

Games for Good

On November 2, 2019, Girl Scout Troop 4996 wanted to find a local animal shelter that they could help to make a positive impact in their community. However, after searching, they were shocked to discover that Surprise, AZ did not have an animal shelter! What they did find was a local foster care program called Chance Shelter. Chance Shelter provides fostering services for animals in crisis

situations. They assist pets and their owners who need assistance through alliances and referrals with local hospital social workers, Surprise human services and vitality, first responders, adult care facilities, funeral homes other charities. Troop 4996 wanted to help. For a while, they could not figure anything out because there was no actual facility. After speaking with two of Chance Shelter's volunteers, the troop found that Chance Shelter hosts different fundraising events like their Annual Spring Picnic in Spring and Furry Festival in the fall. During these events there are many fun activities attendees can participate in, including different games. This was the ticket!



HOW IT ALL STARTED

All Girl Scouts in their Junior level can complete their "Bronze Award". This award, which is the highest honor a Junior Girl Scout can achieve, is an important accomplishment the girls earn by helping their community and making a positive impact. They also must make sure that their project is sustainable-meaning it will continue to make an impact even after the troop has completed their project. Troop 4996 knew that to accomplish this award, they wanted to help a local animal shelter, for they all love animals.

HELPING OUT

Troop 4996, with its 17 members, two leaders, and many helpful parents, decided that they would help by creating two more activities to add to the Annual Spring Picnic to attract more people. The first things they made were cornhole games. The girls were each grouped up with someone to work on one cornhole board. First, the girls sanded the boards and measured the lengths for the frames. They then chose and drew a design they liked for their cornhole board. They met with their partner and painted their animal-themed designs with non-toxic paint on the cornhole face and put a clear coat on it. After drying, the girls fastened the frame to the face. One of the girls and her mom even sewed bags out of old work shirts to hold the beanbags for the cornhole games. After a few months, voila! The cornhole games were finished!

The second game is Life-size Jenga. Troop 4996's girls measured and sanded the blocks for the game, and two of their dads helped cut and measure the blocks evenly. They finally added a clear coat to protect the blocks, which took a while. However, they sure were simpler than the cornhole boards!

After a few months of work and lots of paint fights later, both games were finished! All the girls had to do was publicize the event. They decided to publicize their work and the picnic event by writing a newsletter to present to the public. It would also help them complete their Scribe badge. The newsletter that they wrote is the one you are reading today.



THE OLD-FASHIONED PICNIC!

With the exciting news about Chance Shelter's new land donation, they are focusing on raising money for a building on this site. Although the Furry Festival for this year had to be canceled, the next fundraiser will take place this Spring.

Troop 4996 cannot wait for you to enjoy their Life-size Jenga and multiple cornhole games that will be present at this event. So, come and join them to help support this community and all the animals Chance Shelter will be able to help now and in the future. After all, the more people and pets, the merrier!



*-Olivia, a girl scout from
Troop 4996, and Troop 4996*