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Monday 19 November 2012

Reading for Shelter



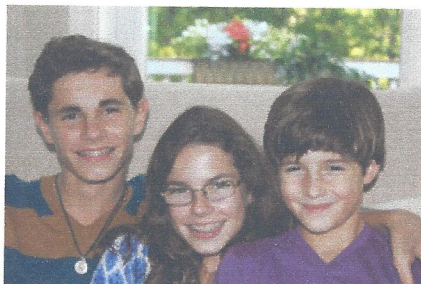
Anna Gleason, 13, of Spotsylvania, Va., organized a summer-long fundraiser that raised enough to support nearly three ShelterBoxes.

Reading may not be most students' idea of a summer break, but for 13-year-old Anna Gleason, it was exactly what she had in mind.

When Anna heard that her mother, Terrie, was doing some pro bono legal work for ShelterBox USA, she knew she wanted to contribute to the organization's mission of providing shelter, warmth and dignity to people affected by disasters.

"I wanted to do something that would raise a lot of money, and we had the whole summer before us," Anna said.

After some planning and recruiting, Anna was ready to launch her Read-for-Shelter 2012 program, a read-a-thon fundraiser that would last the whole summer and ultimately raise \$2,825 for families in need of emergency shelter and other aid.



Jack Gleason (left) read for 768 minutes, and Christopher Gleason (right) read for 888 minutes for the Read-for-Shelter 2012 program. Anna (middle) read for 1,160 minutes.

Anna, her brothers Jack, 15, and Christopher, 10, and their neighborhood friend Xander Kent, 7, participated in the Read for Shelter program. They sought out sponsors among family, friends and neighbors, and kept track of the minutes or number of pages they read. Collectively, the group read for nearly 50 hours plus 1,778 pages.

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Xander Kent, a neighborhood friend of the Gleason's, read 1778 pages for the Read-for-Shelter 2012 program.

"It's all about working together as a community to make an impact. The ideas and projects turn out to make a world of difference," Anna said.

This was not Anna's first time fundraising for a cause she believed in, however, and it certainly won't be her last. In March 2010, Anna founded the Young Friends of Animals Club, through which she, her brothers and two of her close friends raise funds, supplies and awareness for local animal shelters. First Lady Michelle Obama even acknowledged Anna's philanthropic endeavors in a personal letter last year.

"Everyone has something they feel should be changed or improved, whether it's helping the homeless or raising awareness for a disease. Yet, not everyone chooses to do something about it," Anna said.

This summer, Anna chose to take action. And by doing so, she, her brothers and their friend raised enough money to support almost three ShelterBoxes.

You can take action, too. [Click here](#) to start your own fundraising project or explore other ways you can help ShelterBox provide life-saving aid and supplies to families in need.

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