

Retailer helps Callie's Backpacks' donations

HOMELESSNESS

Cross-city walk raises awareness for girl's charity



Dave Baxter
Metro | Winnipeg

Lori Lucas had a simple reason for wanting to walk across the entire City of Winnipeg on Monday.

"I'm doing this for Callie," said Lucas, who is the owner of the Chicken Chef on Portage Avenue.

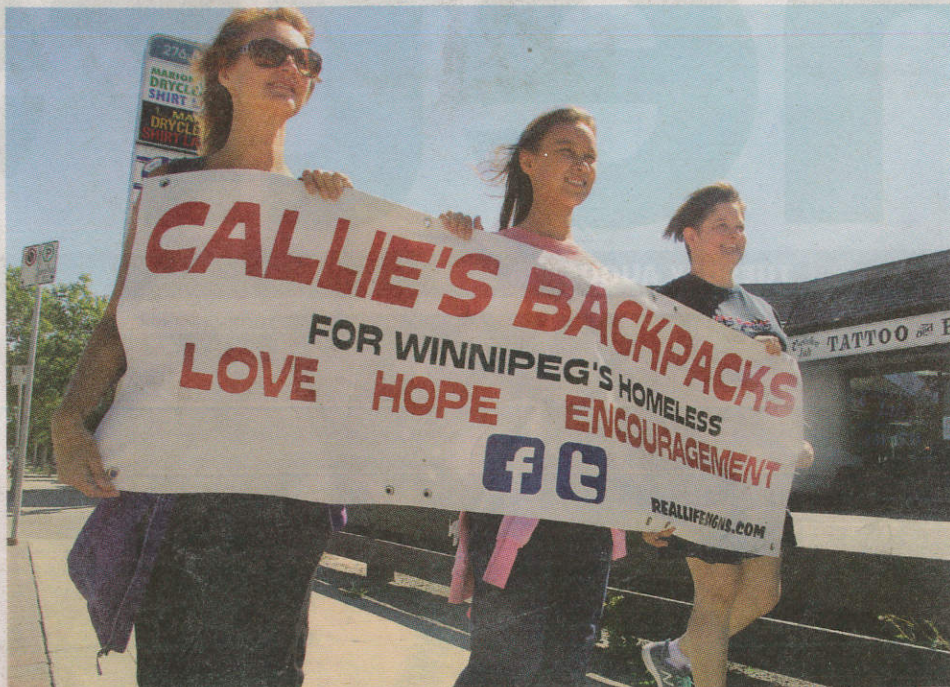
Lucas walked along with Callie Costello and others as part of the Cross Winnipeg Walk for the Homeless, which saw three local Chicken Chef restaurants donate 450 meals to Winnipeg's homeless.

About a year and a half ago, 12-year-old Callie started Callie's Backpacks for Winnipeg's Homeless, which sees her collect backpacks and fill them with things like toiletries and water bottles, and then go out on the



Her maturity and passion and compassion is unbelievable.

Lori Lucas



Lori Lucas (far right), who donated 450 Chicken Chef meals, joined Crystal Costello and Callie Costello in a walk across Winnipeg on Monday. DAVE BAXTER/METRO

streets and hand them out to Winnipeg's homeless.

"So I found out the whole story and decided along with the Nairn and Marion locations that we are going to feed 450 homeless, and do it for Callie," said Lucas.

The group walked from the Nairn Chicken Chef over to the Marion one, and then on to the one all the way down Portage Avenue.

"We're doing the walk because

we need to get more publicity for what she's doing because it's such an amazing cause," said Lucas.

"I mean look at her — she's 12 years old but she's an old soul in a young body, and her maturity and passion and compassion is unbelievable."

Callie said she doesn't do what she does for publicity.

"I just really want to help people," said Callie, who started

Callie's Backpacks after seeing homeless people on the street and wanting to help them.

Callie said since she started she has handed out about 1,500 backpacks to people on the streets, and she said she would like to keep doing charitable work right up into adulthood.

Search Callie's Backpacks for Winnipeg's Homeless on Facebook to make a donation of a backpack or other items.