

YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Kaden Stepp



During a Cub Scout meeting in March of 2015, **Kaden Stepp** learned about community. It is also when he first heard the words *low income*, *poverty*, and *homelessness*. Kaden decided that he needed to help others. He collected toys and warm clothing to give to various agencies. Kaden's growing drive and passion for those in need led him to collect change and do chores so he could earn money to create and distribute six Blessing Bags filled with personal care items. By May of 2015, he enlisted his family and friends to assist him with making and distributing almost fifty Blessing Bags. As of July of 2016, Kaden has handed out more than 1,000 Blessing Bags to homeless and needy individuals and families at Refuge of Hope in Canton.

Kaden has been recognized in the *Canton Repository*, by Channel 19's Ramona's Kids, and several other media sources. In March of 2016, he received the Donor Awareness Award from Cub Scout Pack 127, and a Kids of Character award from his school, Warstler Elementary, for being a Champion of Caring. In April of 2016, Kaden was given the Everyday American Hero Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Kaden's kindness has not gone unnoticed. He receives donations from numerous individuals and businesses, allowing him to help more people. Kaden has his own business cards and a Facebook group, Kaden's Blessing Bags for the Homeless.

Sometimes the heart of a child can change the world; in Kaden's world, it happens with a little hope and love, one Blessing Bag at a time.

nominated by
**Refuge of Hope
Ministries**