



**Sadie Gerstle (Age 10)  
Florida, USA**

**“Sadie’s Fundraiser  
for Peace”**

**Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation  
[www.MattieOnline.com](http://www.MattieOnline.com)**



Below are excerpts from Sadie’s responses to Mama Peace about her Peace Activity.



### **Begin the Journey – Peace Club Tween**

Beginning Peace Post:

I think Mattie has done good, way more than good, for everyone. When Mattie was writing his books, he put his whole heart into it and that is what makes them so so special. Mattie's message of hope and peace is such an important message. We all need to believe-to believe in what Mattie believed in! I feel sad that some people don't remember Mattie. They don't remember what he believed in. That's why I wanted to do this fundraiser so I could teach others

about him. All Mattie wanted was peace and kindness for all of us in the world. I felt I needed to help Mattie make the world better.

### **Choice 1: Peace Seeker – Reflect on Mattie’s Message**

What is the name of your Peace Activity?

**Sadie's Fundraiser for Peace – for the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation**

What is the mission or purpose of your Peace Activity?

I have more than one purpose for this activity. One purpose is to help raise money for Mattie's Foundation. Another important purpose is to educate others about Mattie and what he has done for peace. My hope is that people will want to *choose peace* in their lives and share his message.

Why might other people need or benefit from this Peace Activity?

I think people will like to be around something that is “good.” There is so much “bad” in the world. Everyday you hear or see things that are so sad. I am hoping by having people see what I am doing that it will make them feel good. Then maybe they will also want to do something good to make others feel good too.

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## Choice 2: Peace Maker – Respond to Mattie’s Message

Share a little bit about the plans for your Peace Activity.

### What will I do...

Mama Peace sent a newsletter out earlier this year about donating \$24.00 for Mattie's 24th birthday. I thought I could do that!! My plan was to make *Rainbow Loom* items. I would raise money for Mattie's Foundation and also teach others about his peace message. I ended up making more money than that!! I made \$112.99!!

My next project is a booth for my fund raising. I had three sponsors to support me! So now, I will try and keep Mattie's message for peace going.



Sadie and her brother, Mattie, set up for the tent for her fundraiser.

### Who it will impact...

I hope that my project will impact everyone in a good way. I hope it helps them to choose peace. It doesn't matter how old you are. You can choose peace at anytime in your life. Choose now!!

### Where it will take place...

Whenever I go anywhere, I bring my bag full of Rainbow Loom items along with the ones that I am wearing. I sometimes even bring my loom kits with me and make things while I am waiting somewhere. My booth will be at Port Orange Family Days on October 4th and 5th. This is four days of fun family time. There is a carnival, parades, outdoor movies, jazz bands, games, face painting, booths that are set up around the lake for two days, and on the last day the local dance studios put on a show. It is so much fun!!!

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### Choice 3: Peace Bringer – Reach Out with Mattie’s Message & Yours!



#### How did you carry out your *Peace Activity*?

I had my Rainbow Loom items displayed along with information on Mattie. I had his books out for people to read and learn about him. I was so excited that I had a craft table set up so people could make things there, or they could take a baggy home, too. This way we could all talk about peace and kindness with each other. My brother and I wore our “Mattie” shirts and we shared Mattie's message and his hope for peace for all. We worked hard all day, sharing about Mattie, sharing about peace, and making and selling colorful peace bracelets. At the end of the day, many more people had learned about Mattie J.T. Stepanek and that “peace is possible” – and I raised another \$503 to support Mattie’s Foundation!

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## Celebrate the Journey – Tween Peace Certificate

How did you feel while you were doing your Peace Activity?

While I am making my items to sell, I feel happy. I really feel most happy when I am making the peace sign charm. I am trying to make a lot of things to sell. I feel so very happy because I am making money to give to Mattie's foundation. I feel proud! I feel a smile on my face while I am making things for my fundraiser. I like sharing Mattie's message and bringing smiles to other people's faces too.



Are Peace Activities difficult?

Yes and no. It is not so much a difficult thing. Anyone can do it. It just takes a lot of time. I have to give up play time and going places sometimes so I can make things to sell. And that is totally fine. It is so worth it to me. It has become a little harder now that school has started because now I have less time for loom. I have to finish my homework first and then I can loom. I take lessons for horseback riding, ice skating, and piano. I also play trumpet in advanced band at my school. I can handle it all though. Its important to want to do good things and to make time for it too.

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**How might someone respond to your Peace Activity?**

There can be two things. One is that they will be happy from seeing me doing this for Mattie and his foundation. Or they will be like “WOW! This is great! How can I help? What can I do for Mattie?”

**Why do *Peace Activities* and *Peace Education* matter?**

It matters because people need to know what peace and kindness can do for our world. Activities are good especially for kids. They can practice doing good deeds and then they can feel what it's like to help others. It's the best feeling!! My brother Mattie and I try and do good deeds everyday. Education is awareness too.

**Now you have done a Peace Club Tween Peace Activity – *What Next?***

I will continue fundraising for Mattie anytime I can. Even when I am going out to dinner, to the store, wherever I can. My Mom will let me know if there is some other place to do a booth. I thought about even doing a “Mattie Looming for Peace Party.” Kids can donate money to do a looming class, maybe have pizza and ice cream, and have fun talking about Mattie and what we can do to make peace happen.

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**Other peace thoughts:**

When my Mom told me about *Mattie's Peace Club*, I loved it! She signed my brother and I up a few years ago. We enjoy doing all of the activities. We love listening to Mattie's audio-books in the car. We take turns reading his poetry too. A few months ago, my Mom said that people are trying to raise money for his Foundation. So, I wanted to help out since Mattie can't anymore. We all need to help out in some way. He wrote these poems with a purpose and he believed in them. I believe in them too. I believe that one act of kindness leads to more acts of kindness and then it can go on and on.

**Congratulations, Sadie!**



We will post updates on Sadie's peace activities as she moves "forthward with peace."

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