

Fifth-grader steps up to help local agencies

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Ten-year-old Linda Will, a fifth-grade Knapp Elementary student, has been raising money to help others since she was 8 years old by hosting a charitable lemonade stand and bake sale. Photo provided

MICHIGAN CITY — Ten-year-old Linda Will has learned the value of charitable giving at a young age. The fifth-grade Knapp Elementary student has been raising money to help others since she was 8 years old by hosting a charitable lemonade stand and bake sale.

This year marks the third year of her efforts with the proceeds benefiting the Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families.

Having the lemonade stand and bake sale in her front yard, Linda raised a total of \$110 for the shelter. She also collected school supplies, diapers, paper products and other needed items, which were given to the shelter along with the the proceeds.

According to Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families Executive Director Jim Musial, when Linda and her family presented the funds and supplies to the shelter, they also brought along a box of cupcakes.

“Linda, on her own initiative and not as part of a school or organization project, has recognized needs in this community and has taken specific action to address it,” Musial said. “Her sense of humanity and community involvement needs to be recognized and applauded. The children truly are our future and this act bodes well for all of us.”

With the assistance of her mother, Kara Will and grandmother Anita Henn, Linda makes a variety of homemade baked goods to sell including molasses cookies, chocolate chip cookies, Rice Krispie treats and brownies.

According to her mother, Linda’s philanthropic efforts began when she was only 8 years old. “Just one day out of the blue she said that she wanted to have a lemonade stand and a bake sale to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House,” she said.

Last year’s profits were split among Relay for Life, the Salvation Army and the Humane Society.

Linda stated that she began her bake sale because she was interested in starting a business and wanted to donate the money to charity. “It’s better to donate instead of keeping money for yourself,” she said. “You should donate to people who actually need it.”

While Linda plans to continue her charitable baking next year, she hopes to expand her business in order to reach more customers. She is considering contacting local stores to pursue the idea of setting up her stand inside the store.

In the future, Linda hopes to become a child psychologist, veterinarian or a doctor at a children’s hospital. “I really like children and I really like animals,” she said. “I want to be something that is a smart choice like a doctor and something that involves animals or children.”