

YTI students collecting pet supplies for SPCA

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Updated: 07/22/2013 10:45:55 AM EDT

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With a new veterinary technician program and a spirited mission for giving back, YTI Career Institute of York is getting closer with furry friends that need a home.

The school's student ambassadors are collecting supplies for the York County SPCA through the month of July, with the goal of giving more than 200 items.

The roughly 60 ambassadors have high attendance and good grades, said Bambi Jordan, a medical assistant student and ambassador.

"When you're a student ambassador, you try to do things that help the community," she said.

The ambassadors' first act of service was a walk that benefited the Wounded Warrior Project in May.

With a group composed of pet fans and the start of the vet tech program, which began in February, helping the SPCA next just made sense, Jordan said.

"(We're doing this) to show that we're not just in school to learn, but we're there to help the community out in different ways," she said.

Partnership: That kind of community service is essential for organizations like the SPCA to thrive, said Melissa Smith, the organization's executive director. The center relies on donations and volunteers, she said.

"Community support in general is really vital to what we do," Smith said. "We would not survive without the support of the community."

Although YTI has been the SPCA's partner for many years, the two are closer than ever through their collaboration with the vet tech program.

The shelter provides animals that are taken to the campus. Students are allowed to perform basic procedures, such as ear cleanings, on them, Smith said.

"Because of our accelerated partnership this year, it really means that the students have thought of us, and we really appreciate their support," she said.

--Reach Mollie Durkin at mdurkin@yorkdispatch.com.

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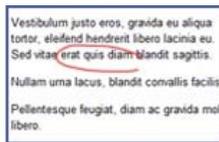
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