

National Humane Society recognizes Alfredo students

SUSAN ELLIS

ST. CROIX — On Monday, the Humane Society of the United States recognized a group of students involved in the Alfredo Andrews after-school program with gifts and a possible feature in the HUSA national magazine.

The Alfredo After School 21st Century Grant Enrichment Program gained national recognition after students performed a series of puppet shows based on a lesson plan, Animal Tales Theater, and the completion of the "Mission Humane" program designed by HUSA.

Last month, 19 students wrote the scripts and created puppets and scenery for six skits about animals. Groups of four and five puppet masters performed for an audience that included parents, students and representatives from program sponsors, The Leaning Network and St. Croix Animal Welfare Center. The plays covered a variety of subjects including hens in battery cages, homeless animals, puppy mills, the destruction of wild environments and the results of pollution on animals.

According to Cheryl Miller, coordinator of the 21st Century program, Stephanie Clark, the HUSA manger of training and student outreach was impressed by the Alfredo students' creativity and sent messenger bags and water bottles for each one.



Students at the Alfredo Andrews Elementary School were recognized by the national Humane Society of the United States for participation in the Alfredo After School 21st Century Grant Enrichment Program based on HUSA's Mission Humane.

Susan Ellis

Daryl Richards, Alfredo Andrews principal; Joan Claxon, assistant principal; and Miller presented the HUSA logo gifts to 19 proud and excited students at a recognition ceremony in the school's auditorium with an audience of students, teachers, sponsors and parents.

Richards said they began the after-school humane-themed

program in January based on several episodes that demonstrated that the children did not understand about animal care or animal abuse.

"The program impressed me. We're using a humane approach to teach children about life. To learn that those who abuse animals abuse people," Richards said.

The 21st Century Enrichment Program was recently expanded to include an hour of individual tutoring and an hour of enrichment with Miller. She includes storytelling, speakers and last week taught students how to make and use a compass. They practiced their skills by using their compasses to hunt for Easter eggs hidden in the

school's lawn.

The 21st Century after-school program is funded in part by the Learning Networks Foundation that has been sponsoring educational programs on St. Croix for 15 years. Some of the partnering organizations are the AWC, the Boys and Girls Clubs, World Ocean School and several public schools.