

Test students build doghouses to keep pets off chains

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Michael Turner works on a doghouse for Unchain Dogs Wayne County during a class at Test Intermediate School. / Photo supplied

Helping Dogs

- To learn more about Unchain Dogs Wayne County, or receive assistance from the organization, visit its Facebook page or email unchaindogswaynecounty@gmail.com.
- Local dog ordinances are posted on Unchain Dogs Wayne County's Facebook page.
- The organization encourages people who see dogs continuously chained outdoors to contact animal control in Richmond at (765) 983-7247 and outside the city at (765) 973-9355.

Several dogs are receiving the gift of a new house thanks to Santa's elves at Test Intermediate School.

About 50 students in three classes taught by Tina Michaels and John Kalugyer used their math, measurement, technology and construction skills to build five doghouses for Unchain Dogs Wayne County.

Unchain Dogs Wayne County works with dog owners to build or repair fences or to provide housing for dogs who have been on chains.

The construction materials for the doghouses were paid for with a \$500 grant from the Wayne County Foundation, Michaels said.

"It was a fun experience," Kalugyer said. "They (the students) wanted to build."

Eighth-grader Alex Brown, 15, said he learned how to measure, use power tools and how to put a roof on.

"The dogs need houses to keep warm and they need food and water," Brown said. "I feel proud of myself for building a house."

Seventh-grader Shannon Tanner, 13, painted one of the white doghouses with purple polka dots. Purple and white are one of Test's school colors.

Tanner said her brother likes to build things but she had never had the opportunity before.

"It felt good because I like animals. I have one dog and two fish," she said. "My dog doesn't like snow."

Keeping dogs out of the snow and other elements is part of Unchain Dogs Wayne County's mission. Founded by Dianne Hill and Anita Rose, the group tries to help owners alleviate the need to keep a dog chained.

“Continuous chaining can cause dogs to be aggressive and bite more frequently,” Hill said. “And chaining is hard to dogs who are social animals who want to be with other dogs or people.”

Since 2012, Unchain Dogs Wayne County has worked with at least 20 clients to build or repair fences, making it possible for dogs to roam free in a yard, or by providing free kennels to house dogs.

Unchain Dogs member Diane Norton said the group provided a doghouse for a pet in Williamsburg recently.

“That dog could not wait to get into that doghouse,” Norton said.

And when dogs have area in which to roam, “it just warms your heart to see those dogs just run,” Norton said.