

# Character Counts Essay

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

-Leo Buscaglia

Although many people do underestimate the power of small acts of kindness, some don't. These citizens show great character throughout the little actions they do daily. One person I look up to, I call Miss Tammy, who lights up the front desk of the Glenview Park Center. Her small acts of kindness have given me and many others an abundance of joy.

Everyday, her kind words help a crying toddler arrive to their first day of Preschool, or the stressed parent of that young child. She befriends strangers such as myself and my family. She cares about everyone she meets and always listens to others. She has done so much for our community. Yet her, and so many others, haven't gotten anywhere near the recognition they deserve.

She holds a special place in my family's heart. After moving to a new town with no friends or acquaintances, we were quite lonely. Living in Glenview for only three days, we met Miss Tammy. We were immediately drawn to her and she was astoundingly kind. My mother and her quickly bonded, and we were no longer lonesome. To this day, we speak with Miss Tammy whenever we're gifted the joy of seeing her.

Prior to working at the Glenview Park Center, she worked at a District 34 school. At Pleasant Ridge Elementary School, she would pleasantly welcome students, teachers, parents, and guest through the front office doors. Miss Tammy's friendly face greets others with such affection and amiability.

All of her citizenship, compassion, and kindness has done so much for others, yet hasn't gotten any recognition or credit. Many altruistic people similar to Miss Tammy do thousands of small acts of kindness. These people are the citizens who are relied on to make our community, state, country, and world advance to a more inclusive and spectacular environment.