

# 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.*

Kyra Stillwell, 12, was nominated by her grandmother, Carol Shaffer, to be a Chronicle-Telegram Kid With Character for excelling not only in the classroom but outside of it, as well.

Kyra has a heart for volunteering. She has raised funds for Heifer International, a charity that provides agricultural and farm animals to feed people in Third World countries. She also has spent her Wednesdays over the summer helping at Community Care, packing lunches and food products for families in need. And while being involved at a youth program at her church, she has collected food for the Cleveland Hunger Center and visited churches of many denominations to speak about how people with different beliefs can work together.

If that wasn't enough, she's volunteered at North Ridgeville Lions Club fundraisers and events, too.

When she's not spending her free time helping others, she's working hard in school to maintain her 4.0 grade point average at North Ridgeville Middle School. She's also part of the school's band, where her perseverance has earned her the first chair as a saxophonist.

Carol said Kyra exhibits leadership on her synchronized skating team, the Cleveland Edges. "Kyra takes it upon herself to go make sure that the kids her own age and also kids older than her line up, and makes sure that they're quiet," she said. "She'll lead cheers at times whenever she's at competitions."

She's also experienced Kyra's selfless, caring side first-hand. "She takes care of me if I've had to go to the hospital for tests or anything — she'll come over and she won't stand for me to be alone," Carol said. "It's like she comes over and babysits Grandma."

Kyra's parents are Rich and Tonya Stillwell, and she has an 8-year-old brother named Trent.



**Kyra**

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