

Society hopes newspaper will teach kids kindness

BY DESSISLAVA YANKOVA
SUMNER COUNTY STAFF

A new program through the Humane Society of Sumner County aims to teach children the importance of kindness.

The society just joined an initiative that seeks to supply a monthly newspaper to K-5 classrooms nationwide, teaching youngsters humane values to make the world a better place.

"It's a big-time educational tool all over the United States, but it has to be paid for," said Sandra Cherry, HSSC volunteer vice president.

To finance the program, HSSC members are encouraging organizations and individuals to Adopt-A-Classroom for a \$30 donation, which will provide an edition of the KIND NEWS newspaper to each child in a classroom of the donor's choice.

The publication features simple information boxes accented with playful photographs and surrounded by thought-provoking games, puzzles and quizzes, all designed to teach children to respect everyone and everything around them.

The higher grades get more complex text while teachers receive a guide to navigate and help them answer questions for the nine editions, published September through May.

"What a better way to teach young people to be kind to each other, animals and the environment? We need to grasp their little minds from the beginning," Cherry said. "(This program) has never been done in Sumner County."

More than \$15,000, or 500 donations, will be needed to supply newspapers to all K-5 students in Sumner County's 24 elementary schools. So far, HSSC has received several individual contributions, and members plan to use some of the money they raise during charity events.

"We are just asking people

to help us," Cherry said. "If more people step up to the plate and help, how much of a better country would we have?"

One of the first donors, Jimmie Ballard of Hendersonville, adopted a classroom at Nannie Berry Elementary School, where her granddaughter attends.

"It's a great way to teach children at a young age how to be good stewards of what we have, and make it a better place for everybody," Ballard said.

Another Hendersonville resident, Elaine O'Day, contributed after the newspaper reminded her of a similar publication called The Weekly Reader that

TO JOIN

To learn how to help the Humane Society of Sumner County adopt more classrooms as part of the KIND NEWS initiative, visit sumnerhumane.org, e-mail SCerry911@aol.com or call 394-8903.

she received in school.

"When we saw stuff about animals, we just loved it," O'Day said.

"Children are often influenced by the environment, which is not always kind to an-



Students at Nannie Berry Elementary School in Hendersonville received KIND NEWS newspapers after donating supplies to the Humane Society of Sumner County. SUBMITTED PHOTO

imals. But if you take the extra step to teach them what's right, they can make the decision themselves."