

The Triangle Tribune

The Voice of the Black Community

Grant Expands Youth Programs In Chapel Hill

Published Sunday, January 26, 2025

By: Staff Reports



CHAPEL HILL – Beautiful Together Animal Sanctuary received a \$15,000 grant from The Human-Animal Alliance to expand its empathy-based youth programs in 2025. This grant will enable Beautiful Together to build upon its successful programming and broaden its reach, providing more children with opportunities to engage in educational and creative activities while forming meaningful connections with rescued animals and exploring the beauty of nature.

Beautiful Together Animal Sanctuary is growing its sanctuary offerings across plentiful acreage of lush farmland and forest in Chapel Hill. It is dedicated to rescuing animals in need and creating healing connections between children living in underresourced communities and animals in need of refuge.

Youth programs include academic enrichment and nature-based activities, creative endeavors, literacy programs, and engaging in hands-on experiences to care for rescued animals. These interactions help children develop empathy, emotional resilience, and communication skills while fostering a deeper sense of responsibility and a joy of learning.

The Human-Animal Alliance is a leading advocate for the power and value of human-animal connection. The organization supports programs nationwide that enable people to experience life-changing relationships with animals. “We believe in the incredible ability of animals to bring healing, comfort, joy, and positive change to humans of all ages and life circumstances,” said Jackie Ducci, founder of The Human-Animal Alliance. “Beautiful Together’s work aligns perfectly with our values, and we are honored to support them in bringing animals into the lives of children.” “We are incredibly grateful to The Human-Animal Alliance for passionately advocating for the power of the human-animal connection and

helping us to expand our efforts," said Tamara Lackey, co-founder and executive director of Beautiful Together. "This grant is not just an investment in our programs but in the well-being of many more children and homeless pets, who will benefit from our youth programs."

The new 6,700 indoor/outdoor Welcome & Pet Adoption Center at Beautiful Together Animal Sanctuary - set to open early this year - represents more than just bricks and mortar. It symbolizes growth, accessibility, and a welcoming environment where children can experience the healing power of animals, build meaningful connections, and develop lasting life skills that inspire compassion and confidence. Since its inception, Beautiful Together has offered all its youth programs as outdoor-only experiences, so this new indoor space marks an exciting milestone for expanded programming opportunities.