



**Metta Students Honors Prout Student with \$1,000 Grant
#sharemetta**

Press Release- 2/5/16- Feelings of confusion, betrayal, depression, mistrust and anxiety describe how video voyeurism victim Emma Saccoccio describes what she experienced after learning someone had been digitally monitoring every move she made in what she thought was a safe location. After the shock wore off, the seventeen year old decided to turn her private pain into a public crusade to help others who have been victims of digital abuse. The Clayville, RI teen created a Facebook page and later the website presspause2think.org.

"PressPause was conceived on November 19th, 2014, within the four walls of my bedroom, the same place my phone rang and altered my life." states Saccoccio. "Deciding to start PressPause was an easy decision; I had been a victim of video voyeurism for eight months and I was done letting it overpower me. It was time for change. I got my laptop out and started the Facebook page "Press-Pause."

Now Saccoccio spends her time speaking to educators, parents and students about her painful experience with digital abuse, in particular, video voyeurism, to inform them about the affect it can have. While she says sharing her experience publicly with so many people is difficult, she knows her mission is to warn others that this could happen to anybody.



Her ability to put her pain aside in order to help others makes Saccoccio a perfect candidate for a Metta Students grant. Norm Kelly, founder of Software Quality Associates in Providence, created the Metta Students Foundation in October of 2012 after learning of one teen's 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."

A ceremony was rescheduled due to snow for March 7th at 2 p.m. at The Prout School, located at 4640 Tower Hill Rd. in Wakefield, RI. Members of the media are welcome. With this latest winner, the Metta Students Foundation has awarded twenty-nine thousand dollars to students who have done acts of kindness and continue to #sharemetta.

Nicole Kelly, Director of Institutional Advancement at The Prout School, nominated Emma stating, "In a school filled with kind and caring students, Emma stood out for me because each time she speaks to a new group about digital abuse, she steps outside her comfort zone. But she continues to do so because she really does want to make sure that her peers are safe and understand that they need to take responsibility for their actions—on social media and in life in general. That sense of selflessness at such a young age impresses me."

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