

**Zach Bonner**

Renaud, Anne Highlights for Children
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There's some of Coofus and Gallant in us all. When the Gallant shines through, we show our best self.

"You're never too young to change the world," says 12-year-old **Zach Bonner**, founder of the Little Red Wagon Foundation. **Zach** should know. He's been helping people since he was six years old.

After Hurricane Charley wreaked havoc in his native state of Florida in August of 2004, **Zach Bonner** set out with his little red wagon to collect supplies.

The weather forecasters had thought the hurricane would strike the town of Valrico, where **Zach** lived. But the storm went south. So the residents of Valrico no longer needed the supplies they had gathered in preparation for the hurricane. "I went around our neighborhood and put flyers in the mailboxes to let people know I would be coming around the next day to collect their excess water, food, and supplies," says **Zach**. He and his family then gave the supplies to a nearby town that was affected.

When Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana the following year, **Zach** collected water, food, school supplies, and more. Then he and his family drove to New Orleans to drop off the materials for needy families.

A Walk to Remember

But **Zach** wanted to touch the lives of a much greater number of people. When he found out that there were more than one million homeless children in the United States, he knew he had found his cause. He hoped that if he let people know how many homeless kids there were, they would donate money to help. He decided the best way to do this was to walk and let people know why he was walking.

In the fall of 2007, **Zach** set out from Tampa and, over the next 23 days, walked over 200 miles to Tallahassee. "My mom and other members of my family walked with me, and people sometimes joined in along the route," explains **Zach**. "At night, we slept in camping grounds in an RV donated by a local company." It turned out that **Zach** was right about walking. People joined in the walk and gave money to the cause.

The following year, **Zach** once again put on his walking shoes and trekked the 228 miles from Tallahassee, Florida, to Atlanta, Georgia. Then, in May 2009, he walked more than 600 miles from Atlanta, Georgia, to Washington, D.C. Along the way, he collected donations. He also collected more than 1,000 letters, which he delivered to the White House.

In December 2009, **Zach** began his March Across America. He hopes to help as many homeless kids as possible along the way.

"I hope to be helping people for the rest of my life," says **Zach**.

Great job, **Zach!** Highlights is proud to know this Gallant Kid.

- Anne Renaud

SIDEBAR

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SIDEBAR

The money that **Zach** raised was used to fill backpacks with items for homeless children.**Zach Bonner**

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