There is always a caring and compassion in abundance at the Blount County Animal Center. It's evident in the efforts of the staff and volunteers that care for its animal residents while working to find them permanent homes.

Tuesday afternoon, there was an added element of purpose and positivity when Daisies troop 22026, made up of 13 girls ages six and seven, gave several blankets, as well as a $90 donation, to the center for the past two weeks.

The donation represents one of the first community service projects the troop has undertaken since first forming last September. Given the choice of which organization they would like to help, each girl chose the animal center, and subsequently collected donations from their friends, families and neighbors.

In 2020 state law provides for a first initiative to the Girl Scout experience. Each girl who trooped 22026 earned a yellow Daisy petal for their participation.

"Community service and being friendly and helpful are pillars of the Girl Scout oath," troop leader Sofia Brushaber said. "We encourage our girls to be kind little citizens and to shed a positive light.

The girls, who attend kindergarten in several area school districts, undertook their first community initiative while making Christmas care boxes for members of the military. The shelter project was conceived and organized two weeks ago.

"The girls saw this as a good way to give back," Brushaber said. The youngsters certainly wanted to be in control of the experience as they went from room to room to get acquainted with the future residents.

"That overall enthusiasm was also obvious. "We got to do fun things," Emily replied when asked what she enjoyed most about being a Daisy.

"Tammy concurred. "We got to learn things and have fun," she said.

Ingrid said she liked being involved. candlelight Aisleigh Jervis, one of the mothers accompanying the girls, said that Daisies teach valuable lessons about being good citizens. Plus, she said, it gives the girls an opportunity to meet other kids and increases their confidence.

"The Girls Scouts give gift to Blount County Animal Center and secondly, they can do something.

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