# Project Description: STEM Education

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## Goals and Objectives

Humane Education on Wheels aspire to further engagement in the current educational programs provided by the Humane Society, by providing the catalyst for students to excel not only in their academic careers, but to inform and promote further education and careers in the STEM fields. Through active engagement with live animals in the classroom, students that have historically needed a little nudge, or the occasional shove to participate will now be provided with animal interaction to encourage them to maintain focus. In addition another vital goal will be to increase our educational programing provided to after school programs, private schools, college classes, and home-schooled students.

In conjunction with science-based education, it will also be top priority to provide the youth encountered with education on the humane treatment of animals, teaching them the values of kindness towards one another, animals, and the environment. In addition to integrating the students with the qualities of compassion, tolerance, and integrity, all of which are necessary to excel in the social aspects of society.

Education is a continual and ongoing process over a lifetime, this is why we have elected to focus our attention on the youth, as they will be able to carry this information out of the classrooms, into their homes, and ultimately permeate the community with it. To help measure the effectiveness of our programs we have laid out the following objectives.

* Within the first year of implementation of the new technology, an increase in students served by 25% or 10,000 individual students.
* Have our education coordinator implement the technology, and retain the equipment’s operational condition.
* Expand our connections with two University of South Carolina Upstate professors to at least two more professors.
* Enact three different surveys over the course of the year to gauge growing awareness of career opportunities in the STEM career fields.
* Create a 4-H Pet Pal Club in every school district in Spartanburg.
* Through the intake monitoring systems see a 5% increase in animals coming in already spayed/neutered.

## Timeline

**Upon notice of a grant award:** The CFO will purchase the equipment described for the project. The education coordinator evaluate the equipment, and begin implementing its integration with current educational programming.

**Month 1:** Full implementation of purchased technology into lessons. Begin post lesson surveys on the STEM career field and humane education.

**Month 2 to 3:** Education coordinator evaluates the results of the surveys and introduces any project adjustments.

**Month 3:** Second stage of surveying to evaluate any project adjustments. Establish contact with at least two college professors on USC Upstate’s campus.

**Month 6:** Implement final wave of surveys to help gauge success of the adjustments, as well as the program as whole.

**Month 12:** Have created a 4-H pet club in each of Spartanburg’s 7 school districts and meet the goal of increasing students served by 25% or at least 10,000 students.

## Methods

It will be the responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer to purchase the equipment within the first week of receiving the grant. The education coordinator will inspect the equipment and familiarize themselves with it operations, and then integrate it into existing lessons upon its arrival. The education coordinator will also initiate the electronic surveys at the end of each session gauging the students existing and improved knowledge of STEM career fields and humane education. 4 H Pet Pal Clubs will be established and USC Upstate professors will be contacted by the Chief Executive Officer during the time table listed above.

## Evaluation

To measure the long-term outcomes of the grant, the education coordinator will be implementing survey system to gauge the success to the program improvements of Humane Education on Wheels. The surveys will be implemented in three phases to gauge the ongoing increase of knowledge of STEM careers and humane education. The humane education component will be simultaneously be measured by incoming spayed/neutered rate of incoming animals to the humane society, while the educational component will be backed up by retention rates and reported rate of interest in higher education in the STEM fields by the students. Feedback about the programs offered by the Humane Society will be encourage from both engaged professors and their participating students.