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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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City to Host Shelter Renovation Groundbreaking This Friday

Waco, Texas (November 4, 2015) – The City of Waco will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the Animal Shelter Renovation on Friday, November 6th at 10 a.m. at 2032 Circle Rd.

The Project: The Waco Animal Shelter is a regional shelter to many central Texas cities and McLennan County. A campaign was launched to raise funds for the renovation of the shelter that is over 50 years old. In working with our shelter partner cities, our fundraising committee members, McLennan County and numerous generous donors and foundations, the goal amount to build this wonderful project has almost been met. Although the price has increased as the community's expectations and participation has grown, fundraising efforts have exceeded expectations.

In addition to renovation fundraising, partner cities within McLennan County and the County Commissioners Court have come together to adopt policies that are consistent in their efforts to incentivize responsible pet ownership. Each city has programs to encourage spay/neuter and micro-chipping of pets, which includes free rides home for compliant animals. In addition, the continued work of the Animal Birth Control Clinic has led the way to a much better animal welfare future.

Because of these programs and the great work being done at the shelter with the Humane Society of Central Texas working hard at adoptions and our Shelter staff with Dr. Epps and Shelter Supervisor, Luis Leyva working hard on the health of the animals, the shelter had a record 91% live exit rate last month. The community should be very proud of how far we've come.

Construction Begins: The Waco City Council awarded the base construction contract at the November 3rd meeting. This is a very complex project involving the temporary placement of animals on-site – a critical part of the renovation, due to the necessary demolition of the old kennels to make way for the new kennel construction.

The shelter will be in full operation during construction, which is set to begin on November 9th. Adoptions and fostering will be more important than ever as we are committed to maintaining our live exit rate during construction. Although it will be a strain on our Shelter staff, it will be worthwhile in consideration of the new facility we will have when complete.

Again, when we break ground, adoptions will be more important than ever as we transition to temporary kennels. We encourage residents to open their hearts and homes to foster or adopt pets in need. To learn about the process and meet the cute residents who need homes, visit online at humanesocietycentraltexas.org.