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Theater Performance Raises Awareness About Animal Cruelty

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The Roots & Shoots group at Ray of Hope Center of the Arts recently adapted and performed “There’s No Place Like Home,” which was inspired by “The Wiz” (based off of the popular “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz”). In the play, the main character is no longer Dorothy—it is her furry best friend Toto! Ray of Hope partnered with Safe Humane Chicago, Best Friends Animal Society, and After School Matters to put on the play to raise awareness about animal cruelty.

Through showcasing Toto’s journey, the play demonstrates the importance of home and being surrounded by those that love you. Ray of Hope learned that animals are a product of their environment, meaning that if a dog is mean or vicious, it is most likely because he was abused or trained to attack. The message of “There’s No Place Like Home” was that animals, like humans, have feelings and emotions and they need to be shown love.

To prepare for the play, the youth spent ten weeks rehearsing, writing, and perfecting the script. All of this work culminated in their inspiring performances, held at the Chicago Center for the Performing Arts.