



Brett with Woof (right) and Maya, who stands on one of the handmade dog beds that Brett donated.

The Eagle Scout has landed

IN JULY 2015, 13-year-old scout Brett Woodward of Troop 415 in Granada Hills approached our Best Friends Pet Adoption and Spay/Neuter Center team in Los Angeles about working with them on

his Life Scout project. It would be the final project required of him to achieve his Eagle Scout ranking. To become an Eagle Scout, Brett needed to volunteer his time in a meaningful way with a local nonprofit. Brett decided to do something to benefit the animals, and that's why he contacted Best Friends.

The project wouldn't be just a day of volunteering (which in and of itself would have been valued). No, Brett had to create a full business plan outlining his goals, and then raise the money to complete the undertaking he was proposing.

Brett's plan included providing the animals of Best Friends with homemade pet beds and other supplies, and he figured that he needed \$1,100 to do that.

When all was said and done, Brett raised twice that amount and then recruited 63 volunteers of his own to assist him. **His friends, family and fellow scouts pulled together to give a combined 385 hours of work over three days, ultimately hand-making 29 elevated dog beds, 30 food puzzles, 30 cat beds and a variety of cat toys.** They used the extra

funds to buy dog blankets, kitten formula and more supplies.

Best Friends—Los Angeles' senior manager of operations, Andrew Marsden, worked with Brett and acknowledges that Brett's project was a massive undertaking. "It took Brett a fair amount of time to raise the funds he needed and build the items he promised," Andrew says. "Brett's commitment to our animals and his project was absolutely remarkable."

And, in case you're wondering, Brett earned his Eagle Scout rank, which — as far as the animals are concerned — was well deserved.