"Let’s rent a VW bus and go!" I yelled to a co-worker across the room as we approached the Food Bank of South Jersey to volunteer.

The event was held in the mailroom of a local company. We were there to pack bags of food for those in need.

I grabbed a bag and filled it with donated food items. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, with people of all ages coming together to give back.

As I worked, I noticed a little girl about my age helping out. She was wearing a pink dress and had her hair in pigtails. She was happy and seemed to be enjoying herself.

I asked her what she was doing there. She told me her name was Katelyn and that she was raising money for a cause. She was collecting money for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports pediatric cancer research.

Katelyn's story touched my heart. She had been diagnosed with stage IV neuroblastoma at the age of three. She had undergone several rounds of chemotherapy and radiation, and had even undergone a stem cell transplant.

But Katelyn's story didn't end there. She wanted to give back to the community that had supported her and her family. She had been to see Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones, and Neil Young in concert, and she wanted to do something similar for others.

Katelyn's mom, MaryAnn Birchler, had organized a lemonade stand in the front yard of their home in West Deptford. She had set up a table with lemonade and cookies, and had people come to donate money to support Katelyn's cause.

Katelyn sat on a small chair in front of the lemonade stand, with a shoebox for cash. She greeted each customer with a smile and thanked them for their contributions.

And come they did, one after the other. Little kids, big kids, parents, grandparents. Familiar faces and new ones, all of whom wanted to help support the cause.

Katelyn's mom, MaryAnn, was there too, making sure everything was running smoothly, and keeping the team posted on how much money was raised.

MaryAnn explained that the money raised through Katelyn's lemonade stand would be used to support research and treatment for pediatric cancer. She said that Katelyn had been a inspiration to many, and that she was happy to be able to bring some of that inspiration back to her hometown.

Katelyn's story is a testament to the power of kindness and the importance of giving back. It's a reminder to us all that we can make a difference in the world, even when we're just a little kid.

I left the food bank feeling inspired, with a sense of purpose and a desire to help others. I know that I will never forget the little girl with the big smile and the big heart.