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Bennett College Seniors Pay It Forward at Animal Shelter

GREENSBORO, NC--The seniors from the Journalism and Media Studies Department at Bennett College paid The Guilford County Animal Shelter an unexpected surprise on Tuesday, October 18. The seniors along with 20 other students volunteered at the animal shelter — washing, walking and taking care of the pets. They brought with them treats for the animals and a check for the shelter.

It took journalism students only three days to raise more than \$600 to donate to the shelter.

“Initially our goal was to raise \$500, but there was an overwhelming amount of support from the student body, the college’s alumnae, our relatives, alumni from North Carolina A&T, and even relatives of Bennett’s alumnae,” says senior Chelsea Moore, who coordinated the effort.

They created the fundraiser through a gofundme account called “BELLES and Whistles.”

“Students found out about the project and wanted to support in any way possible,” said Moore. “So far we have collected roughly 60 bags of pet treats and we are still accepting more.”

More than 60 young women signed up the first day the project was announced on the campus.

“At first the project was only for us seniors in the journalism department, but we wanted our sister’s to be able to participate in a fun event like this,” said senior Deidra Burton. “Everyone should have an opportunity to volunteer at Bennett.”

Bennett College requires each of its students to do at least 80 hours of community service as a condition of their graduation. In addition, each year the journalism department requires seniors to do a community service event for their senior project. Normally the project is done individually, but this year the seniors wanted to collaborate to make a bigger impact in the Greensboro community before they leave in the spring.

“It’s important that we’re volunteering....” said senior Rodrianna Harris. “It not only gives us the chance to give back to our community, but I also get to experience something I never had. I always wanted a dog growing up, but I had a furry friend for the day.”

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Captions: Sophomore Sophia Seabrooks, a journalism and media studies major from Laurel Maryland, pets one of the dogs at the shelter. Bennett students donated funds and volunteered as part of a community service project.