

Jeans

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"I thought (Jeans for Teens) would identify more with the students and with the little girls, because everyone likes jeans," said Jackson.

The initiative is being spearheaded by students in East Forsyth Middle's new chapter of Rachel's Challenge, a national anti-bullying program named in honor of Columbine High School victim Rachel Scott.

Jackson's 13-year-old daughter Jordan is among the students taking part. She said donating a pair of jeans can go a long way to make a difference.

"The people who do have stuff don't realize, well some do and some don't, that they can make a difference giving away just one pair of jeans," said Jordan.

This is Jordan's second time participating in a Teens for Jeans drive. She collected donations last year as a member of the Little Ladies of Character Do Something club, a teen club sponsored by the community service club, My Sistas Keeper, Inc. Seven members of the club



Photo by Todd Luck

East Forsyth Middle PTA Board member Sarah Jackson and her daughter, Jordan, are hoping their school can collect 5,000 jeans.

collected a staggering 500 pairs of jeans.

East Forsyth Middle, with a student body of 740, has set its sights higher. The goal is to collect 5,000 pairs of jeans. Principal Dossie Poteat is confident that his students will meet the challenge. He is proud of the school's benevolent spirit. East Forsyth Middle, a school that is just a few years old, has been successful with its past canned food

drives and other charity projects.

"We found out that not only is our school a giving school, but our community is a giving community," said Poteat.

The school has gotten creative with the jean-collecting effort. Classrooms are competing with each other, vying to see which class can collect the most jeans. A jean donation will get students into the upcoming

Sadie Hawkins Dance for free. East Forsyth Middle has also reached out to Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem State University and Salem College for help in collecting jeans. Through a partnership with Panera Bread in Kernersville, 970 South Main St., jeans will be collected from 1-3 p.m on Saturday, Feb. 4.

All the students who donate jeans will get a 25 percent off Aéropostale

coupon. East Forsyth Middle is in the running for the \$5,000 that will go to the school that leads the nation in jean-collecting. The winning school will also get a pizza party and a new pair of jeans for each student.

Aéropostale, located in Hanes Mall, is also collecting jeans for Teens for Jeans and enlists its high school employees to collect jeans for the program at their schools.

Jeans donations for the East Forsyth effort can be dropped off at Contract Office Furnishings, 1023 West 14th St., and the Thompson Center at Winston-Salem State University.



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