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## GCHS' animals benefit from Eagle Scout project

By BRIAN WIERIMA

GCHS Community Relations

Fort Myers High School junior Grayson Graham wanted to do something a little different for his Boy Scout Eagle Troop 193 project and fortunately for the shelter animals at Gulf Coast Humane Society, he chose them.

Graham chose GCHS because he “has an interest in dogs and cats” after being a regular pet-sitter for his neighbors, as well as loving his own cat (Kittie) and Golden Retriever (Bella).

“I figured making some shelves for the cats at GCHS would be a perfect project,” Graham said.

With the help of neighbor, Tim Squires, the duo measured the windows and walls for the shelves and were able to “knock the project out in one day.”

The shelves are stained and varnished and are used regularly by the cats in the GCHS Cat Cabana, an open room for the felines to roam in freely. The shelves are used as resting areas, as well as jumping platforms.

But that wasn't all in which Graham was going to help out the GCHS' animals.

He started an online food drive for the cats and dogs, emailing friends and family.

“At first, my goal was to collect 500 pounds of food, but it took off and I ended up bringing 1,608 pounds of food,” Graham said.

Donators easily could purchase the Science Diet food from Pet Smart, where Graham made trips to collect. He also collected toys and treats, as well.

He also was able to collect \$650 in cash donations, as well, which he brought the check to GCHS Dec. 6.

“It feels good to be able to help the animals,” Graham said.

Graham has been active in scouting since first grade as a Tiger Cub. His father, Greg Graham, is the Scout Executive CEO for the Southwest Florida Boy Scouts of America.

With his Boy Scout Eagle Project a great success, Graham will still be involved at GCHS as a volunteer.

*Gulf Coast Humane Society is a regional organization dedicated to helping companion pets find their forever homes, no matter how long it takes. GCHS provides an adoption center, spay-neuter and veterinary clinic, as well as education and awareness to the public about the welfare of homeless pets.*

*GCHS' mission is to care for companion pets in need by offering safe refuge, providing medical care and facilitating adoptions. GCHS promotes the concept the “Adopt, Don't Shop” and help educate the community about proper and responsible animal care, while providing quality, affordable veterinary care.*

GCHS Veterinary Clinic: 2685 Swamp Cabbage Court, Fort Myers, 33901; Phone: 239-332-2719

GCHS Spay/Neuter Clinic: 2010 Arcadia Street, Fort Myers, 33916; Phone: 239-332-1573

GCHS Adoption Center: 2010 Arcadia Street, Fort Myers, 33916; Phone: 239-332-0364





