

## Faydra Rector: Lacie Danauskas You Matter

By Faydra Rector, Life Coach  
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I recently updated my resume. I can officially add "auctioneer" to my work experience. Last month I had the honor and privilege to help my favorite local charity, PATH (Poor And The Homeless), at their annual dinner auction fundraiser. I was asked to be the auctioneer, something that is far harder than it would seem. Luckily, I had willing people in the audience who came prepared to support the cause.

During the event, the audience was introduced to people who support PATH in one way or another. That's where I learned about Lacie Danauskas, an 11 year-old girl at Meteer School.

Smiling her middle school smile as she came front and center, we learned how Lacie had seen the PATH coin collecting banks in the community and she called PATH out of nowhere and asked to have some banks for her school. She took it upon herself to distribute the banks and collect money for men, women and children in our community who have no home.

How socially conscious are most 11 year-old children? At a time in life when most girls are maturing away from Barbie and noticing Justin Bieber, Lacie is noticing homelessness in our community. Developmentally, an 11 year-old is generally thinking about his/her own universe more than the universe that lies beyond his/her immediate attention. Emotionally, an 11 year-old is generally thinking about peer pressure and fitting in. It is against the tide to be thinking about others who don't fit into your mold. Spiritually, an 11 year-old is generally rebelling from the Sunday school propaganda of God and is pondering whether or not God is really real.

Lacie Danauskas saw a simple coin collection can in a local store and was moved into action. As far as I know, she is not homeless, she is not in the 'system' that would put neglect on her radar. She is not a regular at the shelter and I don't think she or her family has relied on the services of PATH, yet she took one step to help someone else.

Have you seen the coin collecting banks? Have you stopped and thought about how your loose change could help another? Lacie has. Have you seen the people coming up from the slough as they leave their shelter when you drive by? Lacie has. Have you seen the iconic Sale House near Lake Red Bluff and wondered who lives in that house? Lacie has.

Lacie, you matter because at 11 years old you have begun a life-long journey of selflessness. It is my duty as an adult to lift you up in recognition and tell you that what you do for others matters; that no deed, no matter how small, is too small. It is my job as a mother in this community to say I am proud of you and you should be proud of yourself.

You are a leader in this community. The money you raised is more than some adults have ever given in their lifetime.

The step you took is bigger than some adults have ever taken. Be like Lacie. See a need, fill it and be a genuine part of this community.

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