



Taryn Babcock 11, makes friends with a puppy as fifth graders from Joan Martin Elementary School dropped off donations and presented a check to the Humane Society of Hobart on Monday. JOHN SMIERCIAK/POST-TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Brickie Leaders assist shelter with donations

By Carole Carlson
For Post-Tribune

The visit proved a bit precarious for some parents, but it warmed the cages and filled food bowls for pets housed at the Humane Society of Hobart.

Students at Hobart's Joan Martin and Liberty elementaries worked hard in November and December to raise money and needed supplies for the shelter on Indiana 130 on the city's east side. Hobart VFW Post 5365 was also drafted to assist in the project.

On Monday, the students from a group called Brickie Leaders at Joan Martin, brought trunks full of pet food, blankets, treats, towels

and laundry detergent to the shelter.

They also got a tour of the shelter's dogs and cats.

"I want both!" said Jonathan Harness, 10, to his mother, Sarah Harness, who grimaced. "I want a puppy and I saw a cat!" Jonathan said.

His mom said she was under orders to only bring Jonathan home from the shelter. She expected his lobbying to continue, though.

The shelter drive was the first one for the schools, said Joan Martin third grade teacher Rachel Sieffert, who sponsored the

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A kitten tries to make friends at the Humane Society of Hobart on Monday.

Puppies look out of their cage at Hobart on Monday.
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effort along with fifth grade teacher Heather Paulson.

VFW Post 5365 made an early donation to kick off the drive. Jacob Paulson, Heather's husband, is commander at the Post. He assisted with the donation drop-off Monday, as well.

Shelter administrative assistant Nicole Artka gave the tour, including rooms of smaller dogs and puppies, cats and another area of larger dogs. The kids saw some cats held in an isolation room, as well.

Fifth-grader Ava Richter fell in love with a small black puppy, but she has an uphill battle.

"I really love pets and I think it's really important that they get all the things they need," she said.

Ava reasoned owning a pet would teach her responsibility.

"Not yet," said Kelly Richter, who applauded the effort of the children.

"I'm real proud of her," she said.

Carrie Damron's daughter, Elizabeth, another fifth grader, lobbied for a pet.

"We already have a cat; I don't know that we're in the market," Damron said. "She's been campaigning, though."

The no-kill shelter also maintains a pet pantry, stocked with food and supplies, for needy families in Hobart, Lake Station and New Chicago.

On Monday, the shelter is honoring the late Betty White, an animal activist and actress, by marking her 100th birthday. Supporters can make donations at the shelter from noon to 4 p.m. There will be door prizes, refreshments and adoptable pets.

Carole Carlson is a freelance reporter for the Post-Tribune.