

TRIBUTE TO LILIE MURRAY OF RYE

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Lilie Murray of Rye as October's Granite Stater of the Month for her work to provide support and necessities to those in need.

Lilie was first inspired to take up the cause to help less fortunate members of her community after her advisor and sophomore-year honors ecology teacher, Kimberly McGlinchey, taught Lilie's class about the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. The class focused specifically on three of the seventeen goals: no poverty, quality education, and sustainable cities and communities.

In an effort to make progress on these goals in her community, Lilie started Portsmouth Community Closet, which donates new or gently used clothing to people in need on the Seacoast. The group distributed its first donations at Gosling Meadows, a public housing neighborhood in Portsmouth.

During that event, Lilie learned that Gosling Meadows' residents were struggling to clean their clothes after the neighborhood laundromat shut down. Many of the residents did not have cars, and the local city buses do not allow residents to bring large bags on the bus.

In response, Lilie organized a fundraiser to bring washers and dryers to families living in Gosling Meadows, giving priority to families with students who attended her public high school. The fundraiser was a huge success, raising \$4,500 to provide eight families with energy-saving washers and dryers.

Following up on her work with Gosling Meadows, Lilie started a summer program at Greenleaf Recreation Center in Portsmouth, which mainly serves children ages six to thirteen from Gosling Meadows, as well as another public housing neighborhood in Portsmouth. She and her classmates brought the children in the program on trips that they normally would not be able to afford, such as rock climbing or blueberry picking.

Her work with these kids inspired her to jump into another project to help her community, this time focusing on literacy. Lilie could see how much these children love to read, but there was no dedicated space in the Greenleaf Recreation Center for quiet reading. So over the summer she and her classmates built a colorful reading nook in the Greenleaf Recreation Center to give these children the space and resources that they needed to read and learn.

What is so wonderful about Lilie's story is that each one of her volunteer services builds on the next, and goes to show how inspiring and motivating it can be to volunteer in one's community. Thank you, Lilie, for your continued efforts to help those less fortunate, and for committing yourself to creating a more just and equal society.