# A.R.K. Charity Project Essay Compilation 2023 <u>What does giving charity daily mean to me?</u>

## by the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students of Wyoming Area Catholic School, Exeter, PA

#### **Anthony Ford**

The reason I give to charity is that many people need help from other people. The A.R.K. Charity Project tells us to put a coin in an ARK bank each day and every time when you're being kind. Thanksgiving is coming along, and some people don't have enough money to have thanksgiving dinner which makes a bunch of people very sad. The money that we give goes to all the homeless people and shelters. The shelters give people good homes and food, but their supplies are limited to the amount of money they receive. We sent in last year over 2000 dollars, and everyone was so happy that people were going to be able to have Thanksgiving with their families.

Every Friday, we bring in our ARK banks full of coins. Sometimes people forget them but then they will have a full bank next time. In the morning, we count all the money that was brought into the school.

Doing kind things can always help someone. Giving as little as a dime could make someone's day. I always see homeless people on the curb, and it makes me feel sad because they didn't do anything wrong, and even if they did, nobody deserves to be homeless. People do food drives and coat drives for homeless people. You can volunteer at soup kitchens and help the poor get meals.

Some people die of hunger and thirst because of being homeless, or are living in the cold because they have no shelter. One time my mom saw this person that couldn't afford her groceries, so she helped her with the bill. She started to say thank you and I felt great because I felt that my mom did a kind thing because I have never seen anyone do anything like that. It made me look up to my mom even more.

#### **Brady DePhillips**

Giving daily to charity has made a positive effect on my daily life. It makes me feel good to give to those in need and to help others. It makes me feel happy to donate to others. At Wyoming Area Catholic School, we are learning that G-d teaches us to be giving. We are learning that G-d asks us to give and not expect anything in return. We should give out of the kindness of our heart. When we do this, we are showing our love for G-d. Showing our love for G-d is one of the most important lessons we are learning at school.

One benefit of giving is that of happiness and positivity. Starting the day out in a positive way sets me up for success each day. It allows me to think of other kind actions that I could do throughout the day at school and at home. When I am at school we are always learning about our faith in G-d. As I go through my day, I try to do kind things for my teachers and friends. Once I am home, I help my family and practice being kind.

I am very grateful for everything that I have. I know that some people are not as blessed. The holiday season should be enjoyed by everyone, and I am happy to donate to a charity to help those who are very deserving.

## Ella Sebia

Giving to charity daily means that I will help people who need the help. Since Thanksgiving is coming, the money that we collect from the ARKs will go to people who need it. The money goes to homeless shelters and people who need the money for food.

Every day leading up to Friday, we get money to put in the ARKs after doing random acts of kindness. When it's Friday, we empty our ARKs and count the money.

I like to put food in the food donation box, and volunteer for the Builders Club, like writing cards for Veterans. I like to give my time to others that need my help, and I also like to include others who feel left out. I will help anyone who needs my assistance/help. If someone gets hurt, I will help them, and try to find out who hurt them. I think volunteering is a good way to help others and learn how to be grateful for all the stuff I have at my mom's and dad's side. I will be a good citizen, leader, helper, daughter, student, and friend to others whether they are in my community or not.

#### **Emily Cunningham**

Giving to charity does not always have to mean giving money or things. Charity can also mean giving your time to others. Soon it will be Thanksgiving and many people cannot afford food. You can donate food and money, but you can also donate your time at a soup kitchen or other places for people in need. When you give money and food you feel good. When you donate your time, you feel good and get to experience and listen to what other people are going through. It makes me thankful for what I have. Whether you donate time, money, or food you are helping people and it feels great.

When I put money in my ARK, I think of all of the good things I did and I smile, and I think of other kind things I can do. I also think about the families who are getting the money and it makes me feel great to be part of an organization that helps people. When I put money in the ARK, it makes me feel proud. I am incredibly happy to be part of the ARK project.

I am incredibly thankful for what I have. When I see some people who don't have as much as I have, I try to think of ways to help them. People might not need help with physical things, they might just need someone to talk to. Sometimes people have everything they want but they do not have anyone to talk to. Just listening to someone can make them feel better. It also makes me feel better when someone is sad and I can make them feel better. You can volunteer at soup kitchens, food drives, or a coat drive. You can help people in many ways. Each way is different but important. It feels great to help people. You should try to help people whenever you get a chance.

#### Ethan Matechak

Every single time I put a coin in the ARK, I feel like I'm doing something good for myself and other people. Whenever I give money to charity, I feel good about myself. I can also give charity without giving money - I could give them some of my old toys or stuffed animals, or some food from a grocery store. I could also make time to listen to people. I listen to my mom when she wants to tell me something, or if she is giving me advice. I listen to my dad when he gives me chores to do such as weed whacking the front and backyards. I give time to also pray to G-d at school and home. I put money in my ARK when I do something good for my mom, my dad, my friends, and other people, or when I help my parents and do chores. I put one in for my friends if I help them with something. I will put money in the ARK every day.

Another way to help my mom is taking the dog outside. I have two different dogs. We adopted them from the SPCA which is an organization that helps animals get good homes. My family gives donations to the SPCA such as money, pet food, blankets, and towels. All the dogs that we've had come from the shelter. It makes us feel good to give homeless pets a loving home. I get sad when I see the commercials on tv of all the homeless pets. I would adopt them all if I could.

I like to donate because I know I'm helping poor people who can't afford anything. It also makes me sad to see the poor people sitting out in the cold with nothing to eat or give them warmth. I hope that the money that I'm donating will help those poor people at least get something good to eat. I like to donate because I know I'm doing good deeds for people. I love charity and I also want it to continue for as long as I can. I want to help as many people as I can.

During the holidays we donate toys and money to children that don't have a lot. We get the tags off the angel tree and buy the things listed on them. I would be sad if I didn't get any presents. Knowing that I can give a present to a kid that doesn't have much makes me feel good.

If everyone in the world did a small part to give to someone in need, the world would be a better place. We can set a good example to everyone by helping those less fortunate. All year long you should always give what you can whether its money or time, or just lending a helping hand to someone that needs it. It will make you feel good to help others. And then when you need help, you can feel good knowing that someone will help you the way you've helped others. I try to live my life to set a good example to others and make my family proud.

#### **Grace Klein**

Every day I try to get coins to place inside my ARK. I work my hardest to be kind and do nice things for others. I think being kind to others is very important. We all should try to do our best by being kind and spreading happiness. Of course, all humans mess up sometimes, but we should have faith in G-d and do our best to treat everyone kindly and respectfully. There are many ways to be kind. For example, when I go to a store, I always try to say something nice to at least two people. I know that when someone hears, "I like your earrings," or "Wow, I love your dress," that makes them feel really good inside. I like making other people feel really good inside because maybe they were having a rough day or someone hurt their feelings, and I know that would make me feel really good to have someone brighten up my day. I like to try to make everyone feel good, and I know it is important to teach others to be kind so they will pass on kindness to others too.

Filling an ARK can definitely change our world because it shows others to always do good deeds and spread happiness. Filling my ARK weekly and being kind daily feels like winning an award to me. It's like winning an award for the whole world. This community ARK project inspires children of all ages to always be kind to others and to be positive. Every day I try to give a few coins for my ARK, and every time it makes me feel good inside! I am sure all the students must feel this way when filling their ARK.

I know it is important to be kind and to fill my ARK weekly because people inspire me to do good things. For example, Mrs. Rishcoff, the Wyoming Area Catholic principal, is one person who inspires me to be kind. Mrs. Rishcoff is absolutely the kindest principal ever! Every afternoon she says on the loudspeaker, "Don't forget to do your homework and study and please be nice to everyone." That daily reminder is so inspiring since we are ending our school day on a positive note, and she is reminding us to do good things in the community and at home after school.

I hope you enjoyed reading my essay and understand what giving to charity daily means to me. You may not have an ARK to fill yet, but I hope my essay inspires you to fill the world with happiness, kindness, and joy.

## Halle Jernigan

Kindness is something we can't take for granted because it brings peace. For example, you're at school, you're in the hallway, and suddenly, your friends' books fall! Are you going to help them, or are you going to just walk away? You see, these are things we need to think about carefully, because if kindness didn't exist there would be no peace in the world. Some of you may think, well there still isn't peace in the world because there are still people out there doing bad things. Then that's why we should all believe in G-d and step in and do the right thing. Even if there are people out there doing bad things, we can still be kind and pray for peace. Thankfully

there are some people out there who are still fighting for peace. I believe people need to think about why kindness is so important, because I have seen people not be kind.

One time I was walking in Manhattan, NY and I saw a bunch of homeless people on the street. They were just there trying to get money. I saw one even sleeping on the road, and people were just walking past them acting like they weren't even there! My sister and I got coins from my mom and gave them to one of them.

I believe we should all thank the one who created kindness, which is G-d. G-d always wants us to be kind even in bad times. That's what we need to understand in life. If we really want to make the world a better place, then step up and be kind! Kindness means to me that we should not just stand there or walk past someone when they need help. We should go and help them every chance we get. Some people don't help, probably because they don't care about other people or are just lazy, or they don't take the time to think about others who are in need. The number one rule that G-d wants us to remember is to love your neighbor as you love yourself. That's what we all need to remember in life. I wish everyone would remember this. We can't just take these words for granted. These words are very serious and important and are words we cannot live without.

Some people only do kind deeds for personal rewards, but that should never be the reason. G-d doesn't want us doing good deeds just for selfish reasons. We should do good deeds to make others feel good, not just ourselves. If you want to feel good and loved, you need to step up and be kind, and don't take this for granted.

#### **James Chromey**

When I think of charity, I think about how Thanksgiving is coming soon. I think of caring for others by giving money, kindness, time, friendship, and a helping hand to everyone who needs it. I also give charity by not being selfish and including others in activities, and volunteering for certain causes like food drives, soup kitchens, and pARK cleanups. Putting money in my ARK is a step closer to helping everyone. Sometimes, I cannot bear to think about all the people out there without any food, clothes, money, water, or a roof over their heads. That is why I donate so much money and dedication to the A.R.K project.

Another way I can help out is through the Builders Club. The club is not about building actual things, but rather building a good, happy, and healthy community for every person in our

town to thrive in. We do not just do things for our community, but we also help people in other states, and even other countries by sending things out in bags.

Even in Boy Scouts, we get badges for organizing projects for the homeless, and unfortunate. I do not participate in these projects for the badges, though. I simply do these things so more people can live life the way it was intended: to the fullest and to enjoy it. The kind deeds I do also make me feel good inside as well.

During the holiday season we know that not everyone can enjoy a holiday like we do, so we participate in food drives, and the giving tree every year. We even donate food, money, and clothes, and every year we look through our toys and give at least half of it away.

Every day when I give charity to the needy, by inserting a coin into my ARK, I get a special feeling. It's a rush of positive energy, knowing that just one penny could be the one to put food on a family's table tonight. That is why I participate in the ARK and give to others. That's kindness.

## **Joslynn Susevich**

Giving to charity is a selfless, giving, and altruistic act. It is something that we all should do for many reasons. We are always supposed to look out for others, like giving money to people in need, helping the community, or even just volunteering to shovel your elderly neighbor's driveway. Giving brings extraordinary feelings to both givers and receivers. It is contagious, the feeling of helping others is extremely beautiful, and once you do it, you will do it again and again.

Being a giving and kind person can make your life feel more meaningful. It has been proven that giving to charity daily improves your health. According to scientists, donating will make you experience mixed feelings of pleasure and satisfaction, due to the existing link between giving and the increased activities in the area of your brain that registers pleasure.

Donating has made me a more empathetic person. I put myself in other people's shoes and it made me realize how much volunteering is appreciated. When I help others, it gives me the satisfaction that I have done something useful for the community. It makes me feel helpful, obliging, and of use.

When I start my day I put some money in the ARK. The minute I do that, my day begins good and starts with a sense of helpfulness. When I wake up in the morning and donate, I feel as if I

have already helped the community. If I am scrolling online and see a video talking about how bad some people are suffering. It makes me realize how lucky I am as a child to have food, water, and shelter. When I see how lucky I am, it makes me want to give back to the people who are not as fortunate as me. Filling an ARK may not sound like much, but no matter what amount, it is helping the earth in some way.

Kindness is Humanity. Our emotions reveal who we truly are as human beings. We should always give to our community. It strengthens our responsibility and our compassion to help others.

## Martha Goffredo

Giving to charity is more than just giving food, clothes, blankets, and more. It is about really understanding what people are going through. It might seem that you are just giving away your old things, but the people in need who are receiving your stuff are very thankful and grateful for what you are donating to them. Donating a pair of socks or a can of soup can really change someone's life. Everyone should be able to have food to eat, a blanket to keep them warm, or even just a smile or a wave to make them happy.

Putting money in an ARK might not seem like a big deal, but each coin can make a difference. By doing this A.R.K Project, us students are learning to be better people by donating to charity, and even understanding that we are very lucky because we have a house to go back to at the end of the day. Giving to charity means to me that I am helping someone less fortunate and that genuinely makes me feel really good. I think that this A.R.K Project is so inspiring for young students to be able to give back to their communities, and even to be more thankful for what they have.

Acts of Random Kindness is what the A.R.K Project stands for and there are so many things you can do to make our world a better place. All you must do is be kind. Volunteering is a great way to show your kindness around your community. You can volunteer at a food bank or even just help your neighbor cut their grass. Any act of kindness is enough to change someone's perspective of things. All they need is to know that someone is there for them; telling them they can get through the hard times.

Another way to show people that you really care is to give your time to talk with them or just be around them. I can do this by going over to my grandparents' house when they are home

and doing things with them. I can also help them with things around their house. Since Thanksgiving is coming up soon, I can help them clean and decorate their house with them. I can also give time to spend with my sister. I know she looks up to me so much, so I would like to dedicate some time to her. Even though she is my little sister, I look up to her too. She inspires me to be myself and she makes me a better person. She also makes me laugh when I need it and she is very sensitive and cares a lot about others.

I can also include others by letting other kids play with my friends and me. I can continue to notice when little kids are trying to ask me something or even just to smile or wave at them. Including others is so important because you need to make them feel like they are not the only ones going through hard times. You can talk to them to make them feel more comfortable or involved. This A.R.K Project is so important, and this is what charity means to me.

#### **Mia Bovani**

This project has taught me a lot about giving to other people. Seeing people's faces when I help them makes me feel good and makes me want to do it more and more. Every week I put money into the ARK and on Friday I count all the money I put in there. It inspires me to work hard because I know that some families do not have as much as I do. I also help my aunt at the Wyoming Area High School food pantry loading cars, packing boxes, and organizing the food.

When I put money in my ARK I think about all the good things I have done. Every day I walk into school I look at all the animals on the ARK and I think about all the kind things people do each day. I try my best to be kind to others. I play sports and the sports I play are basketball, cheerleading, flag football, and volleyball. I always try to include everyone. I try to help people if they do not know how to play the sport. I am one of the cheer captains. I teach people how to do all the cheers and dance routines.

I love how my school always encourages me and all my friends to help others, be kind, and volunteer.

## **Molly Pokrinchak**

Giving is important to me because it can change my life just by giving my time to do something good for others. I can volunteer for something, include others, or just donate a couple cents in the A.R.K. a day. Giving can also mean being nice to someone or giving your time. Thanksgiving is coming up, and my family is donating to a canned food drive, because some people can't afford

Thanksgiving dinner for their family. These acts of kindness can really change a person's life. Giving even the smallest amount, whether it is money, time, or food, can make a person better in their life. Showing an act of kindness to others can make them be kind to others as well. Giving can also mean praying that the people in need get the things they need, because G-d will always listen and help them. Helping others, even people I know, is also helping people on their journey.

Many times in school, we are asked to donate food and clothing to people in need during the holidays. We should be thinking about this all year round. People need things like food, clothing, and shelter throughout the year. If we give all year round, it will hopefully become a habit and a part of our lives every day.

It is very heartwarming to see that all the needy people finally get what they need and deserve. In school we are taught to not only think of ourselves but to think of others as well. This Thanksgiving, donate a little bit of your time, open your heart, relax, pray for the people in need, donate to charity, be kind, include others, and pray that all people get a Thanksgiving dinner and see their family and friends. Hopefully we will all have a very happy Thanksgiving. Giving to others is also thanking G-d for what he gave us.

## **Paul Dominick**

Giving to charity means a lot to me. It helps people and makes me feel good. To me, charity means doing acts of kindness, giving time, volunteering, and helping those in need, like donating to charity, feeding the homeless, and providing them with a shelter. You get a really good feeling when you help people in need. When I helped at a food drive and raised a lot of food for people in need - this gave me a great feeling of happiness. At our school, we are doing this A.R.K. project to help underprivileged people. Throughout the week, we put money in a little miniature ARK and every Friday we take the money out and the teachers collect the money for a charity to help people. It is a very unique project that we are doing, and it really does make a difference over time. Every time we do a good deed, we put a coin in the ARK and even though it may just be a coin, when you have 200 students and each of them do good things per week, it adds up really fast. This is just one way for us students to be able to donate to charity.

Remember when I was talking about giving time and volunteering? Let me expand on that. Giving your time and volunteering can be put together. You can also start a food or water drive or simply volunteer at a homeless shelter. You can also include others in what you are doing. The more people working with you, the better. This is what giving to charity means to me.

## **Ryleigh Santee**

Charity is a wonderful thing. Thanksgiving is getting close and it's an exciting time of year. We can see our family and eat lots of delicious food, but some families don't have the money to pay for a big Thanksgiving dinner. To help these families, we can give money to the poor and go help at food drives. I'm going to help at a food drive on Sunday to give food to the poor who can't afford dinner for their family. It feels so good when you see the happiness on people's faces when they see that people care about them.

At school we have the A.R.K project; A.R.K. means Acts of Random Kindness. By helping out a little extra around the house, doing chores and helping out our parents give us some change to put into our ARK. At the end of the week, we bring our plastic ARK to school and add to the change that all students have collected. Then you can see how people can be helped by giving some spare change. This is what charity means to me.

You don't always need to give money or food; you can give a blanket or a coat. Eyewitness News just had a coat drive, they had over four hundred coats collected by people in North-Eastern Pennsylvania in one day. Little things or big things can help others. Anyone can make a difference and you don't always need to give money. You can help at a food drive or clothing drive or donate at any function that helps others.