



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Catharine Young

Local Youth Recognized By Senator Young For Promoting Spirit of Generosity, Caring

CATHARINE YOUNG January 17, 2017

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OLEAN – Jimmy Keller of South Dayton has taken the famous quote from Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* – “What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.” – and put it into practice this holiday season, and it is helping local charities.

For the sixth holiday season in a row, Jimmy Keller constructed wreaths in preparation for the Christmas season, selling the handmade products for between \$15 and \$25. This year's profits, a personal best, just over \$2,000, will help over 25 various charities, awareness programs and organizations in need.

"Jimmy Keller's story is so inspiring because he has been working diligently to spread Christmas cheer since he was nine years old. At a time when many young people are thinking about what's going to be under the tree, Jimmy has been taking action and doing something to better his community. When I learned about his efforts, and read about how he tries to encourage other young people to 'pay it forward,' it warmed my heart," said Senator Young.

"Doing good deeds for others is a hallmark of our community and it is exciting when that spirit of generosity can be seen in young people, like Jimmy. I applaud his efforts and encourage others to follow in his footsteps and find their own unique way to spread holiday cheer throughout the year," said Senator Young.

Proceeds from this year's wreaths were donated to WNY Heroes, Inc.; the Silver Creek, South Dayton, and Gowanda food pantries; Eden Cozy Quilts; Amanda Hanson Foundation; Hospice; Healing with Horses; Pets for Vets; Silver Creek Habitat for Humanity; and others.

"I would like to thank everyone who participated and played a role in my success," said Jimmy Keller.