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Aid for cats and dogs

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The Free Press

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— The folks behind the fundraising of the Riverside Regional Pet Shelter are doing pretty good these days, having almost hit the \$800,000.

And that doesn't even count in kind donations, such as doors or tile floors and things to be donated and installed when the shelter is under construction.

Still, it's important for the public to remember that "getting there" and "there" are two very different things. According to Susan Kroon, president of the board of directors for the Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society, they're just past the halfway point to their goal.

"We can't build for eight," she said. "We can't do it for less (than our goal). But we are building."

Within two weeks, people will start to see foundation work done on the Riverside shelter's lot at 1250 N. River Drive, near the Harley Davidson store off Hwy. 169 — a sign that much improved accommodations are on the way for the kitties and doggies at the rundown, tiny shelter on Madison Avenue. The construction is beginning with the good faith that the rest of the money will be raised in time.

But they still need help getting there.

That's where the Cats & Dogs Alley Party comes in. A day of entertainment has been planned Saturday, June 13, behind the Wine Cafe to help raise \$10,000 or more for the shelter.

The idea started with Paul Durenberger and Mike Baumann, owner of the Wine Cafe. They talked about doing a CD and video release party of bands that frequent the Wine Cafe. They built on the idea, deciding it should benefit a good cause. Durenberger is a huge advocate for the humane society, so they combined the two ideas and Cats & Dogs was born, said Tara Snilsberg, volunteer and co-chair of the event.

A number of bands have been lined up, including Sister Gin, Joe Morales & Beg For Justice, Organic Cowboys, Jade Murphy and the Paul Durenberger Band. There will be food, beer and wine, rootbeer floats, kids' activities, a Children's Museum traveling exhibit, a silent auction and a raffle.

The group is also printing 16-ounce novelty cups with the event logo, which people can purchase for \$1 and bring home. The cups also help to cut down on waste and cleanup.

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Photos



Sister Gin will perform at the Cats & Dogs Alley Party. Jenn Melby, (above) of Sister Gin, owns the Coffee Hag.