

# GIVING IT ALL AWAY

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I am guessing you will agree with me when I suggest it unusual to find a teenager who after working hard to come up with \$10,000, now wants to give it away. Yes, I said give it away. That is exactly what Carmel High School freshman Lauren Gibson is doing, and she specifically wants to give her money to other kids.

Maybe you recall in this column several months ago, I shared with you the story of Lauren and her quest to earn \$10,000 from the Clorox Company. She entered the contest using her strategy on how she could make the prize money generate environmentally green initiatives in her community. Her unique concept was to establish a mini-foundation giving micro-grants to many organizations with major ambition to help conserve our planet's resources.

Carmel Green Teen Micro Grant Program is up and running, ready to provide the engine that will drive the anticipated numerous green projects managed by Carmel's younger generation.

"We are so excited to give youth the power to have a positive impact on our community without money as a limiting factor," said leader Lauren.

Good leaders always need help and recognize their limitations. This is so with Lauren, and she is aided by a worthy team of committee members helping her dole out the cash.

If you go to the Web site (<http://www.carmelgreenteen.org>) to apply for a micro-grant, you will also find examples of potential projects - ideas like planting trees or working with organizations and public facilities to loan recycling containers. Motivated kids could establish a community garden or figure out methods to properly dispose of water bottles used by sports teams and active kids.

I have no clue how to make a rain barrel, but maybe a micro-grant could be used to teach me not only how to make one, but why I should care. Roadway cleanup, school light bulbs, vehicle idling in the school carpool line and recycling, recycling, recycling are all areas of interest that will ultimately benefit the environment. Carmel will be turning greener in the coming months, and you have Lauren Gibson and Clorox to thank for that.

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