

Metta Students Foundation awards \$1,000 to
Cumberland Teen #sharemetta



Press Release-10/22/15-In eighth grade Kayleigh LaPre of Cumberland became extremely ill and spent months sick at home. Rather than feel sorry for herself, she felt inspired by the doctors and nurses that helped her get better.

That's when Kayleigh began her mission to #sharemetta and give back to the community. While recovering, she researched community service to help children. Despite another health setback, her sophomore year she ran her first dosomething.org campaign. Since then, she has tirelessly worked helping others and also got involved in Teens for Jeans. The seventeen year old has collected hundreds of jeans that go to local shelters.

A ceremony will be held October 22nd at 9:30 at Cumberland High School located at 2600 Mendon Road. Members of the media are welcome. With this latest winner the Metta Students Foundation has awarded twenty-seven thousand dollars to students who have done acts of kindness and continue to #sharemetta.

"I believe it is important to give back in order to appreciate what you have. So far, I have been very fortunate, and I am thankful for everything, but I realize that one day, we will all need a helping hand," states LaPre. "Whether you become sick, homeless, or just need support, 'we all need somebody to lean on. I believe it is important to help people worldwide, especially since we all have the power to help. Even if you don't have money and a car, there are always ways to help! I also think that as the saying goes, 'actions speak louder than words' and that you need to 'be the change you want to see in the world.' These are the words I live by and that inspire me to lend a hand and help."



CHS science teacher Jessica Delaney, nominated Kayleigh saying, "I nominated Kayleigh because she is the essence of the Metta mission. She exemplifies kindness on a daily basis and finds ways to ensure that every person is thought of at least once. She displays qualities that are very rare for high school students. Most teenagers on a Friday night would rather be going to the football games and hanging out at the local pizza place afterwards, but instead Kayleigh devotes and promotes goodwill by spending her time giving back to the community. From making dog toys from old clothing to collecting jeans for needy teens, Kayleigh will stop at nothing to give back. Her heart and soul is dedicated to community service and I could not think of anyone better than her to nominate."

Norm Kelly, founder of Software Quality Associates in Providence, created the Metta Students. Foundation in October of 2012 after learning of one teen's kind act of kindness towards another teen. "Metta means love and kindness," states Norm Kelly. "The common denominator with all of our Metta Students is their compassion, unselfishness, and dedication to others. Each is unique but they all want to make the world a better place."

"I am incredibly thankful to Metta Students Foundation and all that they stand for," states Kayleigh LaPre. "It is so important to spread peace, love, and compassion! I am so honored to receive this award, it feels amazing! I hope that anyone who sees this will lend a hand as well, even the smallest acts can make the world a better place <3 #sharemetta."

It is for all of these reasons the Metta Students is proud to award Kayleigh one thousand dollars. To see video of how the Metta Students foundation began or for more information about the foundation log onto www.mettastudents.org.