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Chores-for-Charity Gives Credit to Kids Who Donate

Chores-for-Charity began as a labor of love by Ilana Rothbein who wanted to donate money to an epilepsy organization because her brother, Paul, was struggling with this serious neurological disorder. She began setting aside one hour's worth of babysitting earnings per week and, after one year, was able to donate 45 hours of her earnings to NYU Medical Center's non-profit organization, Finding a Cure for Epilepsy and Seizures (FACES).

Chores-for-Charity has evolved into an official program and website to empower students to do volunteer work in their own way, within their existing schedule and at their own pace.

How? By donating a small amount of the money they have earned from their part-time, summer,



Chores-for-Charity founder, Ilana Rothbein and her brother, Paul, who has epilepsy.

babysitting, or even odd job to FACES, students can count the "unpaid" time as "volunteer time," which may qualify for community service credits. Recently a high school student received community service credits from Teaneck High School for donating 40 hours and \$200 of his part-time job earnings from a local assisted living facility. Chores-for-Charity has raised more than \$20,000 for FACES from contributions from schools, individuals, corporations, and foundations.

For her work developing Chores-for-Charity, Ilana was one of six in New Jersey to receive the Prudential Spirit of Community Award and also won the President's Volunteer Service Award for the concept of students donating some of their own job earnings as an important volunteer effort. Furthermore, the program reinforces the importance of fiscal responsibility and

Praise for Chores-For-Charity

"By enlisting the support of your friends and community, you and your organization, Chores-for-Charity, were able to donate considerable funds to the NYU Medical Center--thereby making substantial inroads into the search for a cure for epilepsy..."

-Jon S. Corzine, Governor of New Jersey

"The Chores-for-Charity program exemplifies how philanthropy can begin with America's youth by rewarding them with the credit they need at their age."

-Tony Coelho, former House Majority Whip and principal author of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

"Finding the time to do a community service activity is very hard because I have so many after-school activities. With Chores-for-Charity, I can earn community service credit by donating some of my part-time job earnings for epilepsy research, which is really important!"

-Eric Josephs, 17, Teaneck High School, Teaneck

"Chores-for-Charity is an innovative program that's made me think of my babysitting job in a new way. My parents also like the fact that I'm using some of my

philanthropy among young people, which was recently the feature story in *U.S. News and World Reports* (12/12/05).

Epilepsy is the third most common neurological disorder in the United States, affecting almost three million Americans. Epilepsy research has also helped those who suffer from Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease, as well as anxiety and depression. Unfortunately, epilepsy research does not receive its fair share of federal funding for research, which is why private donations are so crucial. If five percent of New Jersey high school students donate just \$25 from their job earnings, they can raise almost \$400,000 annually for epilepsy research!

Participating in Chores-For-Charity is easy. All the forms can be downloaded from www.choresfor-charity.com. If you have any questions about Chores-for-Charity, email info@choresforcharity.com.

For those wanting to help the epilepsy community in Israel, send donations to the Anita Kaufmann Epilepsy Education Center at Israel's Soroka Medical Center. For details, call 201-655-0420.

Whether you want to earn community service credit, build a portfolio of extracurricular activities to enhance your college applications, or do a mitzvah project for your bar or bat mitzvah, Chores-for-Charity empowers you to make a meaningful contribution in your own way.

