



## + the rest of the story

When she's not helping others, Rutstein is a straight-A student at Pine Crest School, where her favorite subject is math. She also plays tennis, the piano, the harp, and she dances.

Rutstein's favorite bracelets are the rainbow styles, because "they go with everything." While she used to spend 30 minutes per bracelet, she says she is now down to 10 to 12.

Interested in volunteering? Visit Rutstein's Web site at [creativekidscare.com](http://creativekidscare.com). Volunteers must be at least 10 years old.

## Rachel Rutstein

PHILANTHROPIST, FOUNDER OF CREATIVE KIDS CARE

For 11-year-old Rachel Rutstein, community service is not a requirement or even a responsibility—it's more of a natural instinct.

A Hurricane Katrina toiletry drive at her school inspired her, at age 5, to gather unwanted dolls and stuffed animals from her friends to donate to victims of the storm as well as victims of domestic violence. When she was 8, Rutstein served as the leader of the Youth Board of the South Florida Chapter of Gift of Adoption Fund, and the group raised enough money to pay for the adoption of an Ethiopian HIV-positive baby.

A year later, Rutstein and a friend organized a premiere party at then-Muvico in Boca for "High School Musical 3," raising money to aid the adoption of a drug-addicted baby boy.

"My mom is an adoption attorney, and she helps a lot of people so I am inspired by that," says Rutstein, the daughter of Jodi Sue Rutstein and Eric Rutstein, a psychiatrist.

While Rutstein enjoyed giving her time to various causes, she realized, two years ago, what she really wanted.

Her own charity.

"She asked for a year," recalls her mother. "That's all she wanted. She didn't want a bike; she didn't want a scooter. She wanted to have her own charity so that she could help all children in different areas ... [She wanted] the kind of charity where people could donate their time and their resources."

Rutstein's wish came true on her 10th birthday in the form of Creative Kids Care.

"My present was the documents and official papers," she says. "I like to bead, and I

love to help people—so I wanted to incorporate that."

Rutstein and a group of youth volunteers make jewelry from semiprecious stones, Swarovski crystals, sterling silver and 14-karat gold, and donate all proceeds to charities that benefit children. So far, Creative Kids Care has raised about \$25,000.

Last December, Rutstein held the first Creative Kids Care Mother and Child Luncheon at Woodfield Country Club, which included shopping, a scavenger hunt and a science project table; the event benefited Forever Family, which aids in finding adoptive homes for foster children. Nickelodeon actress and singer Aria Wallace, author Laura Duksta and CBS news anchor Liz Quirantes attended the event, which raised \$3,000 to aid in the adoption of Kaydrin, a 9-year-old boy who suffers from shaken baby syndrome. The entire event was planned in only six weeks so that the funds could be raised in time for Kaydrin's adoption date.

"A lot of people came up to me after the event to say ... how much fun they had," Rutstein says. "That was my goal—not only to get Kaydrin adopted but to also have fun."

She already is planning her next Creative Kids Care event, which will be held in the fall.

"I want to show people that anyone can make a difference, whether you're a kid or you're an adult," Rutstein says.

—ALEXANDRA SCHL