

My name is Chiara Martinez. I am 14 years old and in 9th grade. When my mom told me about this fund, I was very excited! Community service has been a passion of mine for many years from helping at Hungry Hearts and the animal shelter to putting in my time at my church volunteering with the little kids, I just love helping the community in every way possible. I am involved in many community-centered organizations. I'm a fifth-year member of the Johnson Mesa 4-H club and I am the chapter secretary for the Zia Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society through my online school program.

Deciding where to put the money was difficult as I am very active with both Hungry Hearts and the animal shelter and I knew that they would both appreciate the money. If I had two awards, I would give 1,000 dollars to both in a heartbeat but if I have to choose between the two, I would like the opportunity to use the money to help Hungry Hearts. Hungry Hearts is a group of volunteers who cook and serve a free hot meal to the public every week. I frequently bake cookies out of my own money to give to the people that come for a meal and using the money from this fund, I can help purchase a whole year's worth of food and supplies for the group to help feed the community.

I think that this award should be made because Hungry Hearts is an important cause and some of the people who come to get those meals are older people who come to socialize while others have fallen into financial hardship and can not afford to buy food for themselves. I'm a firm believer in the fact that no one should ever have to go hungry just because they can't afford to buy groceries. I have been a part of this group for 5 years and hope to keep it going for many more. Thank you for your careful consideration of my application, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.