RHS AIM Club members clean up Stout Street Children’s Park

HERE'S ONE — Michelle Benitez and Joanna Vasquez look on as Rosa Vasquez attempts to dislodge a cup from the underbrush.

RANDLEMAN — On Friday, Nov. 10, members of Randleman High School's AIM Club braved brisk winds and temperatures and gave up part of their holiday in order to clean up Stout Street Children’s Park in Randleman.

Prior to scheduling the clean up, members viewed videos regarding harm that can come to wildlife as the result of refuse present in the environment that animals may consume or become entangled in. Refuse gathered was inventoried to determine the items most frequently discarded outside trash receptacles. “When we first arrived, there didn’t seem to be anything here to pick up,” Michelle Benitez noted. “The amount we found was surprising.”

ADDITION THEM UP — The final tally of items is verified.

JOB WELL DONE — Members sort and classify trash they gathered.

Rosa Vasquez added.

Club Adviser Laura Ellen commended the group’s efforts. “They could have slept late on their day off but chose instead to beautify a part of the community.”

Despite the fact that more than 20 trash receptacles are available around the park, members gathered several bags of trash, most of which was recyclable.

Refuse found in the park, which had last been swept by volunteers roughly two months earlier, included 24 plastic and styrofoam cups, 47 fast food and candy wrappers, 23 plastic bottles, five aluminum cans and 216 cigarette butts and cigar ends.

AIM is a service organization that is hosted by several public schools in Randolph County and across North Carolina. Previous service projects of RHS members include volunteer tours at Randleman Elementary School, Our Daily Bread, the Happy Hills Animal Foundation and Hospice of Randolph County, and participation in the Randleman Christmas Parade, Angel Tree Project and the Human Race.

The name of the club is an acronym for the Action, Inspiration and Motivation members bring to their endeavors.

HMMM — Laura Ellen and Michelle Benitez discuss how to dispose of a roll of netting that could potentially ensnare wildlife.