

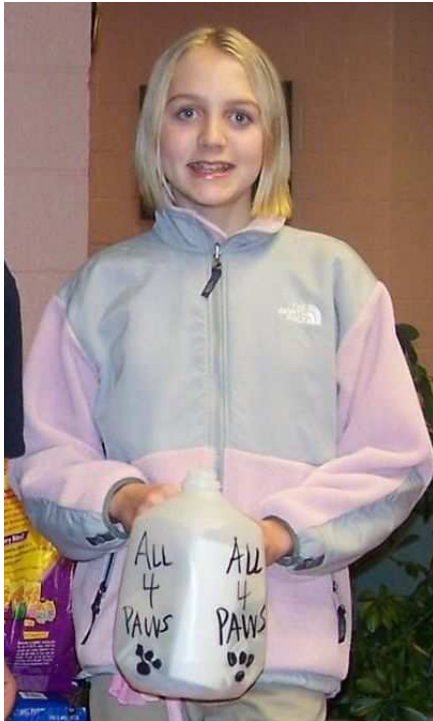


SCHOOL NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEATHWOOD HALL STUDENT NAMED STATE'S TOP MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER



COLUMBIA — For the past two years, birthday parties for Creighton Boggs, a 7th grader at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, have gone to the dogs. Actually, they've gone to all kinds of animals. That's because Creighton has taken to celebrating her birthday with a party for a local animal shelter, asking guests to bring donations instead of traditional presents.

Each year, her "All 4 Paws" parties have filled an SUV with cleaning and bedding supplies and more than \$250 for shelter programs. Now, for her generous spirit and love of animals, Creighton has been named South Carolina's top middle school volunteer of the year and a State Honoree in the 2007 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.

"I want to help other animals," said Creighton, who already has two adopted cats she found abandoned, "but I know I can't adopt them all. I believe it is important to help the animals because they cannot help themselves. They must depend on us to provide them with love and care."

Thanks to award sponsors Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), Creighton will receive a \$1,000 award, and engraved silver medallion, and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC for a series of national recognition events in May. In Washington, she will have an opportunity to become a National Honoree — one of the 10 students who each will receive an additional \$5,000, gold medallions, crystal trophies for their schools and \$5,000 grants for the charities of their choice. A total of 102 middle and high school students — one each from each U.S. state and the District of Columbia — will attend the festivities in the nation's capital.

"Creighton has done at an early age what we hope all our students will do," said Anne Weston, head of Heathwood's Intermediate/Middle School program. "She has found a cause, developed a passion for it, and then found a way to serve and support it. We're very proud of her effort and the example it sets for all our students."