

My name is Beth I am 11 years old. In second grade my friend; Zachary got a cancer called acute lymphocytic leukemia which is a slow growing and easier to treat cancer. Right before going into 5th grade Zachary was diagnosed with another cancer, acute myeloid leukemia. This cancer is an aggressive fast growing cancer and more difficult to treat. Zachary was not able to go to 5th grade but occasionally came to our classroom window to say "Hi."

I talked to my Mom and asked her if I could help. We decided to sell leukemia awareness bracelets and hand out flyers about an upcoming benefit for Zachary. I sold bracelets to my neighbors, family and friends. I also went to Super Ron's Grocery Store for 2 hours asking for donations, it was well worth it because I collected \$270.49. One weekend I went to my Aunt & Uncle's Spanish church and they did a special collection for Zachary, I collected \$310.10.

I stuffed all the money I collected into a large jar. At the benefit I asked people to guess how much money I had in the jar and if they were the closest they would get a prize. By the time I presented the jar full of money to Zachary I had collected over \$1300!

It made me feel good that I was helping someone else that needed it. And all it took was a little bit of my time each day. I learned that it is important to help people that need it more than I do instead of buying candy, dolls, books and other toys.

Here are some other ideas that you can do around your school or home to make a difference.

- 1) If someone looks lonely on the playground, ask them if they would like to play with you.
- 2) Help out with chores around your house without complaining.
- 3) Don't think of things as being boring, make the best of them and have fun.
- 4) Smile and laugh a little more, it will make you feel better and make others feel better too.
- 5) Be proud of who you are, like who you are, and have fun!

By: Beth Verheyden
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Age 11