



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sterling AVID students donate money, food for animal shelter

The Sterling High School Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students recently conducted their annual sheltered animal food drive.

For one week, students collected dog food, cat food, collars, toys and a variety of other items needed to donate to Puppy Dogs R Us, a local animal shelter. The RSS teachers help support the cause by posing challenges to classes to gather the most goods. The donations came in by the dozens. The AVID students collected \$530 in cash and change and rounded up more than 700 pounds of dog food. Dozens of cat food cans were also collected and the grand total monetary value of the items collected surpassing \$700.

Margie Michalsky, founder of Puppy Dogs R Us was delighted by the donations. "All the items donated will be put to good use. Thank you for your efforts," she said.

This is just one of many community service projects that the RSS AVID students perform. Other projects include Adopt-A-Road, Toys For Tots drive, writing Christmas cards and letters to the military men and women overseas, and delivering goodies to and playing bingo with some residents at a local retirement community.

In addition to serving the community, the RSS AVID students offer weekly tutorials after school for Sterling students who need academic support.

"These students give and give and give selflessly. I am truly amazed by their desire to help others," said Robin Richards, AVID campus coordinator and elective teacher. "They are not only determined to do well academically, but strive to help their community any way they can."

The AVID program is designed to support students who will be the first in their family to attend college. It requires a four-year commitment and the students are required to take rigorous courses, participate in high school clubs and/or organizations, and perform community service projects.



Some of Sterling High School's Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students gather around a carload of animal shelter supplies that they collected and donated recently to Puppy Dogs R Us, a local animal shelter.

The students are provided college visits, motivational speakers, and financial workshops in addition to an intense reading and writing curriculum to assure they successfully complete college. Through this hard work, the rewards are amazing.

Last years' graduating AVID seniors collectively were offered more than \$800,000 in grant and scholarship money. This was achieved through sheer determination, Richards said.

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Physical Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
4544 Interstate 10 East
Baytown, Texas 77521
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
P.O. Box 30
Baytown, Texas 77522
281.420.4800

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