

Luna Pope

Time and Talent Are Just as Important as Treasure

Hundreds of kids and their families visit the splash park each year. But what if I told you that Jenette Pope, my mom, was one of the main philanthropists who helped make it happen? What about the DePauw farm? Every year my mom dedicates her time watering, weeding, and harvesting the crops there. Overall, she helps our community here in Greencastle. But why is what she does so important? Philanthropy is the desire to promote the welfare of others. This is normally done through large donations of money, but some people, like my mom, use time or professional skills instead. My mom is the philanthropist I know personally and admire the most because she is a great multitasker who helps the people in Greencastle and Putnam County.

On the donation side of things, my mom usually uses her skill in writing to write grants to support our community.. She has written a few for DePauw, including an energy upgrade and a recycling program to help sustainability and benefit their campus, but the most relevant to families with younger children may be the splash park. To do this, my mom went through a grant writing process required by the state that included first researching specific state requirements, creating ideas of how the splash park connected to them, and then writing an explanation of the connections. This grant paid for half of the funds to build the splash park, and the rest was paid for by community donations. She also donated personally to this. When it comes to paying with time, Mom does not fall short either. Like I mentioned before, she helps out at the DePauw farm, and helps on the Greencastle middle school PTO. Many of the things she has done are apparent in our everyday lives as citizens in Greencastle.

Some might point out that she is not a “traditional” philanthropist but that should not matter. The definition of philanthropy according to the Oxford dictionary is “the desire to

promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes.” If you note my mothers work, that is what she does. The only difference is that she breaks the stereotype of an old rich man living in a mansion -- she is a middle class working mom. Also, instead of working in or for a big charity or institution, she helps more personally by talking to specific individuals as opposed to a big group of random people. This proves that “traditional” philanthropy is not the only kind that counts.

My mom is a great role model for me, my friends and our community. She shows that there are lots of ways to give and not only the rich can make a difference. I love my mom and she is the philanthropist I know the most personally and admire the most.