

Kids with Character

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

“Every little bit counts.” For each of The Chronicle’s Kids With Character, that philosophy plays a major role. While each nominee is worthy in unique ways, the fact that they believe that every little bit matters consistently rings true.

For Derek B. McFarland Jr. of Oberlin, how we treat the environment fits that philosophy, a detail made even more impressive when you learn that he’s only 10 years old.

“He established our recycling program in our home,” said his mother, Charmaine McFarland. “He actually made me feel a little guilty about it! He reminded me that by not recycling, we were not helping the environment. He even reminds us if we ‘accidentally’ put something in the garbage that can be recycled!”

As a member of Cub Scouts Pack 132, Derek has helped clean up trash at Cascade Park.

Helping, it seems, is a big part of Derek’s personality.

“He has volunteered with me and his grandmother at local food pantries in the past and has gone with me also to visit others in the hospital and in the nursing homes,” his mother said.

People who know Derek use words such as “responsible,” “trustworthy,” “caring” and “fair” to describe him. We think he’s a Kid With Character, and we, and our world, are better off because of him.

Every little bit counts ... something Derek proves every day.



Derek

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For nomination criteria, go to www.chroniclet.com/Nie or email bstephens@chroniclet.com or call 440-329-7239