

# Lacing up for a long night

To help those in need people usually donate clothing, money or volunteer their time, but for these senior boys they have taken it one step further and slept in a cardboard box. Senior Erik Francois and approximately 20 others have taken on the challenge of building a Converse All-Star shoe that they could then sleep in overnight to participate in Reggie's Sleepout, which was first introduced to them from Ryan Francios, older brother of Erik in 2013.

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1

Seniors Dallin Russell, Mitch Marek and Jacob Newcomb lift part of the structure that holds a side of the bunkbeds out of flatbed trailers. The All Stars were a group of about 20 seniors that built an All Star Converse high-top shoe to participate in Reggie's Sleepout 2015. Reggie's Sleepout is a fundraising event for the Iowa Homeless Youth Centers. The organization was created in 2005 in memory of Reggie Kelsey, a young man who aged out of the foster care system had passed away near the Des Moines River due to his poor living conditions.



2

Seniors Zane Johnson and Bryan Friestad work together to construct their All-Stars logo the week before the event. "The most memorable part was constructing it, all the build nights were cool and fun," Johnson said. "It's great how some of our sponsors were able to donate food, and thanks to Converse for the shoes."



3

Working on the sole of the Converse shoe, senior Jack Spear adds duct tape to give the structure detailing that replicates the actual All-Star high-top. The All Stars built a 15-foot-tall, 30-foot-long shoe. It was made out of cardboard and included bunkbeds inside for sleeping.

4

Making sure that the sides are smooth and straight, seniors Kyle Kane and Nicholas Hanstad hold down the cardboard, while senior Erik Francois uses a power saw to cut down the edges. "All of us agree that kids shouldn't be homeless and we just want to help as much as we can," Francios said. "We have fun but it's paired with helping others which is what we are passionate about."



5

In unison, seniors Jacob Newcomb, Karl Rasmussen, and Jack Spear walk towards the rest of the shoe with the heel section of the shoe. The building portion of Reggie's Sleepout was held Oct. 17 at Drake Stadium from 3-7 p.m.







Senior Nicholas Hanstad examines the design and blueprints of the final product with Don Francois at his side. Erik Francois' father Don, was a main contributor when it came to the design and building of the shoe. He was there for the the whole process as well as being a big supporter for the team.

Duct taping pillars together, senior Jacob Newcomb works on making sure the structure is secure at the top of the shoe. Within a three-week period, the team was able to raise about \$6,500 and collect approximately 60 pairs of shoes. The shoes were then donated to the Iowa Homeless Youth Centers. The All Stars had sponsors ranging from Krispy Kreme to Ace Hardware that donated food, money or supplies.

Signalling to the all the members, senior Braden Cooper directs which way to turn the tarp that would be placed on the ground so that the structure had something to sit on top of. Their structure won Best in Show. "The most memorable part was constructing it and then seeing what it was like," senior Kobe Burns said. "Also giving back to the community, it's something that we should be doing."

Working together, the All Stars members focus on the finishing touches and last minute structure adjustments during the event building time. "Getting all of it put together and finally seeing how big the whole structure truly is, it's an awesome thing," senior Bryan Friestad said. "It was a good time and a great opportunity to hang out with friends and to do something that I enjoy doing."

A group of the All Stars members lift up part of the back heel of the Converse shoe to place it on top of the construction. The team wears their team shirts and white high-tops, that were provided by Converse. "I've been doing this for the last two years and it's for a good cause and it's a lot of fun," senior Mitch Marek said. "Building this was a blast and this year wasn't very stressful compared to the last few years, but it's been a good experience."