



Verizon employees help out Project POOCH

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Sept. 6, 2016

Project POOCH at MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility was busier than usual on Aug. 11 as 25 volunteers worked alongside youth to build a gazebo, clean out kennels, create flyers to advertise dogs ready for adoption, write resumes, practice job interviewing skills, and a multitude of other tasks.

The work was part of the Culture of Good program led by TCC, a Verizon premium retailer in Oregon. The volunteers included employees from Verizon stores across the state, along with several members of TCC's executive team.

Every quarter, TCC chooses a cause to support through donations and volunteer time, and they picked Project POOCH for the quarter beginning in July. The idea to focus on POOCH came from Kevin Schrouder, regional director with TCC, who adopted Spots — a Dalmatian and cattle dog mix — from the program three years ago.

TCC employees are collecting donations for the program at their stores from July through September. Their goal for July was to collect \$5,000; they beat it within the first 10 days of the month.

“As our employees work with customers, they ask them if they want to make donations to Project POOCH,” Schrouder says. “It gives our employees a chance to share with people what POOCH is about.”

Printed in the Woodburn Independent Aug. 24, 2016.



Verizon volunteers put together a gazebo for the youth to use when showing dogs during inclement weather.



Volunteers help a youth design a template for a flyer to advertise dogs up for adoption.



A youth practices a one-minute speech about himself to use when talking with employers.