



Sun photo

The Locker has expanded to Jarrell High School. The group's motto is "kids helping kids," and it provides items such as deodorant, socks, shoes and toothpaste to students in need.

Student-run charity expands into Jarrell with Rotary's help

By JONATHAN ADAMS

When Kennedy Cottle transferred from Georgetown to Jarrell High School, she took a simple mantra with her: "Kids helping kids."

That is the idea behind The Locker, a student-run charity that started more than six years ago in and Georgetown and is now expanding for the first time to Jarrell.

"I think it's fantastic," Jarrell Superintendent Bill Chapman said.

"It helps all kinds of students. A lot of the time it's just letting other students know there is someone there to help them in their time of need."

Ms. Cottle asked Locker Director Karen Crosby to help her bring the program to her new school.

"About the exact same time, the Sun City Rotary gave us a \$1,500 grant to start a Locker in Jarrell," Ms. Crosby said.

"It was obviously destiny that we went there."

It did not take long to get the program started, Ms. Crosby said — just a couple meetings to let the students and teachers know how it works. A locker is set up inside the high school, where students in need can discreetly pick up items such as deodorant, socks, shoes and toothpaste.

"It's all student run and based on their initiative," Ms. Crosby said. "Myself and adults facilitate the kids — we help them learn how to serve others."

"The Locker is about service learning, teaching kids how to help each other."

For The Locker's first fundraiser at a Jarrell basketball game, students sold T-shirts, snacks and an autographed basketball.

The program is still in its infancy in Jarrell but superintendent Chapman is happy to

see it in action.

"I'm very pleased what I've seen thus far," Dr. Chapman said.

The Locker also runs programs at Round Rock and Cedar Ridge high schools. Students at each school are responsible for running their own chapters.

Andrew Sumner, a business teacher at Jarrell High School, will implement the program in the classroom to teach students how to budget, Ms. Crosby said.

"The way Jarrell has facilitated and implemented it, it is exactly what I've dreamed of," she said.

This is just the beginning of The Locker's expansion, Ms. Crosby hopes. She wants to grow it from a regional program into a national one.

"I want everybody to have a locker," Ms. Crosby said. "It's exactly the model I want to use for the whole country."