

Jacob Ruff
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I made an impact on a girl named Rachel. She was my babysitter when I was young and was always there for me. There were days when she would come down to our house and see if my little sisters and I wanted to hang out with her. She didn't have to come down to my house. She did it because she wanted to give my parents some free time to themselves. In the summer of last year, Rachel was diagnosed with cancer. She has stage four Lymphoma. She has been ill and was in the hospital a lot. She has to pay a lot of medical bills, which are very expensive. The friends and family of Rachel formed a group called "TEAM RACHEL." The people in the group help support Rachel. They sold t-shirts that had the team Rachel logo on them.

In October, I decided that I wanted to do something different for her. I wanted something that people could wear all the time. I thought of selling "Team Rachel" wristbands. The nice thing about them is that people can wear them to school, it fits the dress code, and you also don't have to wash them. I passed the idea on to my neighbor Maddie and she and I went to work. We picked the color purple because that is the color for the lymphoma cancer ribbon and we put the "Team Rachel" logo on them. With the permission of my principal, Mr. Huber, I sold them at my school for five dollars each. Maddie sold them also to her school. I wanted to make sure that Rachel and her family were the first people to wear the new wristbands. When the order came in, I walked up to Rachel's house and gave them to her. She was very excited and speechless because someone thought of doing something like this for her. We have raised some money for Rachel and her family. It felt great to help someone out who has done so much for me. I just want her to know how special she is. She can see how special she is when she looks down at all of our wrists. Rachel is very strong and a role model to me.