

# Lending a Hand for Hope Harbor

The National Junior Angus Association focused their philanthropic sights on Hope Harbor in Grand Island, Neb.

by *Bridget Beran, editorial intern*

Giving back to the community is a vital part of growing into a respectable member of society, and in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), philanthropic endeavors are of the utmost importance. Each year, NJAA members are given the opportunity to give back to the community that hosts them during the week of the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

This year, juniors set their sights on helping Hope Harbor, an organization that focuses its efforts on providing for the less fortunate in central Nebraska. Juniors were encouraged to bring nonperishable foods, bedding, towels, washcloths and socks to donate to the organization.

"Hope Harbor, and organizations that provide aid to those in need, are a vital part of any community of society," says Liz Mayfield,

Hope Harbor development coordinator. She said that their goal at Hope Harbor is to provide a safe shelter, meals and support for the less fortunate. Hope Harbor strives to help get those in its care back on their feet and to give aid to those facing some of the lowest points in their lives. The organization puts a great amount of focus on empowering those it assists to become self-sufficient again and move past this part of their lives.

Funded primarily through grants and donations from individuals and organizations, donation drives like the one conducted at NJAS are incredibly important for the success of

the organization. NJAS members turned out in a major way, donating an entire trailer full of supplies to the organization.

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them to compete with each other to try to provide the most support. This year, the state of Florida donated the greatest amount of supplies.

"Community service is a huge part of the NJAA," says Chelsey Smith, assistant director of events and education. "We find it is important to the communities and organizations that are such gracious hosts to the NJAA, especially the towns that agree to host the NJAS. Gathering supplies for community service projects, such as Hope Harbor, is the least we can do to give back to the community of Grand Island for their hospitality and support of the 2016 NJAS."



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