.org](mailto:volunteer@greatplainsspca.org).

**About Great Plains SPCA**

Great Plains SPCA is a no-kill animal shelter in Merriam, Kansas serving 6,000 community pets annually. Great Plains SPCA works to save, protect and improve the lives of animals, while strengthening the relationship between pets and their human companions by providing humane sheltering, adoptions, community outreach and behavior and training. Great Plains SPCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information, please visit [greatplainsspca.org](http://greatplainsspca.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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