

RISING STAR

MAKALA CORBIN



When Makala was seven,” says Makala Corbin’s mom Heather, “she said to me, ‘Instead of buying a toy for a child this Christmas, can I buy pet food for the homeless pets?’ Since that conversation

Makala’s giving heart has fundraised thousands of dollars to help homeless pets, children, and hurricane victims in St. Johns County.” A simple idea inspired by Makala’s third-grade teacher, Ms. Fenner, would be the roots which grew into Makala’s expansive giving tree. It all started with Makala making bookmarks with duct tape which she sold for \$1 each. She earned a total of \$275 that she donated to Dreams Come True, a wish-granting organization in Jacksonville.

At the surprisingly young age of 10, Makala is about to embark on her third annual furry friend fundraiser which benefits the SJC Pet Center. She also created the Summer Fun Campaign to assist the homeless children in St. Johns County. “Unfortunately,” says Makala, “St. Augustine has a lot of homeless children. Last summer we were up to almost 800 homeless students in the school system, and this has affected my heart because it’s so sad. I do a Summer Fun Campaign to buy toys for these children so they can have an enjoyable summer.” Makala’s keen intuition and instincts help her identify needs in the community. After Irma, she collected personal hygiene products, school supplies, laundry soap, and linens for blessing bags. She distributed two bags to ten families from local schools.

All this graceful giving got Makala nominated for the Beaver Toyota Extraordinary Accomplishment Award which led to a radio interview which aired for a week.

It might seem like a girl as philanthropic as Makala wouldn’t have spare time for herself, but she loves her American Girl doll collection, gymnastics, and basketball. She has also been learning ASL for about a year. Makala enjoys spending time at Vilano Beach with her family. She says, “In the evenings my family goes there to look for shark’s teeth, sea glass and to play. It is a nice way to end our day.”

*You can help Makala's cause
by visiting her website*

www.makalacorbin.com

