



The Cause Jar

In my volunteer work, I assisted a family that had been torn and shattered by circumstances no one should face. Especially children. In spite of the horrific conditions this family endured, they slowly overcame what seemed like insurmountable challenges and began to heal. During the process they always thanked me for the help they received.

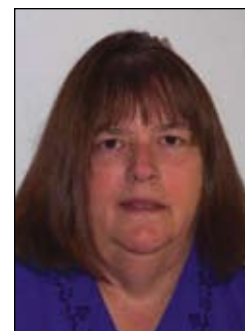
As their life became more stable and the tasks associated with daily survival became less frightening, they wanted to find a way to render kindness to others in need. Believe me. Any effort to do this would have a great impact on their continued progress. I admired them for their generosity in thought, but I knew they had many obstacles to overcome to fully heal.

A year had passed when I encountered them at a social service agency that I was helping with grant writing. I assumed they were there as clients when in fact they had made a donation. The youngest child showed me "the cause jar". It was a coffee jar decorated with hearts and flowers taped on it. The mother informed me that whenever they could, they deposited loose change in the jar. The children would comb parking parks looking for pennies that were dropped. Mom used coupons and contributed the value of the largest coupon

each week. Every month they would count and roll the change. Then they would pick an agency and make a donation. Yes, the donations were small monetarily, but huge in thought and kindness.

As a member of the Florida Kiwanis District you are also a member of the Florida Kiwanis Foundation. The Foundation invites you to become a sustaining member. As a sustaining member you are contributing to the noble cause of the Foundation in supporting the youth of Florida. Sustaining memberships provide the financial means to support various leadership opportunities for our youth participating in Key Club and CKI. The \$25.00 membership will have a lasting return of significant value as an investment in our most precious resource. OUR YOUTH.

So, get a jar or box and decorate it with the Kiwanis logo and deposit your loose change. In no time you will have \$25.00 to become as sustaining member. The young men and women in our Kiwanis Family will be so thankful for your support.



Laura Beagles
President Florida
Kiwanis Foundation

2008-2009

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