

FCCLA & CIRCLE OF FRIENDS PRESCHOOL

Teen posse helps little hands

By CELIA DEWOODY

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“A Posse of Friends Helping Little Hands” is what they’re calling it.

Harrison High School’s chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) has chosen the Circle of Friends Preschool, part of Boone County Special Services, as their club service project for the 2009-2010 school year.

The non-profit preschool works with children from newborn to five years old with special needs.

During their planning meeting early in the summer, the new FCCLA officers chose the preschool as their community project. They named the project, “A Posse of Friends Helping Little Hands,” and have planned activities all related to the cowboy theme.

Earlier this summer, the club officers toured the preschool with Marsha Horton, 3-5 early childhood coordinator, who explained the specific needs the school has and what she hoped to see the club accomplish during the school year.

The officers planned a number of projects, including decorating

bulletin boards, working at the preschool, and interacting with the young students — the “Little Hands.”

The preschool is always closed during the month of July, and this July, a group of about 10 FCCLA officers and members put in many hours helping the school staff get ready for the new school year.

The teens designed and created 18 different bulletin boards, with topics ranging from summer safety through the beginning of the new school year.

They also helped clean and remodel the school — organizing toys and materials, cleaning and updating classrooms, helping with painting, putting up new paneling, helping move shelves, power-washing and cleaning sidewalks.

On Monday, a group of officers was back at Circle of Friends organizing books that had been gathered from all the classrooms to put them in order for a small library that has been created in a passageway.

“All of our books were stored in the different classrooms, so we’ve taken most of the books out of the classrooms

and they’re going to sort them by age, then put them in alphabetical order,” Horton said.

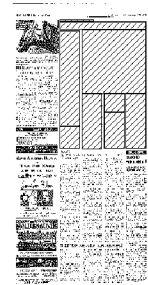
The club members have five parties planned for the school year at Circle of Friends: a Harvest Round-up, a Thanksgiving Rodeo, a Cowboy Christmas, a Sweetheart Valentine’s Day party and a Cowboy “Eggstravaganza” at Easter time.

Horton expressed her appreciation for all the hard work the teens have done, and said they have been a great help over the summer.

“It’s just enabled us to do so much more than we could’ve done in the month of July,” she said. “We took every cabinet off, and completely re-did them. Every surface has been cleaned. We took every toy out of every classroom and sorted and organized them for the teachers.”

The Circle of Friends Preschool is also currently accepting traditional daycare children, according to Horton.

“Our ratio of adults to children in the 0-3 program is 1:4, and our ratio of adults to children in the 3-5 program is 1:7,” she said.





CELIA DEWOODY/STAFF

Harrison High School Family Career and Community Leaders of America officers (from left) Lexi Shower, VP of membership; Andrea Pettit, president; and Jaclynn McGehee, VP of public relations, sort books for the new library area at the Circle of Friends Preschool Monday.