

# 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.*

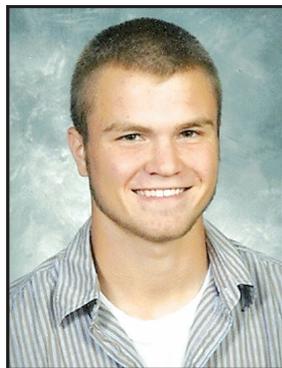
At The Chronicle, we enjoy writing the stories for Kids With Character. And then along comes Barbara J. Spencer with her nomination of Midview High School junior Andy Carlson. Basically, Barbara stole our thunder. She writes ...

“My sister, who is in her mid 50’s, lost her 18-year-old son to a drunk driver in 2010, and has two bad knees that need to be replaced. If Andy hears of anything that needs to be repaired around her house, he just goes there, without anyone asking, and takes care of it. He heard she had a leak in a wall and went over and got on the roof and cleaned out all of her gutters. He refused to take any money from either of us. He just did it because it needed to be done. I, too, am in my 50s ... If I have any problems, Andy is the first one here to take care of it.

He also helps take care of his 81-year-old grandma, who lives with him full time. When she had to spend a few days in a nursing home to recover from an illness, without anyone knowing, Andy showed up with a small bouquet of flowers for her and spent time with her there to keep her company.

He will snow plow neighbors’ driveways without payment, and without being asked. His landscaping business is small but he is very reliable and dependable. He always shows up for his jobs when he says he will, probably doesn’t charge enough for his work, and strives for perfection. All the while, he is participating in either football or wrestling. He shows good sportsmanship, is always the gentleman, and does not quit. He is a hard-working young man with a strong sense of right and wrong and service to others.”

Thanks, Barbara. We couldn’t have said it better ourselves.



**Andy**

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