

Statesman

Editorial: Good suggestion propels Westlake Robotics project

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Westlake High School Robotics students demonstrated support of patients in area children's hospitals with their recent lily-pad project, and a story in this issue shows the importance of allowing students to put talents to work for worthy causes.

That seemed to be the message learned by Elise Hackney, a WHS graduate who took the lead role in the project. The project involved making lily-pad platforms that can be connected to an intravenous pole and used as a seat for children receiving treatment at hospitals.

In an email, Hackney pointed out that there were plenty of challenges associated with getting materials, cutting and painting the objects. She followed that by saying that the sight of children using the devices they created was more rewarding than anyone imagined. "When you work on something for so long, you sometimes forget how much of an impact it can have on the intended receiver," she said.

Given an opportunity, Eanes school district groups have a history of answering the call when it comes to helping good causes. It often begins with a simple suggestion, and, in this case, the suggestion was made by Lesley Ryan, the wife of WHS Assistant Principal Casey Ryan. The genesis was her observing their son, Rex, riding around on the pegs of the IV pole to ride around at the hospital.

That image spurred the creative nature of the Robotics students, and team spirit carried the project through to its successful completion.

The power of a good suggestion can work wonders.

