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## St. Charles mom's shirts teach children life lessons



By Steve Bittinger

St. Charles resident Monika Hall spends time with her children, Brooke and Matthew, in the family's backyard. Hall recently created Toddler Virtuetees, T-shirts she hopes will educate children and teach them life lessons.

By Joe Laodan, jlaodan@mysuburbanlife.com  
GateHouse News Service  
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St. Charles, IL -

They are only a few words printed on a T-shirt, but St. Charles resident Monika Hall hopes they make a larger impact on children's adult lives.

By printing virtues on T-shirts for toddlers, Hall plans to instill good morals in children through their teenage years and adulthood.

The mother of two said the idea originated a year ago while she attended a children's concert in Wicker Park.

"Every single kid had a T-shirt on," the 34-year old said. "I just thought maybe I could use this T-shirt craze as a platform to something with purpose." She distributed 25 shirts to Kane County children, and some are being sold at the Cradles and All children's clothing store in Geneva. She also sent her designs to a clothing manufacturer in California.

Q What is the idea behind the shirts?

A Basically the message I want to pass on is kids are being taught virtues. I just feel like the world's gotten a little crazy; there's school shootings and wars. I feel like we're so caught up in doing other things we're kind of missing fundamentals. And that's why I want to go back to basics and instill little things into our toddlers. My goal is by the time they outgrow the shirts, their virtues will be ingrained.

Q Why make them toddler size?

A Ideally I would like to have a size for everyone. I just had to start somewhere, (and) teaching toddlers would be the most impressionable age.

Q What inspired the shirts?

A I just feel like the world is going in a different direction, and I'm concerned for the direction for little ones. (The shirts) are more of an educational tool.

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