

Preschooler inspired by kindness blog



18 HOURS AGO • [SHELBY SHEPARD](#)
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When most 4 year olds get the chance to put shiny pennies in their piggy banks, they take as many as offered. But Brady Pisel is not like most preschoolers.

His dad, Mark, told him he could take change from the family coin jar and add the money to his piggy bank. Mark told his son that whatever change was left over after he was done filling his piggy bank, they would take and donate to kids.

Much to Mark's surprise, after only putting a few coins in his bank, Brady announced, "I think I want to give the rest to kids."

Brady quickly decided that he wanted to use the money to buy stuffed animals for kids who didn't have them or were ill.

"Because they were sick, and I think they will make them feel happy," Brady said.

So, Brady and his family, parents Mark and Katie, and brother, Ben, almost 2, bought about \$100 worth of stuffed animals to donate to children who receive services from Bethany for Children and Families in Moline.

"He thought about a stuffed animal making him feel better, so it would probably make other kids feel better," Mark said.

Brady says he picked out ponies, characters from the movie "Madagascar" and his favorite, bulldogs.

"I picked bulldogs because my daddy works there," Brady said.

Mark is a business teacher at Bettendorf High School. Recently, he assigned his marketing students to write a blog. They had to promote their blog and get up to 1,500 views in two weeks. One student, Chelsea Kalar, started writing a blog called "Random Acts of Kindness" that got 20,000 hits in just two weeks. Brady's parents both believe Chelsea inspired young Brady.

"He really was very interested and quickly became interested in following what Chelsea was doing," Katie said. "He wanted to do very similar things."

Chelsea said she's impressed with what her teacher's son has done. She expected adults to be interested in her blog, not young kids.

“It was like he learned and knew what it meant to be kind, and it was really cool to see,” the incoming BHS senior said. “It’s rewarding, you know.”

Katie, says that she is happy Brady has such a good role model and hopes what he has done will help inspire others, too.

Joscelyn Stone, communications manager for Bethany for Children and Families, said Brady already is a role model.

“He’s such a terrific example in the community of small things that anyone can do that will make a difference in life of someone who is struggling,” she said. “Children like Brady are the future of our community.”

All of the stuffed animals Brady bought for the children at Bethany for Children and Families have been given to kids in the child’s welfare service division. Stone said the kids who received those gifts appreciated that they came from another child who was thinking about them.

“I think that’s the whole point of what Chelsea did,” Katie said. “You do one thing for someone (and) people see that; they want to help someone else. And even though Brady doesn’t fully understand the impact of what he did, he knew he wanted to do something good for someone else.”