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13 YO Packed with Purpose Wins \$1000 Grant to Expand Her Charity to Foster Kids

Phoenix, AZ: Kaitlyn Martinez, just 13 years old, created Backpacks 4 Kids last year after one of her friends failed a writing assignment because she did not have pencils and paper at home and was too embarrassed to tell the teacher. It made her start wondering how many other kids are failing for the same reason. With some help from her mom, she created a Facebook page, and then asked her school, church and friends if she could set up donation boxes. After one summer of her school supply drive she collected enough to fill 175 backpacks. This year she was able to turn her idea - *Backpacks 4 Kids AZ*™ into a non-profit organization. Martinez has recruited other students to help her, plus local businesses to donate and hold fundraisers. She was thrilled to have 300 backpacks ready for the start of this school year.



“I wondered how many kids were failing for such a simple, silly reason.”

Last spring Martinez joined a club called, *Daisy Button Believes* where she could meet and network with other kids from all over the world doing charitable projects. In addition to the social networking that kids this age enjoy, the club also offered her role models to read about, advice on her project, resources for growing and the option to apply for \$1000 grant. *“I am so thrilled I was awarded this money to help me do more.”* Martinez said. *“I have some really big ideas I want to start on and this is perfect timing.”* Martinez plans on expanding her efforts with a new project called Love Bundles. Instead of school supplies, Love Bundles will be

backpacks filled with hygiene supplies, clothes, toys, a special stuffed animal and a blanket for kids who are pulled out of their homes and placed in foster care. Through experiencing this with a friend of hers, Martinez learned many times they only have the clothes on their backs. *“The kids are really scared and don’t have any basic needs with them. They move from foster home to foster home with a small number of belongings in a trash bag. Having their own back pack with some treasures just for them will be so nice and comforting to them.”* Martinez added.

Although there were 24 applicants, Daisy Button Believes was more than pleased to award the grant to Martinez. *“Kaitlyn is exactly the kind of dreamer we want to support!”* said the founder Tracey Serebin. *“She is determined, has already done a lot of great work on her own, has a big vision and an even bigger heart.”* Serebin added. The privately funded site was launched last February and has previously gifted a \$1000 to an 8 YO feeding the homeless, a 14YO offering care kits to kids with rare diseases, and a 13 YO cheering on cancer patients. Serebin, is a children’s author, empowerment coach and speaker and was inspired to create Daisy Button after working with schools. *“I realized there was no central location that kids who wanted to change the world could learn from each other. “We have a responsibility to create tools our youth can use to continue to do good in the world.”* Her hope is that *“Any kid with the motivation to do something that cares for another human should be able to easily find what they need to succeed.”* **This month’s grant for Kaitlyn was funded by Bud Risser, Owner of Risser Oil Corporation, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist**

For more information about Daisy Button Believes, please email mindee@daisybuttonbelieves.com or call 201-394-5328. For more information about Kaitlyn, please email her at bp4kidsaz@gmail.com or visit her website: <http://www.backpacks4kidsaz.com>