The Esther G. Maynor Honors College started off the new year with a mission to bring people together with a community service project on Oct 28. Several honors students went out to Wesley Pines religious community and nursing home. Wesley Pines nursing home is located in Lumberton and is a Christian church affiliated nursing home on a non-profit basis.

Although the show was free for students to watch, a $5 fee was charged for each category the owner placed their dog into. The money raised from participants and concessions sold will be split two ways. The first will be used to fund the annual scholarship awarded to one member of the second year and the second half will go to Relay for Life, an organization that donates money to cancer research and those in need with cancer.

Winners

Below are the categories in which different dogs participated and the winners of each category.

- Best in show: Big Boy owned by Megan Leigh Jones.
- Most adorable: 1st place—Blue Jame Harris owned by Anita Harris, 2nd place—the duo of Frisky and Princess owned by Brenda Maynor.
- Best small dog: was a tie between Frisky and Princess owned by Brenda Maynor.
- Best tricks: 1st—Rocco owned by Chris Fay, 2nd—Sampson Dakota owned by Sarah Locklear.
- Best dog costume: 1st—Big Boy owned by Megan Leigh Jones.
- 6 Legs (best owner and dog combined costume): 1st—Big Boy owned by Megan Leigh Jones.
- Best Small Dog: was awarded to one member of each individual category, except the category the owner placed their dog in.

In the end Big Boy, a shy bulldog, owned by Megan Leigh Jones took home the grand prize gift basket and trophy for Best in Show. However, the winners in each category received prizes, such as a certificate, dog bowls and other dog-related prizes. Each participant was also given a coupon for Taco Bell.

Brains of the operation

Courtney Locklear, the secretary for the Health Career Club, was the brain behind the idea for the dog show. "I wanted something unique that the whole community could really get involved with, and I just really loved dogs. It also puts a lot of emphasis on veterinary careers which is something that isn’t as well focused on when someone says “health careers,” Locklear states.

Although this was the first dog show, the club hopes to make this event annual and expand each year. Adviser Dr. Sylvia T. Johnson advises any students possibly interested in a health care career to see her ASAP. There are tests and criteria for getting into further education that students may be unaware of. If you are interested in joining, the club meetings are Tuesday at 4 p.m. in Jacob’s Hall Suite K, or email them at hcap@uncp.edu. The group is always welcoming to new members.

The Honors College students had a night of socializing and playing bingo with the residents. The night was also filled with creative Halloween costumes, such as Superman, a cowboy, a mermaid and more. The students also participated in and organized a game of bingo for the residents with prizes that the nursing home provided. Each senior citizen or honors college student was only allowed to take two prizes at most. However, at the end of the night each participant took home a small goodie bag filled with crackers and hard candies for being such a good sport in the game.

"I loved going to the nursing home. It was a lot of fun to help the seniors with their bingo cards, and it seemed like they really enjoyed a shakeup to their day," said Brandi Blackwell.

The knowledge that the seniors had was also a welcome change for the students. Courtney Stoker, an accounting major, discovered that one of the seniors in the home had been an accountant in the past and wanted her to help Stoker with any problems she might have in her major courses, because as Stoker said, “It’s hard stuff.”

After a fun-filled night, the students eventually left the nursing home with many well wishes from the seniors that they might be able to return again. The group agreed that they would love to come back at Christmas time as well.

In relation to Honors College this night was more about the community service project. This year the group is becoming more active on campus with a new dean, a renovated suite located in Old Main and a determination within the group to be bigger and better than ever to make the Honors College an up-and-comer at UNCP.