

Pay It Forward



Pay it forward. Three little words that stand for so much. These words involve all the pillars of character. The problem is, most people don't know this.

I do believe it is the responsibility of those who have more to take care of those who have less. But, it also works vice versa. Just because someone has less money than others, doesn't mean they're a lesser person. Both types of people can give and teach each other things.

Money isn't everything. Caring is what you show when you give, but I believe it goes deeper than this. When I was younger, my parents always told me to give back. I live in an area that is so fortunate, and people don't often worry about money. The thing is, not everywhere is Northbrook. Last year I went on a trip to California with my family. We walked around the streets and I noticed how many people were living in poverty. You could see the hunger on their faces as they walked by with their bags of few possessions.

My family and I went to the local grocery store and made lunches in our hotel room for the poor and homeless. We distributed them throughout the city. I gave back and set an example for the people around me, but the best part of that day was seeing the smiles on their melancholy faces as I handed them a simple brown bag.

"How wonderful that no one need wait a single moment to improve the world," Anne Frank remarked. This quote supports the fact that no matter what position you are in, you can make a difference.

The people living on the streets taught me life goes deeper than money. It's what's on the inside that counts. When you "pay it forward" you spread the good. You, by yourself, create a learning atmosphere for everyone around you. By having this responsibility you grow as a person, and thrive as a teacher no matter the age. So, I challenge everyone to take care of others and pay it forward.