



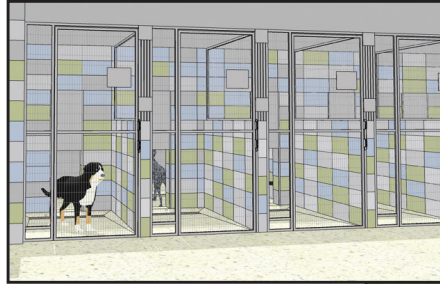
TEMPORARY FIXES NOW, PERMANENT SOLUTIONS IN THE FUTURE

FOR DOGS LIKE ROCKY, staying cool affects more than just comfort, it impacts their ability to breathe. That's because some dogs do not tolerate the heat well due to the shape of their skull and snout or their advanced age.

Many of the dogs who come to our shelter are also heartworm positive. At SPCA Tampa Bay, we give an infected dog an initial heartworm treatment and provide adopters with follow-up antibiotics. We provide pain medication and limit a dog's activity, so they only take short, slow walks while they are undergoing treatment. In Florida, they also benefit from a climate-controlled space to rest while their body heals.

Our facility limits the appropriate housing we can provide for these dogs based on availability of just a handful of climate-controlled kennels we have currently.

With the Florida summer months upon us and the aging state of our canine kennels, we've been forced to put some temporary solutions in place as we work toward our vision for a BETTER WAY HOME. Our Facilities team has moved a portable air conditioning unit into one of our dog housing areas as a test. The difference it makes is subtle and it comes at a sacrifice – the unit takes up a whole kennel, which means one dog fewer can be housed in that area.



In addition to the limited number of air-conditioned kennels, we have also been forced to temporarily shut down other kennels while we make repairs. Failing cement block walls reveal their rebar insides, so our facilities team has lined about two dozen kennels with FRP (fiberglass reinforced panels) to cover failing block walls and added steel endcaps. It's an ongoing project as we fight the extreme age of our facility.

But these are not permanent solutions – they're stopgap measures to retrofit an aging facility that desperately needs to be replaced. The majority of our current canine kennels are split – half of each kennel is indoors and half is outdoors, exposed to the extreme summer temperatures we'll see for the next few months. All we can do in those spaces is keep the air moving, but that's counter-productive when dealing with airborne viruses like kennel cough.

For now, we'll continue to keep dogs like Rocky as comfortable as we can. **Our new shelter will allow us to control the temperature in all of our canine kennels and dramatically cut down on the spread of airborne illness with high-quality air purification systems.**



SHARING OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

TALENTED ARTIST and friend of SPCA Tampa Bay, ELLEN BLAKELY developed her compassion for animals in need at a young age. Ellen's dad brought home stray dogs when she was just a child. She first visited SPCA Tampa Bay's Largo shelter back in the 70s. She's quick to tell you the facility hasn't changed much since then. With an eye to the future and a BETTER WAY HOME for the animals, Ellen is now proud to serve as a capital campaign advisor.

But that's not all – Ellen and her furry, four-legged pal Sophie joined the team of SPCA Tampa Bay Ambassadors in 2022, helping the organization share its mission with other animal lovers. Ellen has even graciously begun hosting an event called Palm Trees and Paws benefiting SPCA Tampa Bay at her home each spring.

Please consider joining Ellen and Sophie in their support of SPCA Tampa Bay's vision for the future. One-time gifts or multi-year pledges are welcome. Donor recognition opportunities are available for partners on our BETTER WAY HOME campaign.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please visit spcatampabay.org/betterwayhome

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spcatampabay.org**A CREATIVE COMMITMENT TO A BETTER WAY HOME**

Armed with an intelligent, thoughtful design from the BACON GROUP to build a BETTER WAY HOME, SPCA Tampa Bay reached out to several local contractors to find the right fit for this important build. We are thrilled that CREATIVE CONTRACTORS has signed on to build our new animal shelter – one that proudly represents this community's deep love for animals.

Based in Clearwater, Creative Contractors has built their reputation on quality workmanship and creative solutions for construction of all kinds – for over four decades. They are one of the largest contractors in our community, building for Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Ruth Eckerd Hall, and St. Petersburg College, just to name a few.

The company began in 1974 when Alan Bomstein started it with a goal of tapping into the boom of enclosed shopping malls going up all over Florida. He called his company Store Builders, Inc. Bomstein constructed more than 100 stores in six regional malls. Then one of his mall clients asked him to build a freestanding bank building, and thus began the move into freestanding construction.

In 1978, Bomstein changed the name of the company to Creative Contractors, a nod to the reputation he garnered by following his passion for innovative and unique solutions. Alan found partners and employees that shared his passion, and together they grew a company respected for its integrity and passion for excellence.

Led by the uncompromising standards of founder Alan C. Bomstein, this team of experienced craftsmen has nurtured their long-standing relationships in the community and have deep knowledge of the Florida construction market. Focused on the healthcare, education, municipal, and commercial building sectors, Creative Contractors' volume averages over \$125 million annually.

As our For-All model extends to all facets of our organization, SPCA Tampa Bay is pleased that Creative Contractors understands the significant role they play as a major employer in our community. Joshua Bomstein, president, says they work to ensure that their projects provide opportunities for employment to local community residents, minorities, and women.

"We host preconstruction outreach workshops as we begin a new project," Josh said. "We bring together local vendors, subcontractors, and community organizations, so we have a diverse base of subcontractors and suppliers on all of our projects."

LEADER WITH A VISION — SPCA Tampa Bay welcomes DARDEN RICE as Sr. Campaigns Director to lead its BETTER WAY HOME capital campaign.

No stranger to working on big dreams for our community, Darden's entire career has been dedicated to leading local, state, and national projects that create measurable and meaningful change in the health and preservation of communities, natural resources, and basic human rights.

A collaborative and focused leader, Darden has more than 15 years of experience in directing communications, projects, and issue-based advocacy campaigns for the public interest.

Among the initiatives she's spearheaded: promoting access to affordable healthcare, protecting clean water, and promoting clean energy. A longtime St. Pete resident, Darden recently completed two terms as a Councilmember for the City of St. Petersburg, with oversight of parks, public works, police, firefighters, housing, transportation, sustainability, and economic development.

Darden is a history buff who enjoys kayaking, hiking, and gardening. When she's not rehabbing her rustic cabin on the Withlacoochee River, she relaxes at home in St. Pete's Old Southeast neighborhood with her adopted fur family: Teddy, an affable, bearded, two-year-old, 60-pound terrier mix who's working on his indoor voice, and a pair of six-year-old sibling kitties: Pete the orange-boy hunk, hunk of burning love, and Gracie the queen calico who is seen from time to time while running her monarchy.

