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Nittany MinitMart Raises Over \$18,000 for Local Animal Shelters  
Through Round-Up at Checkout Program

In November, Nittany MinitMart, a convenience store chain with locations throughout Central and Northcentral PA, raised over \$18,000 for area animal shelters with the help of its customers.

The cause proved to be popular with customers. By rounding up to the nearest dollar at checkout, thousands of shoppers came together to support animal shelters in their community, and their small contributions made a big impact. "It was amazing to see how passionate our customers and employees are about this cause," Director of Operations Nickie Masullo says. "Our Galeton store raised over \$2,100 just in that location. Our managers and staff were competing to see which location could raise the most money."

The \$18,200.98 raised will be distributed to shelters near each of the 28 Nittany MinitMart locations, ensuring that the impact is felt across the chain's operating area. The funds will help support ongoing efforts to provide care, shelter, and medical attention to animals in need.

While celebrating the success of the fundraiser, Masullo takes the opportunity to encourage people to continue supporting animals in need all year long by volunteering at their local shelters or considering adopting a pet. With an overwhelming number of owner-surrendered animals putting stress on shelter employees and funding, she also emphasizes the importance of responsible pet ownership. "Adopting a pet is a lifelong commitment," says Masullo, who owns one dog and one cat herself. "I really encourage everyone to consider whether a pet is right for them. And if it is, consider adopting a pet from your local shelter."

Nittany MinitMart, a family-owned company based out of State College, has many plans to continue fostering positive change through initiatives that resonate with the values of its employees and customers alike. Masullo and her team are currently planning for Nittany MinitMart's Annual Fireman's Fundraiser. Last year's "Fuel the Cause" initiative raised almost \$150,000 for area volunteer fire companies, and Masullo hopes to beat that number this Spring.

"Giving back is very important to us," Masullo says. "We aim to be a constructive contributor to all the communities in which we serve. Whether that's by helping animals in need, helping firefighters do their jobs, or just trying to brighten people's days every time they come into our stores."

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Photo Attached: Nittany MinitMart employees present the money raised by their animal shelter fundraiser to the Clearfield County SPCA, one of several area shelters that benefited from the campaign.

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