

# CLIFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Student Donates Birthday Money on Pay it Forward Friday**

CLIFTON, New Jersey - Clifton School 9 Fourth Grader, Lazar Kojic, has many favorites. His favorite pastimes are playing board games and soccer. Math is his favorite subject, pasta and pizza are his favorite foods, and his favorite books are from the "I Survived" series. But according to Lazar, helping others is his favorite thing to do.

When Lazar heard that his principal, Mr. Healy, was asking for all families to bring one dollar to school every Friday for School 9's campaign, "Pay it Forward Friday," Lazar knew what he wanted to do.

"I remembered there was a donation on Friday, and I like helping people. I told my mom I wanted to donate \$20 of my birthday money. I really just like helping people. It just feels good to know that I can help people so they have a place to live and aren't hungry," said Lazar.

Lazar's kind actions did not surprise his fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Celluro, one bit.

"Lazar is a generous and kind young man. He is one of those kids who tries his best to always do the right thing."

When he came in with the money, his teacher's first question was, "Does your mom know you brought this in?"

Lazar explained to Mrs. Celluro that it was some of his birthday money that he had earmarked for a new video game. When he heard about "Pay it Forward Fridays," he felt it was more important to donate it.

"I am so proud of him!" continued Mrs. Celluro. "He is a mature thinker, often making suggestions to his peers to help make a situation better. Lazar always sees the positive in a situation and is a problem solver. I know these skills will carry him far in the world."

Mrs. Kojic, Lazar's mother, was incredibly proud when Lazar told her that he decided to donate his leftover birthday money to people in need. Lazar had been counting the days until Friday to go shopping for his new Xbox game when he would not have soccer practice or homework.

Mrs. Kojic explained, "Once he heard about the fundraiser, he came up to me and said, 'I would like to donate it.' He's my little old soul. He always manages to surprise me and put a smile on my face. I'm glad he made a difference."

Mr. Healy, School 9's principal, said, "Lazar exemplifies all of the important qualities we look for in a student. He is kind, caring, and empathetic. It is so uncommon for a person of such a young age to place the needs of others before his own. I could not be any prouder to have a student like Lazar at our school."

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