



MEDIA RELEASE

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Coastal Leadership Academy sophomore uses passion for sewing to help local healthcare workers

MYRTLE BEACH – Cameron Bentley has always had a servant’s heart. When he saw the opportunity to help his mother and her co-workers, it was an easy decision.

Bentley’s mother, Jessica, works as a midwife with Tidelands Health in Georgetown and Murrels Inlet. With the spread of COVID-19, hours at the hospital increased significantly for Jess and other employees.

“Very long days, usually 12-14 hours,” Bentley said.

Longer shifts means longer time wearing personal protective equipment, which can become uncomfortable. That is where Cameron had a solution.

The sophomore at Coastal Leadership Academy has spent his free time at home sewing buttons onto headbands that then attach comfortably and securely to a medical face mask.

“We had some needle and thread around the house, and I began to think about what I could do to help my mom and her co-workers during their long days and nights,” Bentley said.

Jessica says Cameron has sewed buttons on roughly 20 headbands that are being worn by fellow nurses and office staff.

“It means the world to me as a mother that he sees the importance of what my job is,” Bentley said. “Even though I am away from home much of the day, him making this small gesture shows me that he loves and supports what we are doing.”

The moment when Jessica’s colleagues found out it was her own son making the headbands was one she will never forget.

“I remember them asking where I got them from and telling them it was Cameron,” Bentley said. “They were amazed. It was an awesome moment.”

Joseph Greenberg, Cameron’s principal at Coastal Leadership, said it came as no surprise when he heard the news.

“Cameron is one of the most unique students I have ever met,” Greenberg said. “It is so inspiring to see the difference he is making for these healthcare workers. Cameron is the perfect example of what kind of student we desire at Coastal Leadership Academy. He is thoughtful. He is selfless.”

Coastal Leadership Academy is a public charter school that serves about 175 students in grades 9-12.

For more information on Coastal Leadership Academy and other charter schools authorized by the Charter Institute at Erskine, visit www.erskinecharters.org.

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