Penny Donations Add Up To $53,000

Students At 43 Schools Collected Money

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DENVER -- A project to raise money at 43 schools paid off in a big way this year, raising $53,178.33 in pennies.

"Students from kindergarten through high school gather coins, and make micro grants to nonprofits based on careful research and planning," said Amber Gerding with the Young Philanthropists Foundation. "Grant decisions are entirely up to the students, which really empowers them to take ownership over community problems and believe in themselves as leaders."

Students made 131 grants to organizations such as The Colorado Haiti Project, The Gathering Place, MaxFund, Colorado Youth at Risk, Make-a-Wish Foundation, Doctors Without Borders, Denver Rescue Mission, Brent’s Place and Habitat for Humanity, according to the foundation.

In addition to cash donations, students also donated more than 1,500 hours of their time in volunteer projects. Those projects included hand-making fleece blankets for the animals awaiting adoption at the Humane Society of Boulder County, a canned food drive, and collecting food and clothing to support the Denver Rescue Mission.

Learn more about the Penny Harvest project on its website.