

Fox Valley Rep's Young Alice in Wonderland Actors Help Anderson Animal Shelter

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Twenty-seven local youth not only had a successful showcase for their musical Alice in Wonderland on October 22 & 23 at Pheasant Run Resort, but they are also proud of the efforts put towards their campaign to help the homeless pets of Anderson Animal Shelter of South Elgin.

In lieu of a ticket fee to their showcase, Alice cast members wanted to honor animals such as the Cheshire Cat by accepting donations at the door of cat food, litter and bedding for Anderson Animal Shelter, a local charity in South Elgin that helps homeless cats and dogs.

Numerous families and patrons came to the showcase and were excited to donate items for the cause. The drive successfully brought in over 390 pounds of cat litter and 100 pounds of food with additional cleaning supplies and toys.

"I am amazed at the abilities of such young actors. They truly take pride in their work," says Tracy Whiteside of St. Charles, the education manager for FVR. "I have the best job in the world at the best theater ever." Tracy has directed over 50 shows with casts from 6-20 years old.

Alice cast Members included: Aurora: Anna Laurich, Bartlett: Willow Apponi, Allison Belliveau, Batavia: Madelynn Calbeck, Elburn: Mary-Kate Griffin, Jenna Kraus, Geneva: Maya Hawkins, Erin Hurley, Ella Kobylecky, Sophie Nunez, Carly Rasmussen, Hanover Park: Hayley Troyan, South Elgin: Carolyn Calbeck, Christina Calbeck, Robert Keldani, St Charles: Anna Crowell, Kaitlyn Crowell, Katie Das, Kristen Das, Erika Denker, Keira Denker, Kathryn Dybas, Malea Kinnison, Daniella Taylor, and West Chicago: Ashley Peters, Lindsay Peters.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and is sponsored in part by Kane County Chronicle.

The Fox Valley Repertory Performing Arts Academy features some of the Chicago area's most respected teachers, directors and musicians. Classes are available for ages 3-19. For more information, visit www.foxvalleyrep.org/education or call 630-364-0550.

About Anderson Animal Shelter

Anderson Animal Shelter has been serving the Fox Valley area since it was founded in 1966. AAS is an independent, non-profit organization that rescues approximately 2,500 animals per year, over half of whom are strays or unwanted pets that come to us in need of shelter and veterinary care while they await new homes. The remaining 1,200 animals are served through low-cost spay/neuter and vaccine clinics and dog training programs. Anderson also offers humane education programs and numerous volunteer opportunities for adults and children. The Shelter operates under a maximum adoptability philosophy and is dedicated to eliminating the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals. Every adoptable animal at the shelter is cared for as long as it takes to find them a loving, forever home. AAS receives no state or federal funding and must rely on the generosity of individual, corporate and foundation donors that share in the belief that every animal deserves a loving home. For more information on how you can help by hosting and organizing a Donation Drive, please contact Anderson Animal Shelter at (847) 697-2880 and speak to the Development Team.



The Alice in Wonderland Cast