

Alfred F.
Mayor ~~Albert~~ Vellucci

Mayor's Office, City Hall
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Mayor,

As director of the East Cambridge Teen Recreation Center, I would be remiss if I failed to apprise you of the recent selfless acts of charity on the part of our teen membership toward the indigent patients at the Walter Fernald School, Waltham, Mass.

As you no doubt know, members of our Teen Social Action Committee together with this writer, traveled to the Fernald School, presented an entertainment and distributed gifts to the school population during Christmas week 1970. The necessary expenditures were absorbed by the teens themselves.

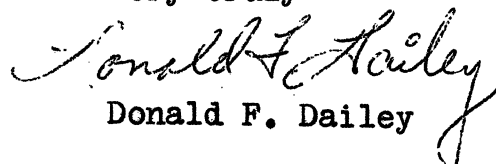
As a direct result of this encounter a completely teen-motivated and teen-initiated program of direct action, person to person "operation help" was instituted. The Teen Social Action Committee was temporarily expanded to include our total membership. A decision was made to alert the public to the clothing needs of the patients and by so doing to enlist their aid. A letter to the editor was drafted and sent to the Boston Globe outlining the clothing program. The resultant response was overwhelming. The East Cambridge Teen Center became an veritable bee-hive of social service activity. The Center Telephone was flooded by incoming calls. Families in Braintree, Framingham, Worcester and even further removed communities were anxious to donate clothing. Merchants and shopkeepers from Quincy, Watertown and Natick were anxious to have our teens pick up a "carton of men's underwear" or a "shopping bag of assorted girl's stockings." Our pool shark could be seen folding

and boxing delicate little girl's dresses; our ping-pong champ matching
soxs by sizes; our hockey goalie and a female contingent writing
"thank you" cards to the donars; that rough looking boy we were all
worried about a week ago, lovingly sorting children's shoes. All this,
on their own, totally self-motivated with only marginal departmental
support.

After reading this far I'm sure you're as proud of these young men
and women as I am. When we consider the logistics of the operation we
are apt to wince a little, and together with the man hours required to
put it over the top, we are staggard. But I'm sure you'll agree, what
is more meaningful is the fact that this was done by youngsters, more
specifically "teens." It's at this point we are bound to become
somewhat thoughtful and take pause to reflect on the rather unsavory
connotation ascribed to the term "teenager." I'm sure you'll agree
that had these same "teen-agers" been involved in a riot, their act
would have been proclaimed in every avenue of our media, and yet an
action such as this goes virtually unnoticed. Let me suggest that the
young men and women at the East Cambridge Teen Center with their ability
to instantly empathize with those less fortunate than they, their desire
and dedication to service to their fellow man and their willingness to
implement that desire with hard work and long hours is truly character-
istic of the youth of America. It is the unselfish character of these
young people that makes the American Dream possible.

It is in this spirit that I urge you to initiate formal recognition
of the fine work of this group.

Very truly


Donald F. Dailey

Director

East Cambridge Teen Center.

16
Communication from Donald F. Dailey, Director, East Cambridge Teen Center relative to recent acts of charity on part of their teen membership toward patients at the Walter Fernald School, Waltham.

January 25, 1971

PLACED ON FILE