

Kids with Character

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



Jada

Jada Curry, 15, was nominated to be a Chronicle-Telegram Kid With Character for her work to end bullying at Lorain High School, displaying great citizenship and respect for others.

Jada's character was built up during her struggles in school with bullies. She was bullied in middle school, which would have left her with low self-esteem if not for the encouragement of her mother, Satedra Curry.

"She's a big influence in my life," Jada said in an email. "My mother is my role model, because she is strong and independent herself, and she has taught me also how to help others."

Last summer, Jada participated in Girls With Sole, a group for young people that incorporates exercise, goal-setting and self-acceptance.

She was nominated by Kathleen Kern, associate director at the Lorain County Board of Mental Health, who learned about Jada from Liz Ferro, the director of Girls With Sole.

"She's worked really hard to find her inner strength to overcome adversity," Kern said. "She just seemed like the kind of kid people should know about."

When Girls With Sole was featured on the Today Show last summer, Jada showed confidence in speaking about the group. "It makes me feel like I can achieve something in my life," she said during the segment. "Coming here brings the happiness out of me instead of my sadness."

Jada used what she learned at Girls With Sole to organize an anti-bullying student group at Lorain High, which was important to her after her experiences in middle school.

"She seems to have a bigger, wider perspective," Kern said. "Instead of just taking care of herself, she's trying to help others, which I find really admirable at this age."

In addition to her mother, Jada also has five brothers and four sisters, all of whom live in Atlanta, Ga.



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