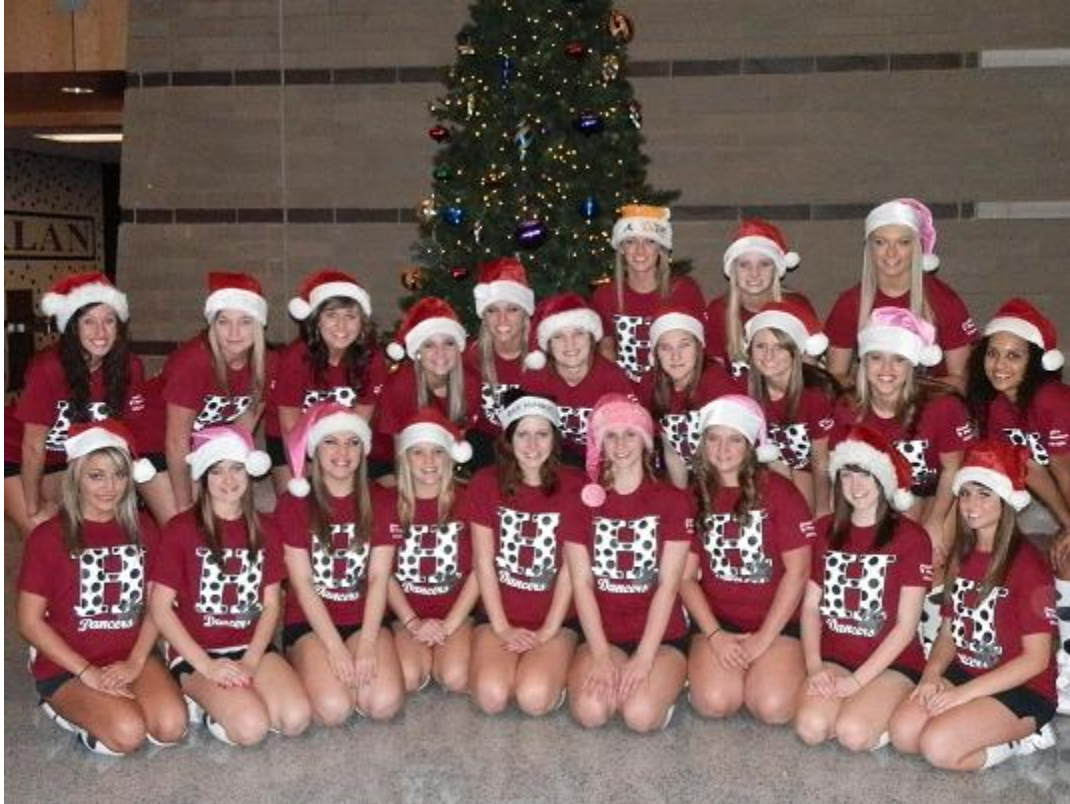


Local Team Participate in Supply Drive for Shelter



The Harlan County Dance Team is not just a group of pretty faces that gather to learn routines and compete. In fact, this group of 22 young ladies in grades 9-12 are active in their community, as well. The team recently held a supply drive for our local animal shelter. The dancers primarily held the drive at school with students and teachers both participating.

“We wanted to give back to our community because so many people support us throughout the school year. And, with Christmas approaching, we thought now would be the perfect time to hold this drive,” said Lonna Bledsoe, coach of the team. “We chose the animal shelter in Harlan for many reasons. First, our shelter recently received state wide recognition for its efforts. Next, many times organizations like our shelter are often forgotten about around the holidays. But, these places are often the ones that need help the most,” commented Tami Brock, assistant coach. “We started by calling the shelter and finding out what their needs were. Then, we decorated posters to hang throughout the school and sent an e-mail around for the teachers. After that, the donations came pouring in,” said Ally Layne, HC Senior dancer. “The students have spent the past 3 weeks or so gathering items like dishwashing liquid, bleach, old blankets and towels, kitty food, and even toys for the animals. Overall, we feel like we did a pretty good job, especially considering this was our first year with doing such a project,” added Brock.

“I loved doing this drive for the shelter,” said Brooke Bledsoe, senior member “and it is important to always help out those in need in our community. This was a wonderful project for us.” Junior Erica Bowling commented “I enjoyed doing this supply drive because it is a way to

help add to my community service hours. Having those service hours helps with many scholarship opportunities.”

The group plans on continuing their service to the animal shelter with another supply drive in late spring. “We figure if we can devote just a little time to our local animal shelter, just 2 times a year, the rewards will be immeasurable,” said Coach Bledsoe.