

Local girl's project receives Kids Who Care Award



We have all had a special teddy bear or stuffed animal we have turned to at some point in our childhood to comfort us. Lindsay Gilleland, of Carthage and a fifth grader at Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School has worked hard to make sure all local children have their own special friend to help comfort them.

Lindsay was honored Friday by the Joplin Kohl's store with the annual Kids Who Care Award for her project. She competed against 65 other children ages 6 -14 at the local and regional level and won. She was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship and the opportunity to compete against 14 children across the United States at the national level.

Lindsay was recognized for the project she began last summer. She wanted to collect stuffed animals for local law enforcement to give to children involved in accidents, fires, drug raids and disasters. When Lindsey's project began, she placed boxes at various locations such as schools, health centers, and even went to yard sales and asked people to donate their stuffed animals. Starting with only a goal of 200 a year ago, Lindsay has collected more than 1,700 stuffed animals to date.

The stuffed animals that Lindsay collected went to the police departments in Carthage, Duquesne, Duenweg, Webb City, Lamar, and both Jasper County and Newton County sheriff's department.