

# K9 Leda gets vest thanks to St. Susanna volleyball team



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**MASON —**

A Mt. Orab police K9 received a bulletproof vest Saturday after more than a year on the job.

The St. Susanna volleyball teams from third to the fifth grades, partnered with Spike's K9 Fund to vest K9 Leda.

Mt. Orab K9 Officer Brad Jones found out about their project when a volunteer from Spike's K9 Fund called.

"She told me she had this great group of girls that were going door-to-door, you know, knocking on people's doors getting money to raise money for a vest for Leda," Officer Jones said.

The girls raised about \$2,700 to pay for the vest, through a variety of projects in the community.

"We raised all of the money by walking around a neighborhood and collecting donations," fifth-grader Sophia Arends said.

The team also set up a bake sale at this year's Vest Fest in Loveland.

"A lot of people thought this was a really good cause, some were crying, some were really happy and donated a lot of money," said fifth-grader Brooke

Asher.

The custom-fit vest protects Leda from bullets, putting her partner at ease.

“I wear a vest to work every day and I'm glad that she's got the opportunity to where she's going to have that as well,” Jones said.

The team watched as Leda stepped her paws into her vest for the very first time.

“To be able to connect it full circle, and they get to see the end result, of their hard work, it really brings it home,” Spike’s K9 Fund volunteer Jill Cutter said.

“It was really fun and it made me feel happy because now she has protection and she can be safe while she's working,” Asher said.

The Police K9 and her handler have one big message for the girls who helped protect them.

“Just thank you, and I don't know how we'll repay them, but we really appreciate it,” Jones said.

St. Susanna’s volleyball team had so much fun helping K9 Leda, they’re already talking about working to raise money to help other police dogs.

Spike’s K9 Fund is currently working to raise money for 12 police dogs in training in the Cincinnati area. For more information, visit [www.spikesk9fund.org](http://www.spikesk9fund.org).