

Mohawk School students create 100 blankets for homeless pets

- By Nicole Tuttle For MediaNews Group

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Mohawk Elementary School students in the school's School Aged Child Care program made 100 fleece blankets from October through November for donation to the canine rescue organization Home FurEver.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MOHAWK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Mohawk Elementary School's School Aged Child Care recently created fleece blankets for dogs in the Home FurEver rescue organization. Pictured are Mohawk students George Moldovan, Zachary Blazejewski and Thomas Miller participating in the School Aged Child Care program.



Mohawk Elementary School's School Aged Child Care provided 100 fleece blankets to pets in the Home FurEver rescue organization. Pictured is a Home FurEver pet with one of the donated blankets.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LYNN DAWSON

One hundred pets fostered through Home FurEver canine rescue can count on the comfort of a familiar blanket as they search for permanent homes thanks to the efforts of some Macomb Township elementary students.

Like all the grade schools in the Chippewa Valley Schools district, Mohawk Elementary offers a School Aged Child Care (SACC) program at its Macomb Township school on Romeo Plank Road, south of 22 Mile Road. The program is held weekday mornings starting at 6:30 a.m. and after school until 6 p.m.

“Our goal is just to make that connection between home and school,” Mohawk Principal Andrea McVicar-Lopez said.

The program is an informal one, allowing students to do homework or other activities under SACC Director Rita Watts and aids. In general, between 50 and 60 students in Kindergarten to fifth grade participate in the program at Mohawk.

Watts has also made it a goal to encourage students to find ways to help others. With this in mind, McVicar-Lopez and Watts discussed developing a project to assist homeless pets, settling on the idea of having the SACC students make fleece-tie blankets.

“Mrs. Watts and I kind of got together and thought about making the blankets. She did something similar last year in SACC, collecting school supplies,” McVicar-Lopez said.

The school purchased some fleece to begin the blankets project, but quickly found themselves inundated with fleece donations from parents.

SACC students began the project in October and completed 100 blankets through November in the ongoing project. No pre-cut blanket kits were used. Instead, Watts cut the fabric into half yards and full yards herself.

“They made big and small blankets. She put tape around them so the kids would know where to cut and to stop. They cut it themselves, she would just mark it with masking tape,” McVicar-Lopez said.

While McVicar-Lopez and Watts were deciding on which animal rescue organization to donate the finished blanket projects to, an e-mail was received from neighboring Iroquois Middle School counselor Lynn Dawson that provided the perfect match. Dawson has been fostering dogs through Home FurEver for about four months. She wrote in the e-mail that she was seeking supplies for some of her fosters, including blankets as every pet that is fostered through the organization gets their own. Soon it was arranged that all the pet blankets created at Mohawk would be donated to Home FurEver.

McVicar-Lopez said that starting in January, Mohawk’s SACC program will partner with the school student council to develop a year-long pet drive to assist Home FurEver. Mohawk students and families will be asked to collect items such as harnesses, food and water dishes, grooming supplies, specified dog food brands and more.

Home FurEver is a non-profit, no-kill and foster based canine rescue that assists all dog breeds. It was begun in 2003 and has since rescued, rehabilitated and rehomed over 7,000 dogs and puppies. The majority of the organization's pets are strays found in Detroit. For more information visit homeforever.com.