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Grade Four, Second Place
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As a new community member in Franklin Township and Franklin Township School, I felt nervous about being in a new school and town. I was scared. Later, when school started, I noticed how the kids and adults were kind-hearted, friendly, supportive, and helpful. These are qualities that help someone to be a contributing member in a community.

I always try my best to be kind-hearted and friendly. At school, I start my day with a smile and say hello to my friends and teachers. Even when being new is really tough, I like to make the other kids laugh. It makes me feel good about myself and it makes other people happy. There is a lot of kindness in my school. For example, my teacher told me once that I am the highlight of his day. It made me feel like a special person and I was grateful to make a member of my new school community happy.

As a member of my school, I support my fellow students and teachers. Giving support makes people feel good and important. For example, I once saw a younger student in need. She was being teased by another student. I stepped in and said, "Stop! Please don't do that anymore." Luckily, the student did stop and the other student was alright. I try to stop teasing every chance I can because it is the right thing to do. I believe that by following directions from my teachers and following the rules, I am helping create a better supportive community.

Another way to be a contributing member in the community is helping keep the town clean. One way I help keep the town clean is by picking up pollution whenever I see it on the ground. I also make sure that I throw my own trash away and clean up after myself. My teacher asks us to clean up our classroom every day and I am always happy to help her. Keeping our community landscape and school clean makes our environment healthy and more comfortable to be in.

Being a part of Franklin Township and Franklin Township School allows me to be a part of a special community. Since I've moved, I have made new friends and have experienced great teachers. I feel fortunate to be able to contribute to my community and hope that I am helping to keep it a great place to live. I am glad that we moved here. As people, we can all relate to doing things for our town and schools and that is what makes an outstanding community.