Sharing Sweetness in Hawaii

Have you ever had an activity that you’re forced to do and then it ends up becoming something you actually love? Well, this was the case for my act of kindness. I decided to bake cookies for friends and family. However, I didn’t just use store bought dough. I baked oatmeal chocolate chip cookies from scratch. These cookies are a family favorite so I knew it would mean a lot to them! I hope to bake cookies for friends and family more often, making my random act of kindness something not so random anymore.

I finished homework and it was time to start baking at 6 pm. I mixed and stirred until my arm started hurting. Finally, the cookies were in the oven. The sweet smell of the cookies wafted around our house as I was waiting for them to finish baking. At around 8 pm the cookies were cool enough to take to some of our neighbors. My dad and I took cookies to our more elderly neighbors first: Mr. Gary and Mrs. Val. Mr. Gary always loves the sweets that I bake so we brought over a little extra cookies for him. Mrs. Val was asleep so we quietly gave them to Mr. Gary and left. I went back home with a slight smile on my face because Mr. Gary always has jokes ready, even when I might not be in such a good mood. Another reason is, when I left their house I felt good because I knew that I had made them happy. This made me feel good inside because after all that they have done for us it was nice to repay them, I also love to see the smile on peoples face that I created.

The next day my mom and I brought over the cookies to our neighbors JC and Tina, a mom and daughter living in the front house of our cul-de-sac. JC was outside cleaning out her car when we walked up. She thanked me with a smile on her face, and asked “Do these cookies have any nuts in them?” I was relieved as I told her that they didn’t have nuts because Tina was allergic to nuts. The night before when I was mixing the dough my mom suggested that I should
add nuts but it was a good thing that I didn’t! They had recently gone through some troubles and they were starting to pack their house to leave. So even though it wasn’t such a big and grand gesture I know that it still cheered them up and lifted their spirits.

Afterwards, we delivered a plate of the oatmeal chocolate chip cookies to our next door neighbor, Mr. John. Whenever we would look towards Mr. John’s house recently it has looked glum and quiet. He is wheelchair-bound, his wife has been on a trip for the past month, and I also knew that it has been hard for him to get around recently. My mom and I walked over, right after delivering the cookies to JC and Tina, and rang his doorbell. When he opened the door and we handed him the plate of cookies I could tell he was delighted. “Thank you!” he remarked as we were leaving. “Any time,” I replied to him. I felt good knowing that this small act of kindness could have made his day a lot better.

Lastly, I decided to make use of my free time on another day by baking more cookies. This next batch was for my mom’s co-workers who have been really stressed recently. I baked them the night before to allow the oatmeal chocolate chip cookies time to cool. When my mom brought them to the lunch table at school the next day she told them that the cookies were baked by me. I knew that they loved it though because when she brought the container back home all that was left were some crumbs. I was proud that I cheered them up and it felt like a job well done.

I think that an act of kindness should be something that is naturally done by someone, but that is unfortunately not the case. It shouldn’t be for money, fame, or to appear better in front of others. An act of kindness should simply be done out of the kindness of your heart. It should be for the feeling you get from a job well done or when you are proud of yourself. This is why you should be kind, and this is how Clarence T.C. Ching has inspired me. He decided to make the
Clarence T.C. Ching organization nonprofit even though he struggled and came from a tough background. I want to be more selfless like Mr. Ching, and instead of my first thought being “How can this benefit me?” it should be “How can this benefit others around me?” I hope to continue baking cookies for others and to continue spreading kindness in other simple ways. A lesson I learned through this is that small things can have a big impact. I noticed as I performed these acts of kindness that most of the time when people were having a rough day that a small, random act of kindness could make their day a lot better. I hope that those that I was kind to would also want to perform acts of kindness to those around them, causing kindness to spread all throughout Hawaii. I also am planning to bake more cookies for classmates or my soccer team in the future. This is how I would want to make Hawaii a better place. This is one of many acts of kindness that can be done. I hope you are inspired to help those around you for their happiness.