



GIVING BACK >

## GIVING BACK GOES FURTHER AT CEL

The women in REACH's Ladybug Club have been on a mission to make a difference in their community. During the activity planning process, the women chose to engage in a group volunteer project. The women discussed several causes - women's shelters, homeless shelters and animal shelters - and the needs for each cause and how lending a hand would affect the lives of the chosen recipients.

They took a vote and as a group decided to help people who are currently experiencing homelessness. As Jenny, a Ladybug Club member said, "It means a lot to help people who don't have anything."

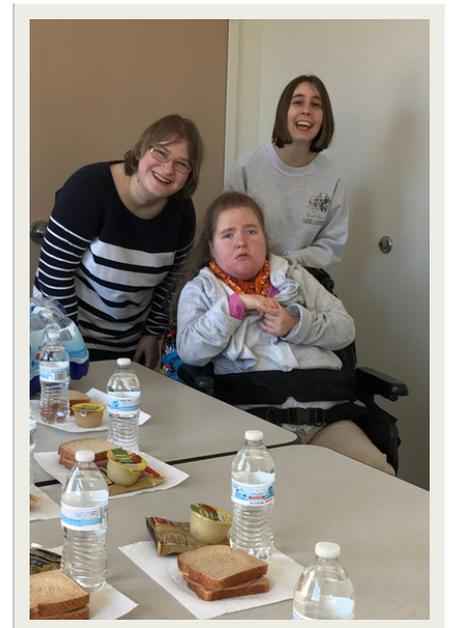
With the focus agreed upon, the group began by finding out what the needs were at an area shelter and created a list of ways to meet their goal. The young women held a bake sale and raised more than \$100 towards their goal! With the money, they went to local stores to purchase gloves, hats and sweaters, and delivered several large bags filled with the warm, winter items to a local PADS shelter.



The women's desire to do more was strengthened on donation day. After seeing first-hand the "pads" that the individuals sleep on as they share the space of the church gym; learning how the people's needs are met during a night at the church; and hearing the way they are prepared to face the cold winter conditions the following day, Jenny and the other young women were inspired to continue making a difference to help those in need during these bitter cold months. They immediately set to work gathering desperately needed items including pairs of socks, undergarments, and shoes for the PADS shelter.

The women have been so moved by this opportunity, that they went back with lunches for the individuals to sustain them throughout the cold day. Jenny summed it up saying, "It made us feel really good."

The impact they made was tangible and left the staff at the shelter impressed by the young women. Your support of CEL goes beyond our organization - providing individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to give back to their communities and make their own impact.



**Thank you for your continued support!**



ARTHUR'S JOURNEY >

## A PAYCHECK WITH A SIDE OF BELONGING



Arthur wanted a job in the community that would provide him with not only a paycheck, but also, a sense of belonging. He is a very reserved individual who doesn't leave his home except to visit the library, grocery store or nearby businesses. He didn't know where to begin.

One day while frequenting his local Panera Bread in Mount Prospect Arthur noticed a "Now Hiring" sign. He liked the idea of working at Panera, but was very shy and unsure about how to go about applying. Working with CEL's Employment Opportunities Manager, David, he was able to put together a resume highlighting his skills, build up the confidence to go to the interview, and get the job!

Arthur has now been on the job for almost three months, maintaining the dining area for customers. Interacting with the local community and knowing that the customers appreciate his work is very rewarding for Arthur.

**CEL is committed to reducing the staggering 85% unemployment rate for people with developmental disabilities.** Learn more about our program and how you can hire a person with a developmental disability by contacting David Zimmerman at 847.315.9912.

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