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Lorain County volunteers help build beds for children

By Zachary Smis

The Morning Journal

Some youngsters learned early how not to take for granted sleeping in a bed at night. Others honed carpentry skills to fill a local need for 500 beds for less fortunate children.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a non-profit organization, along with help from Horizon Science Academy, Girl Scout troop 5077, HMSHost, CSL Plasma and community volunteers gathered at 1935 Cooper Foster Park Road in Amherst to make beds March 16 for Lorain County children in need.

"We started the project with the support of HMSHost back in August," said Roger Dorsey, president of the local Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapter. "We are a national organization. I saw how great it was that the organization exists to give kids beds who don't have any, so this chapter was started locally for the kids in Lorain County."

Dorsey said the chapter has received a lot of bed requests.

"We have received 500 requests for beds," he said. "We have built and delivered 210 so far; these requests are just for kids solely in Lorain County. It's crazy to think about how many kids, in this area alone, are in need of beds."

Dorsey said the group is entirely non-profit.

"Every dollar that is raised goes straight to supplies for the beds," he said. "The folks that are here helping are 100 percent volunteers. We were able to



rent this space out due to the generosity of HMSHost. We are currently in a six-month lease, and all the volunteers have done a good job."

Jason Watchorn, multi-operations manager for HMSHost, said the bed making is a positive outreach to the community.

"It's something Roger [Dorsey] pitched to me to see if HMSHost would be interested, and I knew it was a great opportunity," he said. "We have a great system here of wood that's cut, sanded and put together to make the bed

frames for single and bunk beds. It's quite the assembly line here. It has really been an effective way of getting the job done and HMSHost employees have enjoyed being a part of it. It's also great to see the work kids have done from the Girl Scout and Horizon, they've done a great job."

Sleep in Heavenly Peace offers bed making as team building exercises for local groups and organizations. Anyone that is interested can contact Roger Dorsey at 440-822-7241 or email him at Roger.dorsey@shpbeds.org.