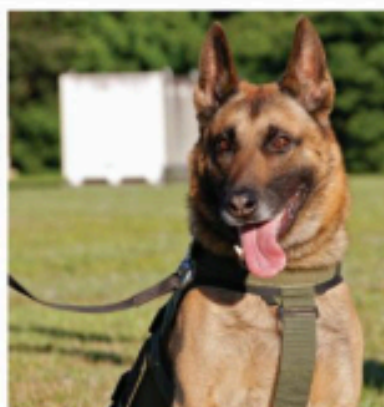




PHOTO: COURTESY OF A K-9 CAUSE



## Fur good cause

A K-9 Cause to Help Those That Have Served Us

By Gina M. Pérez

A unique art exhibit will be displayed on April 6 at the Center for the Arts on the campus of the American Heritage School in Plantation. That day, the campus will host the second annual A K-9 Cause to raise funds for the retired K-9s of Broward County. "American Heritage is so proud to help these retired K-9 officers" Dr. Douglas Laurie, VP and owner of American Heritage shares. "Our students—through their artwork, help these heroes of our community, and we welcome you to join us in this endeavor," he adds.

In partnership with the AHS Chapter of the National Art Honor Society and the Fine Arts faculty from American Heritage, students from the program will create original works of art in various mediums that will be sold at auction. All monies raised from the art exhibit will benefit the Sheriff's Foundation of Broward County's Retired K-9 Relief Fund.

Dr. Douglas Laurie and Nikki Laurie-Van Allen created the A K-9 Cause to show their

son, Jackson, what it means to give back to the community. "Our son has a passion for animals and art, so his father and I thought this would be the perfect fundraiser for him to spearhead from an early age." Van Allen says. "We put our heads together to create an event that showcases art in a fun way that would raise money for a great cause," she adds.

Police dogs are considered law enforcement officers, dedicating their lives to protecting and serving our community. "When they retire and can no longer work, we can help take care of them. That is why the A K-9 Cause is so special and dear to my heart. This is a great way to give back to law enforcement," Nikki states.

This year's event will take place on a Saturday. Guests will have a chance to bid on original artwork and meet some of the Broward County K-9s and their police officer handlers, Jackson and his fellow artists will also be there presenting their creations. "I love dogs and animals and have always wanted to try and save whatever injured animal I have ever come across," Jackson states. "I also love to draw. So, this A K-9 Cause is just so great! I can actually do both. I can help animals and create art all at the same time. I plan on continuing this fundraiser as I get older through high school and college," he concludes. For more information, visit [retiredk9cause.org](http://retiredk9cause.org)

