

Wintergreen Magnet Creates Care for Cats

Middle school students at Wintergreen Magnet (Hamden) participated in a service-learning project funded by SASL (Student Activists for Service-Learning) where the students learned about the issue of abandoned cats and built cat shelters to be used by the Greater New Haven Cat Project. The project was intended to create empathy for stray cats, teach responsible pet ownership, help construct temporary shelters for stray cats and help translate the practice of empathetic behavior from cats to people.



Students working to complete shelter for homeless cats (spring 2006).

Quoting from a school newsletter—*Over the past few weeks select 6th, 7th and 8th grade students have been working with the New Haven Cat Project to gain information and awareness related to abandoned and homeless cats. This project was funded by The School for Ethical Education [SASL program] service-learning grant submitted by Marian Roy and Joy Scocozza. Students viewed a video introducing them to the problem of homeless cats, built shelters for feral cats and made cat masks. They will be presenting information about this project*

and showing their masks to 1st graders. This was a very exciting project and students reported that they gained much information and empathy related to the plight of homeless animals. We hope to reinforce this empathy as students relate to each other in a caring manner at Wintergreen.



Completed shelter for homeless cats donated to The New Haven Cat Project.



Example of cat mask used to promote student discussion and presentations to 1st graders.