



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**NORTH SUBURBAN  
YMCA**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The NSYMCA holds their annual 'Fleece for Fur Babies' Event on March 9**

The event draws community pet lovers and helps with donations to give to local pet shelters

Northbrook, IL; March 2025: Over 60 volunteers of all ages made fleece pet blankets for sheltered animals at the North Suburban YMCA's fourth annual Fleece for Fur Babies held on March 9 at the North Suburban YMCA in Northbrook. This special volunteer event coordinated by the North Suburban YMCA's Social Responsibility Committee, collected pet supply donations such as food, newspapers, chew toys, paper towels, kitty litter and the handmade blankets which will be donated to shelters in the area.

The pet event continues to be a family affair, bringing out many generations of participants. A Northbrook resident and mother, Ellie Forman, brought her young daughter Alex and friend, Charley to help serve the community.

"We decided to come out today because we have had rescue dogs in our family over the years, Archie and Jimmy," says Alex Foreman, a 2nd grader at Greenbriar Elementary school in Northbrook. "My friend and I are also Girl Scout Brownies and we are learning that helping the community is a great feeling," continues Alex, age 7.

Also participating for the first time at this event was nine members of the GBS Interact Club from Glenbrook South High School.

"The Interact Club is one of the largest clubs at Glenbrook South High School, and we are dedicated to serving the community and providing volunteer opportunities for Juniors and Seniors," says Zola Mendbayar one of the clubs Volunteers. "We are a passionate and determined group of students and we are willing to make a meaningful impact through service and leadership."

“In its fourth year at the Y, this event seems to attract families from many communities, and it can be hard to find opportunities for all ages to volunteer and we are always so thrilled to see so many people get involved,” says Kathy Fielding, NSYMCA CEO. “We hope that teaching children small acts of kindness and volunteerism will create a domino effect and encourage giving back throughout their life.”

Sponsors of the NSYMCA Fleece for Fur Babies Event included Allstate, Illinois Bone and Joint Institute and Wintrust Community Banks.

For more Social Responsibility Volunteer events at the North Suburban YMCA, contact Kim Nyren at [knyren@nsymc.org](mailto:knyren@nsymc.org).

### **About the North Suburban YMCA**

The North Suburban YMCA services Northbrook and 14 surrounding communities with programs and tools that help its residents become healthier, more connected, and confident, ensuring that everyone, regardless of age, income, or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. The NSYMCA focuses on Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility and is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, inclusive and welcoming to all in our community. Learn more at [NSYMCA.org](http://NSYMCA.org).



The GBS Interact Club participates in the NSYMCA’S event on March 9th (top left) Elizabeth Cash, Ella Gordon, Kate Greve, Maya Hans, Ava Sims and Marissa Duri (bottom Left) Zola Mendbayer, Emily Antolovic and Cate Reeder.



CAPTION 2: (Left to right) Ellie Foreman and her daughter Alex, Age 7 and her friend Charley, age 8 work hard to create their blanket at the NSYMCA Fleece for Fur Babies Event at the Y in Northbrook on March 9th. Both go to Greenbriar Elementary in Northbrook.



CAPTION 3: Mary Pickut, age 10 and Carley Nelson, age 11 show off their finished blankets at the NSYMCA Fleece for Fur Babies event on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Both are 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Meadowbrook Elementary.





Junior members of the Glenbrook South Interact Club, Elizabeth Cash and Ella Gordon participate in the NSYMCA's Fleece for Fur Babies Event on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Y in Northbrook.



Donations and Fleece Blankets at the NSYMCA Fleece for Fur Babies Volunteer event on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Y in Northbrook.