

# Zoo

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of Dutchess County, the Northwoods social workers helped turn the day room of the pediatric wing into a makeshift menagerie on Thursday, which Hartling and other terminally ill children could enjoy for the day.

The wish came to fruition through the Marty Lyons Foundation, a New York City-based organization that fulfills special wishes for children diagnosed with terminal or life-threatening illnesses. The organization, which grants about 200 wishes

annually, was contacted by Levin, who described Hartling's condition and his wish. The result was a compromise that brought smiles to the faces of dozens of young people on his wing.

"We were really happy to help him out," said Pamela Pfarr, a program services manager for the foundation, which was started by former New York Jets defensive lineman Marty Lyons.

The wish was among several others granted to Hartling and one he achieved largely on his own. Despite his condition and with a bit of tutoring, he finally completed his high school education this spring.

"I got a diploma," he said in his whisper of a voice, his lips forming a faint smile. "Yeah, it was cool."

So was a phone call he received several weeks ago from movie star Adam Sandler, Hartling said. And then there was the Play Station 3 console he was given recently, along with his favorite video game: Sonic the Hedgehog.

In the day room-turned-zoo, however, all attention was on the animals — rabbits, ducklings and other critters — that rolled around their small pens to the wide-eyed delight of the center's residents.

"This doesn't happen all the time," Levin said as one of the workers zipped by holding a baby goat, "and I think the other kids are enjoying it as much as he is."

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