

## Students volunteer, walk dogs at Humane Society animal shelter

Written by Darci Tomky

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After collecting over 1,000 pounds of pennies and researching non-profit organizations, Holyoke students recently got to see the outcome of their efforts. Penny Harvest Roundtable participants for the 2008-2009 harvest season went to the Colorado Humane Society Shelter in Englewood Friday, Oct. 23 to complete the service project they started last year.

Holyoke Community Helpers, last year's elementary roundtable, donated \$500 to the animal shelter for supplies for homeless pets. In addition to the grant money, the students decided to implement a service project as well. During an interview the students gave shelter employees, they learned about the need for not only money but volunteers as well.

Penny Harvest is a non-profit organization that teaches students about service-learning—using their skills while helping others, not only monetarily, but with service.

The roundtable is the decision making body that is put together through application by the students and recommendations by teachers. The elementary students researched what issues their peers cared about and then researched non-profit organizations that fill these needs. The roundtable met once a week for 45 minutes from January through the beginning of May.

Time restraints at the end of the school year prevented students from going last May, so the roundtable students and this year's student leadership class dedicated a day to volunteer at the shelter this fall.

Students were able to help out at the shelter by doing things like walking the dogs.

Roundtable members that attended include Victoria Hatton, Alex Vieselmeyer, Taylor Mayden, Morgan Philips, Lori McWilliams, Kelyn Goldenstein, Zachary Churchwell, Edgar Cruz, Wyatt McCallum and Tyler Lamm.

Student leadership class members who volunteered are Francisco Diaz, Alex Quintana, Christina Banaka, Teanna Amaral, Briar Bergner and Laura Gerke.

Austin Killin from the HHS TV productions class also captured the event for a video that will be

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shown to all students at the Penny Harvest celebration in December.

Sponsor Tracy Trumper and her two daughters Taeryn and Taylor volunteered at the animal shelter to represent the younger elementary grades, helping them to see they can contribute too. Other sponsors were Michelle Gregg and Rebecca Helm.

The 2009-2010 Penny Harvest has already begun with a new goal of raising \$1,800 worth of pennies—\$100 more than last year's goal—so start saving your pennies!

For more information about volunteering or donating to the Colorado Humane Society's animal shelter in Englewood, call 303-781-9344.