

William R.:

A Hamden Hero is a good friend to others and more. A good friend is there for you when you need him. Whether it's helping complete chores at his friend's house (like taking out the garbage), working with a friend to help him finish his homework, or even assisting in the search for an annoyingly small, almost lost, crucial toy part. A good friend is present.

A good friend sees when something needs to be done, shows up when you need him—in good times and in tough times—and offers to help. He thinks of others in his community. A good friend takes action.

A good friend seems to know the exact moment he is needed. He shares his possessions, listens with care, is thoughtful, generous, and trustworthy. A good friend just knows.

William R. is that friend. Spring Glen teachers and staff throughout the years and across the grade levels have watched him grow and mature into this definition of good friend, all the while working on his own academic achievements—developing his knowledge and skills at every opportunity. He may not have noticed how the seemingly little things he does for others truly matter; or how hard he has worked at school—but we have. We've watched him become a Hamden Hero each step of the way.

Shari and Yvette:

Visit the kitchen on any day and you'll find two of the hardest working staff in our building. The tasks they have to complete each morning are enumerable, yet Shari and Yvette always greet you with a smile, ask after you, and your day. Then, no matter how busy they are, each pauses to ask: How can we help you?

Here are just some of the ways both Shari and Yvette help SPG:

- Additional breakfasts needed for students at a moment's notice? Yes
- Last minute lunch order additions and changes? Yes
- Arranging food distributions for home? Yes
- Understand that some students' days may be more successful if preferred food items are available then subtly put these things together when staff request—always thinking outside the box and beyond the published menu to make it happen. Yes!!
- Not to mention they know each student and staff member by name—a challenging undertaking, but essential when trying to get hundreds of orders out to all of the classrooms!

More importantly, however, Shari and Yvette know the importance food has in students' lives. They understand that, before students can work on academics and achieve, they need nutrients. The "how can we help you" question Shari and Yvette ask when you visit, results in a number of different responses. No matter the request—you'll never hear "no" as an answer. Shari and Yvette prioritize the students' needs ahead of all else.

These two staff members dedicate their days to taking care of hundreds...hundreds of children each day! Shari and Yvette are heroes for Hamden students and, therefore, Hamden Heroes all around.

