

## **Grace Mellenthin, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Illini Middle School**

The definition of “generous” in the dictionary is, free in giving or sharing: unselfish. I think that definition is correct, but I believe that there is more to it. Generosity is loving someone enough to give up your most prized possession for him or her or caring enough for a friend to sit down and talk with them when they’re having trouble. Have you ever shown generosity? I’m proud to say that I have. I volunteer at the Crisis Food Center in Alton and donate my out-grown clothes.

I think being generous is almost the best quality to have. For example, when you are being generous, you have to be fair, respectful, kind, polite, and last, but not least, trustworthy. A student can show generosity at school by giving extra money so someone can eat lunch, lending a pencil or paper, helping with homework or giving a friend a ride. When I’m at lunch and someone is 50 cents or a dollar short of buying lunch, I’ll try to find money for them, if I don’t have any to give them.

I was raised being taught how to be generous and polite. When I was little, I had to learn how to share. My favorite candy was Tootsie Rolls and I had two siblings. You do the math! I eventually learned how to share and I try to be as generous as possible at school and at home. At home, a student could show generosity by helping your mom carry in groceries, helping clean your bother’s room, shoveling your neighbors sidewalk when it snows, and helping cook dinner.

A person that I admire so much is my Grandma Mellenthin. She is so generous. Not only does she spoil me, but also she’s generous to her friends and congregation. She will give you a special treat for no reason or go out of her way to bake your favorite cookies. She loves to give other people her love and generosity and rarely thinks of herself.

I believe generosity is important in everyday life because so many people are in need of love or homes or clothing. Also, it is important because you never know what can happen. For example, natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina or the tsunami happened at unexpected times. People around the world were and still are generous to the survivors of the hurricane that hit in the southern portion of the U.S. I'm so privileged for everything I have, and I try to give something back!