

♥ KIDS MAKING A DIFFERENCE ♥

Three years ago, Amelia and Ava had the opportunity to volunteer with The Bay City Noon Optimist Club at our monthly birthday party at the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. Little did we know that the experience would inspire something so special!

Each month, our Optimist Club hosts a birthday party for the children currently residing at the Rescue Mission. We provide a craft, games or entertainment, and of course, cake and ice cream! The children and their parents are invited to join in the fun. Every child receives a goodie bag, and those celebrating a birthday that month also receive a special present.

Some of these children have never had a birthday party of their own. When Amelia and Ava learned this, their wheels started turning. 🛞

They decided they wanted to do something to help!

At just 8 years old, these two young ladies took matters into their own hands and decided to start a lemonade stand to raise money for the birthday parties. Amelia's grandmother, Kim Hazen, an Optimist Club member, and her mother, Karrie Mieske, who is now also an Optimist member, helped provide the supplies needed to get started. Kim even promised to match whatever the girls earned!

- ♥ **Year One:** They raised approximately \$200.00, which became \$400.00 thanks to Grandma Kim's generous matching donation.
- ♥ **Year Two:** they raised an amazing \$600.00
- ♥ **Year Three:** their lemonade stand has become a Huge success! With the support of their parents and grandparents, they now have a tent, a roadside sign, juicers to squeeze the fresh lemons. Powdered lemonade is a thing of the past! These girls have upgraded to fresh-squeezed lemonade. 🍹

Despite their busy schedules and involvement in sports, Amelia and Ava raised **over \$1,000.00 this year!** What an incredible accomplishment!

Their plan is to continue their lemonade stand throughout middle school, and who knows what wonderful ideas they will come up with next.

One thing is for certain, Amelia and Ava are already making a difference in their community. They saw a need, came up with an idea, and took action. They are making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

The Bay City Noon Optimist Club is incredibly grateful for their generosity, proud of their hard work and inspired by their big hearts. Thank you, Amelia and Ava, for reminding us all that you are never too young (or old) to make a difference.

Submitted by,

Patti Krenz President BCNO