

# News Release



**Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Contact:** Faylin Mutch  
Senior Administrator  
[fmutch@summitoh.net](mailto:fmutch@summitoh.net)  
330-643-2660

## **Summit County Executive's Office Awards Grants to Victim Assistance Program and Humane Society of Summit County**

Earlier this year, the Summit County Executive's office awarded grants totaling \$50,000 to both Victim Assistance Program of Summit County and the Humane Society of Summit County. Each organization received \$25,000 in funding. The Humane Society will use the grant money to fund a humane officer position, and Victim Assistance Program will use the funding for operating expenses.

"Summit County's Victim Assistance Program and the Humane Society are both fantastic organizations that strengthen our community and provide needed services," said County Executive Shapiro. "The grants will assist these entities with operating expenses and staffing, which results in providing valuable resources for the citizens of Summit County."

The Victim Assistance Program of Summit County works to help individuals who are affected by various crises including but not limited to domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, suicide, assault, burglary, and homicide. The organization provides programs such as crisis intervention, court advocacy to assist victims throughout the court process, a 24-hour crisis hotline, and community outreach initiatives.

"To live and work in a County that truly cares about the emotional, physical, and financial impact one has after enduring a victimization or trauma is not common," said Victim Assistance

Program Executive Director Leanne Graham. “Without the financial support from our County, we would not be able to annually provide over 6,000 Summit County residents and employees with the superior services the community will continue to receive from our dedicated staff and volunteers.”

The Humane Society of Summit County provides humane law enforcement, animal adoptions, and care for abandoned and abused animals while also engaging in community outreach and educational programs. “The financial support from partners like Summit County is extremely important in ensuring facilities and staff are well equipped to protect and shelter animals throughout the county that need our help,” said Humane Society of Summit County President & CEO Diane Johnson. “Securing forever homes for our animals, providing humane law enforcement, and continuing to provide educational opportunities within the Summit community are all made possible through partnerships.”

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