

the THE LAKE AREA'S FULL COLOR NEWSPAPER **LAKE TODAY**

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Pictured are representatives of Gerbes and Camdenton LASER Robotic Team 3284 and Patrick, the LASER mascot.

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

The local Gerbes store in Camdenton has partnered with the Camdenton 4-H FIRST® LASER robotics teams in an effort to help raise funds.

The monies raised will help support the 240 plus students that participate in the Jr. FLL, FLL, FTC and FRC LASER robotics program. Gerbes will donate quarterly for one full year, according to Camdenton R-3 School District's Afterschool Services Director Sherry Comer, who coordinates all the FIRST® Robotics FRC, FTC, FLL & Jr.FLL activities.

Gerbes stores have a long history of bringing help and hope to communities. Annually, The Kroger Co. Family of stores donates \$250 million in food and funds to strengthen local communities. Gerbes donates \$2 million annually to assist local organizations through the "Community Rewards Program."

Cromer said any funds received will be used to support the LASER teams with things such as supplies, competition registrations and travel.

To support this fundraising event for the LASER teams, community members should obtain a Gerbes Plus card and register it online at www.gerbes.com. Click on "Community" then "Reward" and create an account. Complete the information requested and then select "Camdenton Robotics."

"We are so grateful and excited to partner with Gerbes to raise funds to support all of our LASER teams. With one out of every 19 students, out of a student body of 4,200 being on one of our **FIRST**® teams the funds are definitely needed," said Senior FRC 3284 Vice President Brittany Bolz.

Sophomore Public Relations officer Kylie Becker added, "The money donated by Gerbes will be used for travel to competitions and for supplies. We work hard doing fundraisers and the school district also supports the program, but building robots and traveling to competitions in St. Louis and out of state is expensive. We appreciate the community support and hope everyone will register their Plus shopper card and support the LASER program."

For more information about the **FIRST**® LASER programs, contact the Afterschool Services office at 573-346-9233.