



Job is yuck, but makes a buck

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By **Kelly McBride** • kmcbride@communitypress.com

Summer is in full swing for a Glendale pre-teen who has filled his days with just about any job he can find outdoors.

Gabe Rhoads, 12, said he's excited about earning money, learning new tasks and meeting people in the village where he lives.

Rake. Sweep. Shovel. Scoop.

Money was the original concept, though. He started doing odd jobs to save for a trip to North Carolina. Now he's earning and saving in general.

His entrepreneurial skills impressed local business owner Natalie Lotspeich, who has hired him to do odd jobs at the Dog Depot.



Jobs many kids would turn their noses up at, but jobs that are packing Gabe's wallet and sparking his creativity.

He and Lotspeich came up with an acronym for one of the tasks at Gabe's Help Inc. Residents can hire the Princeton Middle School student for a task he calls PUP, or picking up poop.

It's a job with little appeal for dog owners, and Glendale is filled with them.

"Most people are too busy," said Gabe, who owns three dogs. "And I don't mind doing it."

Lotspeich said it's that attitude that helps propel Gabe.

“He is one of the most go-getter kids I know,” she said, citing the job that shows his initiative for a job that isn’t pleasant.

“His work ethic is far beyond those who are older than him,” she said.

Gabe’s mom, Joy Rhoads, said she’s comfortable with her young son being his own boss, because the village is close-knit, and he doesn’t go inside anyone’s home.

“We always worked hard to tell him that if he wants soething, he has to go out and work for it,” she said.

“He’s getting the experience of doing different jobs,” she said, “and he has a market.”

“It’s fun going outside, and it’s different every day,” Gabe said. “And it’s better than just being at home. I’m making money.”

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