TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The HSUS's National Association for Humane and Environmental Education (NAHEE) announced the selection of Karen Smith as 1991 National Humane Education Teacher of the Year. This award, sponsored annually by NAHEE, recognizes the accomplishments of a classroom teacher who routinely makes humane and environmental issues a part of his or her curriculum.

A teacher for fourteen years, Ms. Smith works with learning-disabled students in kindergarten through grade six at Cottonwood Elementary School in Cottonwood, Arizona. Not only does she give her students a particular sense of accomplishment and self-esteem, but, through her humane and environmental education lessons, she also provides youngsters with a way to reach other students. Ms. Smith arranged for her students to take responsibility for a bulletin board in the school library. They posted messages about kindness to the Earth and its creatures for all grades to see. "It gives my students a sense of having something to contribute," she observes. "They're not perceived as the 'different students' anymore."

Ms. Smith asked the youngsters to make up their own plays about protecting animals and the Earth. The plays, written and staged entirely by her students, are performed for students in other classes.

Concern for the environment is a top priority for Ms. Smith. Although her school has a recycling program, her students have their own recycling center.

An outstanding role model for educators, Karen Smith consistently displays compassionate, responsible behavior toward animals, people, and the Earth. NAHEE is pleased to honor her.

Karen Smith (at left) presents her class: Jolea Utz, Jackie David, aide Sherry Martin, Andra Shevomake, and Jason Kasper.

Reflect for a moment...

how can I help animals even when I no longer share their world...?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States. Your will can provide for animals after you're gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material which will assist in planning a will.

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