

# 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.



**Gabriella**

**G**abriella Pelfrey, 12, was nominated to be a Chronicle-Telegram Kid With Character for her compassion and the enthusiasm she brings to everything she does.

Shirleen Abraham, Gabriella's Open Door Christian School teacher when she was in fourth grade, nominated her.

"Gabby is compassionate, happy and is a peacemaker," Abraham said. "Gabby is now in sixth grade, but I still see her maturity and compassion daily."

Gabriella is known to befriend anyone who needs a companion — perhaps a new student or someone who is having a rough day. If a teacher asks something of her, she readily answers "Sure!" with a happy lilt in her voice.

"She's very sensitive to other people's needs," Abraham said.

While fighting breast cancer, Abraham really saw Gabriella's character shine through: Gabby and her mother cleaned and disinfected classroom desks each Friday during Abraham's illness.

"I was going through chemo and they just wanted to make sure that there were no germs in the room," Abraham said. "A year later, she came to me in my room and she said, 'I still pray for you every day,' which just blew me away. But that's the kind of person she is."

Gabriella's extracurricular activities include dance and club volleyball. She also volunteers at her church's vacation Bible school, helps a neighbor with gardening and visits with an elderly friend weekly.

Gabriella lives in North Ridgeville with her parents, Cortis and Melissa Pelfrey, and her brother, Zachary.



For nomination criteria, go to [www.chroniclet.com/nie](http://www.chroniclet.com/nie), email [bstephens@chroniclet.com](mailto:bstephens@chroniclet.com) or call 329-7239.