

Students to Select Landmine Dog

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June 10, 2010

THE WOODLANDS – Although their project was sidetracked by a sticky-fingered thief, a group of students from The Woodlands High School is headed to the San Antonio area today to **select a land mine-sniffing dog that will be shipped overseas.**

Members of the school's Council for International Affairs and Interact were conducting a successful fundraiser – Laps for Lives – April 24 when a 15-year-old boy allegedly snatched a cashier's box containing \$9,000 in receipts.

The money was to go toward the purchase of a mine detection dog from the **Marshall Legacy Institute**, which sponsors the dog's training and work in war-torn areas like Afghanistan, Bosnia, Iraq or Lebanon. The dog's training and purchase costs approximately \$20,000, said Susan Hollier, teacher and faculty adviser for the high school's CIA.

While law enforcement captured the juvenile allegedly involved in the theft, Hollier said the checks from the fundraiser were burned and the cash was spent.

Although the students involved with the project were initially devastated by the theft, Hollier said they became determined to raise the necessary funds. They were encouraged by the donations and contributions they received from around the nation, as well as Houston region.

CIA, which is designed to promote and create culturally literate global citizens, had reached \$25,000 by last week, Hollier said. The extra \$5,000 will go to the CHAMPS program to help provide artificial limbs for children who were victims of land mines. “This has been so overwhelming,” Hollier said of the public response. “The students have been so grateful the way the public has contributed.”

Hollier left this morning for Somerset, where the [Global Training Academy] is located. Assisting in the selection are Billy Furary, vice president for the CIA, and Interact President Shelby Howard.

Regardless of the breed, the dog has been named “Texas” by the students, Hollier said. “It was given that name for two reasons,” she said. “One, it honors the servicemen and servicewomen from Texas who make the world a safer place.

“And, two, Texas exemplifies the spirit and determination of Texans.”