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## Fox Valley troupe's musical to aid homeless animals

By

Submitted by Fox Valley Repertory Performing Arts Academy

The young cast of Fox Valley Repertory Performing Arts Academy, for ages 6 to 10, will perform a musical showcase of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" on the Pheasant Run Resort's Mainstage.

During this musical showcase, the cast wanted to help pets like Snoopy find their forever homes. Along with preparing for the show, the kids are collecting donations of pet food and pet products needed to provide care to orphaned and injured animals being fostered at the HELP organization in St. Charles.

HELP is a nonprofit organization whose sole purpose is to find Homes for Endangered and Lost Pets. Animals are cared for in foster homes throughout DuPage and Kane counties while they wait for adoption.

"I adopted my cat Fuzzy from HELP three years ago and she is the sweetest, most loving cat," said cast member Isabella Ford of Sugar Grove. "I am excited to be able to give back to the organization that gave me my best friend."

Admission to the performance is free, but the cast will accept donations of pet food, pet leashes, pet toys and any pet-related products. Donations will be collected at the shows and transported to the center and foster homes by volunteers from HELP.

Additionally, as a nonprofit organization, the FVR Academy accepts cash donations in lieu of admission to provide scholarships to underprivileged local children who would not otherwise be able to participate in their programs.

"My daughter has made so many wonderful friends while performing at FVR," said Letty Ebel of Geneva, parent of cast member Kaia Ebel. "Her confidence has blossomed and her acting and singing skills have grown with each performance. FVR has truly been a joy."

Education Manager Tracy Whiteside of St. Charles has been teaching and directing kids at FVR since 2006. She also serves as a mentor to directing intern Ken Gonzales for this production.

"Rehearsals for 'Charlie Brown' are well ahead of schedule, which is a testament to the hard work, dedication and talent of the cast," said Whiteside.

"I am so excited about how quickly this program has grown. Most of the cast has trained at one point in our Education Program, so they have a great base. And the support of the parents is unbelievable. We could never do this without them."

"You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" will be presented at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 14, and at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 15, on the Pheasant Run Resort Mainstage. Admission is free. Ample free parking and valet services are available at Pheasant Run Resort, 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles.

The Charlie Brown cast members include from Aurora: Rece Komorn; Batavia: Caden Bohmer; Elburn: Morgan Miller; Elgin: Robert Keldani, Jordon Keldani, Amelia Kuhlman; Geneva: Zoe Borden, Nathan Castagna, Rhea Chandran, Kaia Ebel, Erin Hurley, Jessica Lamplough; Hanover Park: Hayley Troyan; North Aurora: Madeline Cue; St Charles: Erika Denker, Keira Denker, Jamie Dowat, Emily Johns, Bethany Paris, Eva Saltsman; Sugar Grove: Isabella Ford, Maggie Madziarczyk, West Chicago: Paige Cannata.

The Fox Valley Repertory Performing Arts Academy features some of the Chicago area's most respected teachers, directors, actors and musicians. Classes are available for ages 3 to 19. For details, visit [www.foxvalleyrep.org/education](http://www.foxvalleyrep.org/education) or call (630) 364-0550.

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