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****For Immediate Release**

(Cutline: The Jordan Ashley Gutheim Foundation Fund donation of \$8,200 to benefit the Senior to Senior Foster Program, was presented to GCHS Foster Coordinator Alyssa Dudley, by Jordan's parents, Lorraine and Greg Gutheim.

Gutheim donation gives big boost to GCHS' Senior to Senior Program

The Gulf Coast Humane Society, located at 2010 Arcadia Street in Fort Myers, launched a 2017 campaign to promote its Senior to Senior Foster Program and the number of fosters have been solid throughout the year.

But thanks to a generous donation, the Senior to Senior program received a tremendous boost in which will guarantee the fostering program will continue to grow in the coming years.

The Jordan Ashley Gutheim Foundation Fund, a fund of the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, donated \$8,200 to the Senior to Senior Foster Program May 9. The check was presented to GCHS Foster Coordinator Alyssa Dudley by Lorraine and Greg Gutheim on May 9, at the GCHS Adoptions Center.

Their daughter, Jordan Gutheim, was tragically killed in a car accident on May 12, 2016. She was a 20-year-old graduate of Evangelical Christian School and a junior at Florida State University at the time of her death.

"Jordan took pride in her family and friendships, and valued loyalty and kindness," Greg Gutheim said. "We miss her every day, but through this fund, our wonderfully kind and caring daughter will live on and continue to help others."

Jordan's passion for the safety of animals and the care for senior citizens, was a perfect match to help the Senior to Senior Foster Program, Greg Gutheim added.

"This donation will ensure that the Senior to Senior Program will remain a viable option for our senior fosters," said GCHS Executive Director Jennifer Galloway. "The program is so beneficial for our animals and our foster parents. We can't thank the Gutheims enough and will make sure the program remains strong in Jordan's memory."

The Senior to Senior Foster Program matches senior pets, either cat or dog aged eight years-old or older, with senior citizens of 55-plus years old. GCHS supplies everything needed during the foster, including food, medicine, bed, blankets and toys.

"The only thing the foster has to give is their home, love and care of the animal," Galloway said. "It's such a positive two-way street. This program helps both our senior pets and the foster."

The Senior to Senior program offers many benefits for the animals as well as for the humans. Pets have therapeutic qualities and are proven to improve mood as well as reduce stress levels. A shelter

setting can be stressful for seniors, especially ones who were raised in a home environment. Fostering can help reduce the stress these pets feel as well as improve their temperament.

Senior pets are often overlooked because people looking to adopt tend to think of a younger pet. However, senior pets are a great fit because they usually have good manners and they still have so much love to give. Older pets are great companions for senior citizens because they can fit into your daily routine easily. These pets are usually content with a more relaxed lifestyle and may not be as active or demanding as a younger pet.

The Gutheim donation ensures the program will be viable for years to come. Currently, there are over 100 animals of all ages being fostered through GCHS, which is beneficial because it opens up that much more space for other homeless pets.

To read more about the Senior to Senior program, go to <http://www.gulfcoasthumanesociety.org/senior-to-senior-fostering-program.html> or call 239-332-0364.

For more information about The Jordan Ashley Gutheim Foundation Fund, visit www.JordanGutheim.org or call 239-274-5900.

About Gulf Coast Humane Society:

Gulf Coast Humane Society is a regional organization dedicated to helping companion pets find their forever homes, no matter how long it takes. GCHS provides an adoption center, spay-neuter and veterinary clinic, as well as education and awareness to the public about the welfare of homeless pets.

GCHS has a full-time Spay-Neuter Clinic located at its campus, as well as a full-service Veterinary Clinic, located at 2685 Swamp Cabbage Court in Fort Myers.

GCHS' mission is to care for companion pets in need by offering safe refuge, providing medical care and facilitating adoptions. GCHS promotes the concept the "Adopt, Don't Shop" and help educate the community about proper and responsible animal care, while providing quality, affordable veterinary care.

GCHS Veterinary Clinic: 2685 Swamp Cabbage Court, Fort Myers, 33901; Phone: 239-332-2719

GCHS Spay/Neuter Clinic: 2010 Arcadia Street, Fort Myers, 33916; Phone: 239-332-1573

GCHS Adoption Center: 2010 Arcadia Street, Fort Myers, 33916; Phone: 239-332-0364