Generosity Across Generations

It all started 23 years ago at a Pollard PTC coffee. When parents suggested leaving early to "help Sandy" at the Community Council, Cathy decided to tag along. She's been coming back ever since—calling the Council her "second home."

Today, volunteering is a true family affair. Cathy's husband, Leverett, and grandchildren, Kennedy and Lev, all donate their time, creativity, and resources to benefit the food pantry and the Council's programs.

"I've been a giver my whole life," Cathy says, and her passion for service is contagious.

Over the years, the Byrd family has done it all: stocking shelves in the food pantry, delivering groceries to neighbors, volunteering at the Council Thrift, participating in the "Ride for Food", funding scholarships, creating flower arrangements for annual dinners, working special thrift sales, knitting with English language learners, and engaging in projects at the Needham Housing Authority.

Leverett and Cathy's most recent and touching endeavor is instilling in their grandchildren the importance of giving. Kennedy designs and sells beautiful handmade tea towels, while Lev creates organic honey soaps from their family's bee farm. Together, they sell their items locally and donate all proceeds—raising $3,636 for the food pantry to date.

When asked what values they hope to pass on, Cathy and Leverett say, "Being good humans, being good neighbors." Her grandchildren put it more simply: "Nana likes to give!"



The Byrd family