

Making Change, Creating Belonging: Ella's Story

Every November, The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ) celebrates National Adoption Month with a special tradition - adoptees and families come together to create *Welcome Baskets* for children joining their forever families. Each basket is filled with comfort items, books, and love, a small but powerful reminder to every child: *You are loved, and you belong.*

Last year, this project was led by Senior Girl Scout Loren Ross, whose inspiring Gold Award project gave CHS of NJ teens the chance to give back and build a strong sense of community. Her leadership sparked something remarkable: a ripple of kindness that continues to grow.

This year, **Ella M.**, a student at the Rumson Country Day School, was inspired to keep that spirit of giving alive. Wanting to make a difference for children like herself, Ella organized a **World of Change** event at her school in Spring 2025. She rallied her classmates and teachers to collect spare change, proof that small acts can make a big impact. Together, Ella and her fellow students raised **\$567.19**, all donated to CHS of NJ to help create more *Welcome Baskets* for children being adopted this year.

Ella's generosity reminds us that anyone, no matter their age, can make a meaningful difference. Her leadership and compassion are helping to ensure that every child feels celebrated as they begin their new chapter in a loving family.

If you would like to donate to this project or learn more about adoption, please contact **Valerie Fiorentino** at vfiorentino@chsofnj.org.

Together, we can make change - and create belonging.

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✿ Making Change, Creating Belonging ✿

Every November, The Children's Home Society of NJ celebrates National Adoption Month with a heartwarming tradition - creating *Welcome Baskets* for children joining their forever families.

♥♥ These baskets send a big message in a small package: *You are loved, and you belong.*

Last year's project, led by Girl Scout Loren Ross for her Gold Award, inspired a ripple of kindness that continues to grow.

This year, **Ella M.**, a student at the Rumson Country Day School, took that inspiration and ran with it! 🌟 She organized a **World of Change** event, rallying her classmates and teachers to collect spare change - raising an incredible **\$567.19** to support CHS of NJ's Welcome Basket project.

Ella's kindness shows that no act is too small to make a big difference. Thanks to her and her school community, more children will feel the warmth of love and belonging as they join their forever families. 🏠✨

✉️ Want to get involved or learn more about adoption?
Contact **Valerie Fiorentino** at vfiorentino@chsofnj.org.

#NationalAdoptionMonth #CHSofNJ #AdoptionStories #MakingChange #CommunityKindness
#YouAreLoved #ForeverFamily #WorldOfChange