

Encouraging young entrepreneurs

Anna Moscardelli - September 2022

Do you ever drive by and see kids out trying to sell lemonade or other little items? Years ago, I remember taking my kids who were maybe six and eight-years-old at the time out to Brights Grove where friends of ours used to live on Marisa Court. Their back yard was the creek. I remember putting the canoe in while my girls and their friend Johnathan Vanderwal searched for golf balls. They used to collect tonnes of them and would then put up a stand on Lakeshore Road to sell the golf balls.

It instilled work ethics in my girls and to this day we still yak about those days. Heck, I even remember the reporter stopping to take a picture of all three of the kids and ran the story in The Observer. They were in their glory.

Well years later whenever I see little kids out selling stuff, I stop and buy whatever they are selling. Like just recently when myself and five other realtors were out doing what we call our "Tuesday agent inspections." It's basically where realtors go out and look at homes that have been put on the market. It gives us all an idea of what homes look like, what they will be listed for and what they will sell for. Many think we just toss out a number, but this is how we come up with pricing. We call it comparables.

Anyways, on our route a few weeks back we came across two young kids. None of us knew them, however by the time we left them, they were filled with joy and so were we. We came to find out that their names were Hadley and Jackson. They were selling painted rocks and water. We didn't ask them what the prices were, we all just handed them money. They were the two sweetest kids going and were probably no older than 10-years-old. Good for them for taking an idea and running with it. Guess our greatest laugh was when Laurie Lauren who is one of the realtors with us that day asked for the brown coloured rock. Little Jackson's response was "that's a poopie emoji." A poopie emoji? LOL ... Good for them. We ended up doing a video and taking a picture of us all. If you could have seen the smiles on Jackson and Hadley's face it would make you all stop any time that you see kids selling stuff. What was funnier was that I gave them my business card so they would be able to tell their parents who we were and that they could watch the video on our RE/MAX Facebook site. My final joke with them was, "and when you are ready to buy or sell, you call me." Their mom Carla found the post and wrote, "You guys made my kids day, thank you! I'm glad I finally found the video." It's a wonder how something that can seem so small means the world to someone else. As much as Hadley and Jackson said we made their day, in essence, they made our day.

We always read things about acts of kindness and how a simple gesture can make another person's day. Over the last few years things have been tough. We are in for a bumpy ride coming up and many will need lots of support. If you see someone who is down on their luck, reach out and give them a helping hand. One never knows how a simple gesture might make a huge difference in someone's day.