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Local 4th Grader Knits to Save Dogs

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Samantha Smart is not your typical fourth-grader. The 9-year-old Lang Ranch Elementary School student has been raising money to help save dogs, knitting and selling what she calls "Samanimals dog bandanas." What began as a school project during the holidays turned into a three-month fundraiser that generated \$105, which the young lady recently donated in its entirety to the Hogan Family Foundation's dog rescue assistance program.

Samantha, who adopted a deaf dog named Latte from a local poodle rescue two years ago, first took up knitting to make a scarf she designed on her own for her canine friend. Then, Samantha and her mother Patricia hit upon an idea of Samantha making slipover dog bandanas as Christmas presents for friends and family. Before they knew it, people were standing in line to buy Samanimals dog bandanas.

With many hours of work and 21 sales under her belt, the younger Smart hung up her knitting needles and contacted the Hogan Family Foundation in Newbury Park. The Smarts had researched rescue groups in the area on the Internet and found the Hogan Family Foundation's exceptional record of helping to save rescued animals was exactly the kind of organization they wanted to support.

At a recent presentation at the Hogan Family Foundation headquarters, Samantha donated her entire earnings for the bandanas. Christine Hogan, the Foundation's executive vice president, accepted the gift, saying, "Samantha's gift is truly heartfelt. We will use it well and help rescued dogs that require medical treatment through our Lifeline 4 Paws program. This young lady is a wonderful model for others. Her hard work and compassion for animals is truly extraordinary and greatly appreciated."

Among its many charitable endeavors, the Hogan Family Foundation's Lifeline 4 Paws rescue support program assists dog rescue organizations in helping to fund medical procedures for seriously injured or ill dogs. Hogan says the Foundation's goal is to help save as many dogs as possible so that they may "enjoy long, happy lives through loving adoptions."

For more information on the Lifeline 4 Paws, visit <http://www.lifeline4paws.org> or <http://www.facebook.com/lifeline4paws>.