

Brennan O'Connell-Miller and Katherine Young

Brennan O'Connell-Miller is ten years old and a fourth grader at the Frances Xavier Warde School in Chicago. In school her favorite subjects are reading, art, and science.

Outside of school Brennan loves to dance and is currently training, performing, and competing with Extensions Dance Company. When she is not dancing, Brennan loves to read, volunteer, hang out with her friends, build with Legos, play board games, and ride her scooter!

A native of Chicago, Brennan is very passionate about helping others and always wants to volunteer and raise money for her favorite causes.

Born in Waukegan, Illinois, **Katherine Young** moved to Chicago to live with her Aunt in 2012. Katherine has thrived in Chicago and is currently a 4th grade student at The Nettelhorst School in Lakeview.

Katherine, who often goes by the nickname "Kat", has always had a kind heart. When she was six, she became a favorite visitor of the residents of a Highland Park nursing home, often making rounds to say hello and even giving out small treats to each resident on Valentine's Day. When Katherine moved to Chicago, she learned about the Lakeview Pantry and its important mission through her dear friend Rob Cappucci, the Pantry's then board chairman.

Katherine's initial contribution to the Pantry came by way of helping sorting and packing groceries for the Pantry's Saturday Home Delivery program which serves neighborhood clients who are homebound and unable to come to the Pantry in person. Most people find sorting and packing to be a bit boring, but Katherine turned it into a game and had fun with it. Katherine was also a regular participant in the Greater Chicago Food Depository's Annual Hunger Walk—completing her first three mile walk when she was only in 1st grade.

Katherine's most valuable contribution to the Pantry occurred when she teamed up this past summer with Brennan O'Connell-Miller—a veteran philanthropist—at the grand opening of the new Lakeview Pantry building. On Saturday, June 25, 2016 the day of the annual Hunger Walk, Brennan and Katherine started their days early, meeting at the Pantry at 7 am to take the bus to Jackson Park for the walk. Brennan cheered while Katherine and thousands of walkers took off in the 80-degree heat. While Katherine was walking, Brennan went back to the Pantry to prepare for the Grand Opening activities, including setting up a sidewalk lemonade stand.

After Katherine finished the walk, she returned to the Pantry and she and Brennan went to work. They made signs, mixed lemonade, chopped up mint leaves, and collected cups and ice. And then they started selling. Given the warm

day, the girls were optimistic about sales and set a goal of \$200 for the day. About an hour later, they came inside and said that sales were going so well that they were raising their goal to \$500, which seemed aggressive to the adults, who wished them luck and sent them back to their stand. Much to the adults' surprise, they came back in another hour later and said they needed more lemonade, more ice, and that they were raising their goal to \$800. By the end of the day, after working outside on the hot sidewalk for more than four hours, the girls counted up the cash in their shoebox, and their grand total fundraising was over \$1,100! It was a long day for the girls, but their hard work, natural charm and budding sales skills raised enough money to pay for more than 9,000 meals for Lakeview neighbors in need. Truly impressive results, all due to the enthusiasm and effort of two incredible young girls, and their passion for the work of the Pantry.