



Donor Spotlight: Ella Tune

Before Ella Tune attended the SEED20 event last spring, her parents told her they would help her make a donation to an agency of her choice that was being featured during the event. After listening to each pitch, she decided to give a financial gift to Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center. We spoke with Ella recently to find out why she felt so compelled to support our mission.

Why did you select Pat's Place as your agency of choice for the donation during the SEED20 event?

After hearing Andrew Oliver speak during SEED20, I had a lump in my throat. It did not seem right that home and family, the two aspects of life that I associate with safety and comfort could be the scariest part of another child's life. When I have a long day, I always look forward to going home to a family dinner and finding comfort in the supportive environment of my house. I have never ever felt unsafe in my house. I did not realize the impact and importance of feeling secure and protected, especially during childhood. Hearing stories of children who dread coming home due to abuse opened my eyes to the horrifying truth. I felt useless. I decided that although one person was never going to be powerful enough to prevent child abuse, I could at least donate to the cause and become part of something bigger and more important than anything I had ever contributed to in the past.

I tend to discover organizations at random times in my life. I believe there is a greater power that brings people and opportunities together for a reason. When I feel inspired by an agency, I simply answer that calling and evaluate the best way I can apply myself to helping the cause at that time. I know my gift allowed someone to feel safe and cared for at Pat's Place.

What has your family taught you about giving back to your community?

I have grown up in a family that is focused on volunteering in our community. When I was younger, I looked forward to going to the soup kitchen to volunteer with my family. On one particular visit, my mother suggested that I bring a bag of my old toys for some of the children at the soup kitchen. After which I became fascinated by the joy I could bring to children and their parents by gifting them with something as simple as a Polly Pocket doll. My parents never treated the donation of time and money as something out of the ordinary. It was simply an expectation. It was not until I became older that I realized this was not the way everyone grows up. I still do not think I have realized the magnitude of the gift my parents have given me by raising me to constantly give back to the community.

What did you learn about Pat's Place at SEED20?

Being introduced to Pat's Place has taught me that safety is critical. Without feeling safe, it is almost impossible to focus on anything else in your life. Child abuse seems to be a cycle. It's like a tornado that picks up everything in its path and traps it inside a vortex of destruction. Although a tornado seems impenetrable, instead of running from or ignoring the problem, we should recognize it and maybe just one single child could be saved from the damage. I would encourage everyone to think about helping to solve a problem rather than running from it. Everyone can make a positive difference regardless of how small or large the effort.

We appreciate Ella and each of our donors for supporting our mission. Each financial contribution that we receive, allows our team to provide a safe and secure environment for children and their families. Gifts come in all sizes and we are grateful for each one.