

## She's Got Spirit: Hillary's Story

Imagine being called “the best of America” or named one of “America’s Top 10 Youth Volunteers of the Year!” Well, that is exactly what a former secretary of state and the Prudential Financial Company have said about Hillary—an 11-year-old Girl Scout Cadette from Bedford, New Hampshire.

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Hillary was recently presented with the 2006 Spirit of Community Award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. In addition to receiving an all-expenses-paid trip to the capital, Hillary was awarded \$5,000, a gold medallion, a crystal trophy for her nominating school or organization, and a \$5,000 grant from the Prudential Foundation to give to the charity of her choice.

“Seeing others with nothing makes you want to give everything you can to them.”  
—Hillary

When Hillary realized that many children could not afford art and school supplies, she started making kits of school supplies for kids who need them in her community. When she heard about the victims of the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia, she recruited other volunteers, set up donation boxes and centers, and assembled and shipped 900 “humanitarian kits” to help make a difference. And she even managed to include 100 stuffed animals for the younger children.

Hillary has even started her own nonprofit organization, Color My World: Kids Who Care, and has collected more than \$11,000 worth of personal-care products and other items to send to needy families around the world. As former First Lady Barbara Bush has said about Hillary and other youth from around the country who have made such an impressive effort and earned the Prudential Award, these young people “serve as role models for other children.”

“Volunteering has taught me to look outside myself and discover where I can make a difference.”

—Hillary

In addition to all the recognition she has received, Hillary also values volunteering as a unique opportunity for personal growth. “Serving others helps you as much as it helps them—just in different ways. I have learned how to be more organized, lead others, and influence others to be better people.”

Perhaps Hillary’s inspirational story is best summed up in her own words, when she says, “My motto is ‘Search inward, look upward, and reach outward.’ And I would tell other people—just get out and do something!”

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