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### **Consolidated Communications employees pitch in at East Texas Paws shelter**

LUFKIN – Several Consolidated Communications employees spent a recent Saturday helping out at the East Texas Paws, Inc., sanctuary in Lufkin during a special work day. The employees volunteered their time through the company’s Spirit Team, a group dedicated to supporting community efforts and encouraging fellowship among employees at Consolidated Communications.

Employees and their family members spent the day setting posts for a new fence to create an exercise yard, removing yard waste and sprucing up several areas on the sanctuary property.

East Texas Paws, Inc. is a non-profit rescue and sanctuary for unwanted animals. The organization is run completely by volunteers, and is dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, transporting and adopting out abandoned or abused animals in the East Texas area. The group’s mission is to provide a no-kill, care-for-life sanctuary for unadoptable animals to ensure a life free of suffering and pain for the duration of their natural lives; to place adoptable animals in loving, permanent high quality homes; and to educate the public and promote and provide assistance with spaying and neutering for the prevention of overpopulation and unwanted animals.

“We are so thankful for the help these wonderful people gave us. They rolled up their sleeves and worked really hard to make a huge difference in just a day! The exercise yard will soon be ready because of their efforts, and our dogs are going to love it. East Texas Paws has no paid employees, so I am particularly grateful to everyone for donating their valuable time to make life better for all these animals,” said Janie Hunter, president of East Texas Paws.

Wendy Williams, a Consolidated Communications employee and a member of the Spirit Team, organized the work day after visiting the sanctuary. “Everyone worked so hard, and despite the heat, I believe all our employees really enjoyed themselves,” she said. “I am proud we had many volunteers from Consolidated Communications spend part of their Saturday helping out.”

In May, the Consolidated Communications Spirit Team also gathered donations of supplies for the sanctuary and hosted a fish fry to raise donations. The employees donated more than \$325 to the organization.

In addition to needing volunteers, the organization is always accepting monetary donations. Monetary donations can be sent to East Texas Paws Inc., P.O. Box 2151, Lufkin, Texas, 75902-2151.