

Inspiration is a Mighty Tool



I am Christine Filanowicz, Director of the Cornerstone's Clothing Bank Etc. in Rockville. I would like to share with you a young girl's inspiration. Her name is Alexis Jablonecki, a senior, attending East Catholic High School. Alexis told me she had an inspiration at 2 am in the morning to do a toy drive for children who may not have a festive Christmas this year. So many parents are out of a job or are being hit hard with the increase of prices, including their rent. It makes it harder to make ends meet. Alexis was concerned for the children not getting presents this holiday season so she made a plan to help some of these families, by organizing a toy drive.

Alexis is on the basketball team at East Catholic High School and went to the Athletic Department to present her idea and got permission to implement it. On opening day, anybody who brought a toy would get free admission to the game.

She got so much support from the fans that she was able to share the toys between two places, Cornerstone's Clothing Bank Etc., being one. While she was telling the story of how the toy drive came to be, her parents were beaming with admiration for their daughter's accomplishment.

Right away we were able to give some of those toys Alexis collected to a family with three children, who were in limbo waiting to get into a shelter. The mom sent the Clothing Bank pictures of her children holding the gifts with big smiles, on Christmas day. She thanked us for the generosity and thoughtfulness for the gifts, but really, the thank you goes to Alexis and all those who donated to her cause.

I loved hearing Alexis's story. I feel such joy when our young people think about others less fortunate and find a way to make a difference.

Christine Filanowicz