

Cheyenne school students participate in Mutt March



Xanee, the six-year-old English Bulldog of Cheyenne Elementary School teacher Nicole Simons, was a participant in the Michigan Humane Society's Mutt March on June 5.

By Nicole Tuttle , For The Macomb Daily 06/15/16



A collection box for the Michigan Humane Society from Cheyenne Elementary School second graders in Nicole Simons' class. Students collected \$625, and some chose to participate in the Mutt March on June 5.

Just as change marched its way out of Cheyenne Elementary School students' pockets and into a jar in teacher Nicole Simons' classroom this school year, students from the Macomb Township school marched in the Michigan Humane Society's Mutt March June 5.

The end result was about \$625 contributed by Cheyenne students to the Humane Society.

"I am so proud of the kids and the amount of money collected this year," Simons said. "Much of the coins are from their own allowance or money earned from doing things at home specifically for the animals, some money is what we find on the floor at school or extra lunch money, several families and grandparents donated, along with four Cheyenne teachers who donated to our collection."

Simons' classroom of 26 second graders collected spare change throughout the school year for donation to the Michigan Humane Society. The money was donated at the Michigan Humane Society's Mutt March on June 5, an event held just 11 days before Wednesday's end of the school year in Chippewa Valley.

The Mutt March has been a fundraiser to support the Michigan Humane Society since 1989, according to the walk's website.

The 2016 march was held from 8 a.m. to noon at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores.

Ryan McTigue, the public relations coordinator for the Michigan Humane Society, said the regional event had 1,200 participants and raised a record amount of \$131,716.

Six students from Simons' class, several siblings, one of Simons' former students and Simons' daughter, who is a third grader at Cheyenne, participated in the event.

Cheyenne parents brought their own children and dogs to participate in the Mutt March. Simons brought her own two dogs as well.

“The walk was about three miles and everyone completed, some families even went further on to explore the island near it. However, due to the weather many families left right after we finished,” Simons said.

Simons said that her classes have supported the Michigan Humane Society for the past two years.