

# Kids with Character

After hearing all that Karlie Smick does, it's understandable to think, "Wow, that's one busy high schooler." Or "I bet her grades have suffered because of her demanding schedule." Or even, "I'm sure it wasn't THAT Ellen she met."

Umm, wrong, wrong, and wrong again.

First of all, she's 9, and doesn't drive (as far as we know), which is surprising considering how active she is.

Her grades are actually quite boring – and haven't suffered a bit: straight A's at Copopa Elementary in Columbia Station.

And yes, it was that Ellen. Karlie earned a spot on the "Ellen DeGeneres Show" because of ... well, let her mother and chauffeur explain.

"Karlie has given up her birthday for the last three years so she could raise money for local animal-rescue shelters," Kelly-Jean Smick said. "She raised several hundred pounds of food and more than \$2,500. And when we returned home after being on the 'Ellen' show, she had no ego or attitude, either."

Who has time for ego when you're representing your community at several state festivals and fairs as "Little Miss Liberty"? Or when you're helping with projects at the church your family attends? Or when you're giving away your gently used toys and clothing to the less fortunate?

"She also donates at our local food banks several times a year," her mother said.

Forget ego. Who has time for sleep when you're as busy as this third-grader?

"She takes great pride in helping others," her mother said. "I couldn't be more proud of her." Now that's understandable.

And we're sure Karlie appreciates earning The Chronicle's Kid With Character award, she's probably just too busy to enjoy it.



## Karlie

*This recognition showcases students who have made a difference by accepting responsibility, showing kindness, valuing others' concerns, helping resolve conflicts and honoring their commitments.*

**EMH HEALTHCARE**  
co-sponsor Expert care. Exceptional caring.

**nie** THE CHRONICLE  
Newspaper  
Internet &  
Education

For nomination criteria, go to [www.chroniclet.com/Nie](http://www.chroniclet.com/Nie) or email [barbstephens@windstream.net](mailto:barbstephens@windstream.net) or call 440-329-7239