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TARRANT COUNTY SLANT 45 TEAM ENCOURAGES ANIMAL AWARENESS

Giving Back Team looks to help neglected and homeless animals for their SLANT 45 project

NORTH TEXAS (July 10, 2010) – Giving Back Team, a group of kids living at Presbyterian Night Shelter, renovated Fort Woof Dog Park in Fort Worth on Saturday, July 10 for their SLANT 45 project. The 12-member team organized a campaign to raise awareness about neglected and homeless animals. The group encouraged the public to be involved with the service-learning project by donating pet food or helping to beautify the “the best dog park in North Texas.”

The Giving Back Team (GBT) is made up of 12 kids ranging from 2nd-8th grade who are currently living at Presbyterian Night Shelter, a homeless shelter, in Fort Worth. The group wanted to focus their SLANT 45 project on helping animals and the environment.

Homeward Bound, and other animal rescue organizations, were selected to benefit from the project. These groups, which setup on-site adoption centers in conjunction with the project, received the pet food donations collected. GBT also worked with the groups to distribute information about neglected and homeless animals in the area.

“I wanted to work with the kids at the shelter for several reasons – primarily because I thought it was important to take the emphasis off their dire situation and prove to them they can still give back within their community,” said Drew Myers, who is team’s Coach and on the Board of the Presbyterian Night Shelter. “I’ve been so impressed by everyone on our team – these kids have stepped up to the plate and embraced this project. They all have huge hearts and the desire to give back. It was incredible to discover what they care about and what tugs at their heart strings.”

The Team also has several important supporters that help drive their SLANT 45 project, including the Fort Worth Zoo Wild Wonders Program who will provide a presentation to the kids Saturday afternoon, The Gary Patterson Foundation for underwriting much of Saturday’s event, Fuddruckers for providing lunch for the kids and volunteers, The T for providing transportation to and from the Shelter and Dog Park, City of Fort Worth – Parks and Recreation Department, Canine Advanced Training Services, and the Fort Woof Dog Park. Living Earth and The Greenery also donated decomposed granite for the team’s beautification efforts.

“The generosity from our supporters was overwhelming,” added Myers, who also introduced the program to the Giving Back Team. “So many people help make this a beneficial and memorable experience for an amazing group of kids.”

To register online or for more about SLANT 45, please visit www.slant45.org

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