Highlights

Gallant Kids

Finding a Way to Help a Friend

Rachel and Ethan relax after a race to raise money for UCP of Greater Cleveland.

Rachel Prior and Ethan Fairhurst play together every day at recess. But while Rachel can do things other students can do, Ethan cannot. Ethan has both cerebral palsy and autism. He doesn't walk, talk, or feed himself.

Rachel and Ethan became friends while watching their brothers play baseball. At school, Rachel pushed Ethan in his wheelchair through the halls and in a specially outfitted swing on the playground.

As their friendship grew over the years, Rachel wanted to learn more about cerebral palsy and find a way to help Ethan. She went to some of his therapy sessions. She also decided to raise money for an organization that helps Ethan and others like him: United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland. "There's not a lot of things that we can do to help him, but then there are people who *can*," Rachel says. "You can help them by raising money."

Racing for a Cause

So Rachel and her friends decided to hold the first annual Elm Trail Race around their Ohio neighborhood. Rachel and her father mapped out a course for the race, and Rachel and her friends made a brochure and shared it with others. The 2012 Elm Trail Race had 27 participants and raised about $200. All of the money was donated to UCP of Greater Cleveland.

In 2013, the principal of the school that Rachel and Ethan attend sent 500 flyers home. Rachel and her friends asked businesses for help. They received prizes, food, and cash donations from businesses and people who had heard about the race.

Ethan led the race in his wheelchair, pushed by his friends. The 300 racers ranged in age from toddlers to senior citizens. "We ended up with $4,000!" exclaims Rachel.

And in 2014, Rachel organized yet another race, raising $2,000.

Rachel wants everyone to know something about her friend: "Just because he can't do things doesn't mean he's not normal . . . that he's not one of you."

Highlights is proud to know this Gallant Kid.

—Jean Daigneau

Photo by Sarah M. Fairhurst.

"I feel like Gallant when I eat vegetables."
Jake, Age 12, Philippines

"I feel like Gallant when I ride my bike with a helmet on my head."
Ashanti, Age 7, New York

Tell us when you've felt like Goofus or Gallant! Visit HighlightsKids.com or write to

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Goofus and Gallant Moments
803 Church Street
Honesdale, PA 18431

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