

# GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT

## What does a generosity of spirit mean to me?

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“A generosity of spirit.” A phrase that is often interpreted contrastingly from one student to another. An expression that one should live by. To me, these four words have been deeply rooted through me for years. It means to celebrate those around you, to be there in the great times just as well as the dark times, and ultimately to understand what it connotes to be a part of a community.

I believe that my environment, both at home and at school, has sculpted me into the embodiment of a generosity of spirit. The Red Oaks School has instilled an inevitable inclination to support my community in the corresponding manner that The Red Oaks School has done for me for over 11 years. I have observed that having gratitude for one’s community is often what elicits a generosity of spirit. There are numerous ways that one can convey this spirit. For me, it is fighting food insecurity by creating handcrafted cards and selling them to raise funds for the Interfaith Food Pantry Network in Morris County (IFPN). I approached Senora Beer, the World Language teacher at The Red Oaks School in 5th grade with my idea to translate my creativity into a tangible, meaningful outcome. First, I created 10 colorful hand painted greeting cards which were sold to The Red Oaks School faculty and teachers and the money raised was donated to the School’s Annual Fund. They were a huge success, raising \$100 for the school and establishing a deeper connection with my community! Shortly after, Senora Beer asked me to create 20 cards for the Interfaith Food Pantry Network Spring Gala. The gratification that I received after completing this, knowing that \$1 was equivalent to donating 1 pound of food, inspired me to create my own initiative, [Good Intentions](#), where 100% of the proceeds from my card orders are contributed to IFPN. My desire to give back to my community is represented in the motto of Good Intentions: Bringing food, promise, and hope to those who need it most.

I also realized the both tangible and intangible ways that my cards could spread happiness – whether it was through people simply receiving one of my thoughtful cards that I tried my very best to make personal, or whether it was through clients receiving food from the IFPN that was donated with the money I had raised. For example, in 7th grade, my Art teacher, Ms. Emily, asked me to create nine bridesmaid cards for her rustic themed wedding. When crafting them, I made sure to keep in mind the romantic setting of The Lakewood Estate in Croton-on-Hudson, NY, her wedding venue, with the subdued color palette, greenery and lace patterns that she had shared with me. I incorporated the pale rose pink and yellow peonies reflecting the light not only emitted from the bright June sun, but also the happiness from the newlywed couple. The money raised from these cards and the matching funds were donated to the IFPN. I am sure that this brought joy to the people who received food from the pantry with the money donated. It was also endearing to see breathtaking pictures of my cards on Ms. Emily’s Instagram story.

I receive support from my community because of my generosity of spirit. The summer before 7th grade, I raised \$1,000 for the IFPN through the generous orders for my cards. I am

greatly honored to be able to express my love for my community through doing something that I love to do. The cards I sell remind me how grateful I am for the community I am a part of. It reminds me of who I turn to when I need support. It reminds me of the community that raised me. But most importantly, it reminds me that without my community, who would I be? And for this, I know the reason that I continue to strive to embody a generosity of spirit – To be able to reciprocate the inherent love that I have received for 11 years from Red Oaks School.

Learn more about Good Intentions: <https://goodintentionsnj.wixsite.com/my-site-2>