

A Girl with a Goal

Katie Goodman is a 12 year old girl in Ashland, VA who has set her sights on the problem of hunger in her community. As part of her 4H project she began collecting food for hungry children and quickly set the goal of feeding 1100 people in 2011. She met that goal in 6 months and eventually fed 2138 people in that year alone. Her current goal for 2012 is to feed 3000 people. Katie accomplishes this with food from her own garden, but mostly by leading others to think about how they can contribute in a variety of ways. The confident young woman began giving presentations to groups around town and appealing to organizations like Plant a Row for the Hungry, Hunters for the Hungry, area schools, local gardeners and of course her church, Independence Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Katie also made it easy for people to give by organizing donation drop-off centers at local feed stores. Not only has she received more food than expected, but the fruits and vegetables provide a valuable nutritional element on the shelves of the local food banks.

Katie's work has not gone unnoticed. She has been given Hanover County's Youth Spirit of Volunteerism Award which led to her winning the Governors Community Service and Volunteerism Award for Outstanding Youth Volunteer, among others.

Katie continues to collect food for her local community, but she is also learning about the global issues of hunger. As a life-long Disciple she is already familiar with the work of Week of Compassion and is now learning more about groups that are supported by the Disciples, such as Food Resource Bank. In July Katie will attend a meeting at the White House to learn more about how her community and her church can be involved in the larger efforts of easing childhood hunger. She is a Disciple with a heart for God and a passion for justice!