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Stick It to the Director Duct Tape Fundraiser

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Teen Advisory Board of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County

The Duct Tape Fundraiser started out as a simple idea by the Teen Advisory Board (T.A.B.). After all of the budget cuts and fund reductions to the library, we were looking for a way to help. During one of our monthly meetings at the Boardman Branch library, someone brought up the idea of having a fundraiser where we stick someone to a wall with duct tape. We decided we would try it out and started planning around the beginning of school last year. Our program was aimed toward raising money in an interesting manner, and it ended up being a huge success.

We set the date for our program to be April 15, 2010, in celebration of National Teen Literature Day and searched for someone to tape to a wall. Eventually, Carlton Sears, the director of the library, was chosen. He was excited to participate! Our plan was to pre-sell duct tape for as long as we could, get as much publicity as possible, and get people excited about helping the library. The idea was to sell strips of duct tape (\$2.00 per strip, 6 for \$10.00) to stick Mr. Sears to the wall. We raised money by selling the duct tape to friends, family, door-to-door and at library branches. We named the event "Stick It to the Director." The most work included pre-selling the duct tape. With the help of the library's development director, we stationed ourselves at selected branches in the county to sell duct tape. We began to bring the community together and get them excited about donating to the library. Of course, they were also pretty excited about witnessing a man being taped to a wall by a bunch of kids.

On the big day, many patrons were there to watch and even participate, and local newspapers and television stations showed up to record the event. The best part was being able to tape the director to the wall. People that did not know about the fundraiser seemed puzzled about what was going on; meanwhile, one at a time, we placed the purchased strips of duct tape on the director while he stood on a stool in front of the wall. As he was being taped, he smiled and said, "This is like really weird." The whole process took about an hour, and Mr. Sears even enjoyed reading a teen selection while being taped. Once all the tape was applied, the stool was removed and Mr. Sears was literally stuck to the wall. We let him hang for a few minutes, and then we cut him down with scissors. Afterward, the participating teens (and patrons, too) were treated to burritos and chips that Chipotle Mexican Grille graciously provided. "Stick It to the Director" was a great success. We ended up selling about three hundred yards of duct tape for a grand total of \$600!

The event aimed to do a couple of things. We wanted to create a successful fundraiser that would spread the joy of helping the library into the community, and we wanted to inspire more teens to join T.A.B. The advisory board is loads of fun! It's a perfect way to meet new people, talk about books, and help the library all at the same time. The advisors, Mrs. Beach and Mr. Waller, are incredibly fun and cool, too. The Duct Tape Fundraiser was an amazing experience, and everyone had fun doing it. The best part of being in Teen X-Treme is coming up with ideas for programs and stuff that the library doesn't have but should and



then making these ideas a reality. Our group raised money for the library and promoted the programs provided for fellow teen readers, and we are already looking forward to the next fundraiser.



L: Teen Advisory Board of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County duct tape fundraiser top sellers Samantha and Kristyn

R: Teen Advisory Board of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County at Boardman Branch. Getting tape ready-Hmmm...where to put this piece?



L: Teen Advisory Board member of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County tapes Director Sears.

R: Assistant Mary Pullin applies duct tape to Director Carlton Sears



Teen Advisory Board member of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County & Director Carlton Sears. *Stickin' it to da man.*



Teen Advisory Board members of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County & Director Carlton Sears.