

December 3, 2014 – Fighting Leemen Pay it Forward

Contact: Brenda Lovekamp
School Board Clerk
540-332-3920

Fighting Leemen Pay it Forward

October is well-known as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is an annual campaign to increase awareness of this far-too-common disease. This year, Robert E. Lee High School's varsity football team decided to join in the effort to raise awareness for breast cancer and to also raise funds to support much-needed cancer research.

Commonly known as "playing for a cure," during the October games the players don pink chin straps, cleats, armbands, shoelaces, gloves, socks, etc. to show their support for this cause, however, the Fighting Leemen did something just a bit different this year. The members of the team decided to not only wear the various pink items, but to also have each player personally donate \$1 for each pink item he wore during the October games. The players could either wear their own pink accessories or choose from a variety of items their coach, David Tibbs, keeps on hand for the October recognition. The Leemen's combined efforts were quite successful, as the team raised a total of \$500.

When discussing how best to donate the money they had raised, the team immediately thought of the Staunton City Schools Transportation Department and their ongoing American Cancer Society Relay for Life team known as "Driving for a Cure." The Transportation Department started their fundraising team last year in support of one of their drivers who was diagnosed with cancer. The "Driving for a Cure" team has been very active in their fundraising efforts, donating \$2,250 for last year's Relay for Life event and raising more than \$1,000 so far this year. The next Augusta County Relay for Life event will take place on May 15, 2015 at Augusta Expo in Fishersville.

"This was a great opportunity to teach our young men how good it feels to pay it forward. We usually fundraise to benefit our team so this was new for them. As an adult and their coach, I wanted them to understand why we wear pink and for them to not lose sight of the cause – this is not just a fashion statement. So many of us have been personally touched by cancer through friends and family so this effort was very meaningful for our team," said Coach Tibbs. The Fighting Leemen plan to make this an annual event.



Fighting Leemen Kvvian Durrett and Marcus Warren present a check to Lisa Kisamore and Stephanie Meeks of the Transportation Department's "Driving for a Cure" team.