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Carmel autism center donates "nice bucket" to teen prank victim

By Sandra Chapman, WTHR investigative reporter

First there was national outrage. Now a local center for children with autism is sending messages of support to an Ohio teenager duped into a fake ALS "ice bucket challenge."

Instead of ice, the 15-year old's classmates dumped urine and tobacco on him. The story has prompted action at the Little Star Center in Carmel where students have created a "nice bucket" for the 15-year-old who also has autism.

Little Star's Executive Director Mary Rosswurm came up with the idea after hearing about what happened.

Children at the center made special cards and filled a huge bucket with fun and special treats. Rosswurm says she was heartbroken to see the video that went viral on the internet. She and her staff want the student to know he has support in Indiana.

"As a mom of a child with autism and just working with these wonderful children with autism it just broke my heart. I thought, 'Gosh, why can't we be nice to each other?' and I thought why can't we send him a nice bucket and it started as simple as that," Rosswurm explained.

Ohio prosecutors are now reviewing evidence to determine if charges should be filed against the teens behind the prank. As many as 350,000 people have signed petitions asking that charges be filed.

Little Star is a not-for-profit center that provides Applied Behavioral Analysis for children with autism. The center provides scholarships for treatment for children without insurance. The scholarships are provided with gifts from individual donations.

If you'd like to give to the "nice bucket" or the scholarship fund, you can contact the center:

Little Star Center
12726 Hamilton Crossing Blvd.
Carmel, IN 46032
(317) 249-2242