

# Fruitland Park sisters run lemonade stand to help the homeless

By Cindy Dian, Correspondent | Daily Commercial, August 7, 2016

Most kids run a lemonade stand to earn a couple of extra dollars, but Fruitland Park sisters Makayla Kubis, 8, and Lola, 5, are using their money to make blessing bags filled with basic necessities for the homeless. **“They learned about making blessing bags at the First United Methodist Church summer camp in Mount Dora,”** said Amy Sanfelippo, the girls' aunt. “They loved making them there and wanted to continue doing them on their own.”

Makayla had already wanted to run a lemonade stand this summer so it was the perfect opportunity to do both. “I wanted to help the homeless because they need things like shampoo, soap and food,” she said. “I love helping people, because even if I don’t know who they are, they are a part of our world and we should take care of them.”

With the help of their family, the girls were taught how to run a business and make a plan. They needed to figure out how to raise money, how to gather supplies and how to distribute the goods. “They are learning all about money, sanitation and customer service,” Sanfelippo said. “I want them to be caring adults and realize that just because people have bad moments in life, we can still show them kindness.”

The Lady Lake Farmer’s Market donated space for the girls to set up their lemonade stand, where Makayla is in charge of the lemonade and Lola decided she wanted to sell cookies. “When I heard what these girls wanted to do, I was more than happy to help out,” Market Manager Josh Duclos said. “It’s inspiring to me to watch these young girls reach out to the older people in their time of need. It truly comes from the heart.”



Their stand melted the hearts of many who attended the market Tuesday and encouraged others to help out, too. Cameron Caley, 13, decided he could help by telling people around the market about the stand and helping the sisters gather donations. “I think helping the homeless is a great idea,” he said. “They really need the things in the bags, so I wanted to help out. I brought as many people as I could to their stand. Some people helped by just giving donations.

The girls raised \$53 on Tuesday, which is enough to fill five blessing bags. The bags consist of shampoo, soap, sanitary wipes, a toothbrush, toothpaste and snacks. They also want to include dog treats because some homeless people have pets. Any time they see a person in need, they have a bag ready to give. Sanfelippo has experience working with the community in downtown Orlando, so she is teaching her nieces necessary safety precautions. “I hope we can make 1,000 bags and keep helping everyone,” Makayla said. “It makes me feel happy to take care of others.”

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