Students build Lego houses to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity

Saukville Elementary School students got a chance to demonstrate their architectural creativity last week while helping a worthy cause.

Nearly two dozen youngsters built Lego houses for a contest that ended up raising $1,016 for the Habitat for Humanity Lakeside Ozaukee Chapter.

The event turned out to be more of a celebration than a competition, with money raised from entry fees, a bake sale and silent auction.

Students got a chance to show their creations to parents and grandparents, and many staff members and neighbors also attended to show their support of the cause.

The fundraiser was the notion of second-graders Andrew Schmitz and Keegan Kastman.

They worked with teachers Anne Kielisch and Lora Kraetz, who brainstormed with the boys about holding a benefit Lego event.

“I assigned Andrew a community service project to help him become more aware of different ways to help people and his community,” Kielisch said.

“I provided him with a list of ways that he could help, and a list of charities he could help. We discussed what each charity on the list did for people and the community and he decided he wanted to help Habitat for Humanity.”

Not only did the boys work on their own Lego buildings, they developed rules for the contest, wrote letters to local businesses asking for donations, made posters promoting the event and came up with a plan of how the event would be staged.

Andrew said it was easy to put in so much work on the project, realizing it would be helping a worthwhile program.

“My whole life, my family and I have been blessed to have a home that provides shelter and a place to live,” the boy said.

“It was not until starting my community service project at school that I realized that there are families that are not as fortunate as I am to have a safe environment to live in. That is why I have chosen to give the money raised from my project to build or fix homes for families not as fortunate.”

That sensitivity made an impression on the school staff.

“I was completely blown away by the creativity shown by our students. From kindergartners on

up they built Lego structures that I know I couldn't have done," said Principal Chad Brakke.

"It was fun to see the students take so much pride in their projects as they showed them off to the spectators and judges. It was another perfect example of how our students here at SES shine with good character and are always looking to give back to our community."