I wasn't prepared for the force of nature that is Rachel Brown, and that's one of the many things that make her so special.

I've known Rachel since my daughter started Kindergarten at Harmony in 2018. I like to volunteer, but I often find myself missing opportunities or not sure if I'm needed. Let me tell you from day one, Rachel had us engaged and roped firmly into the Harmony family.

It started with a simple, but large project. Having community members paint benches with themes and words of wisdom for the front of the school. Myself and our friends (none of which have kids in this school) jumped headfirst into this project. That willingness to get together and build and paint such a project was entirely due to Rachel's enthusiasm. What's even more impressive is that I'm typically slow to warm up to people, and Rachel convinced us to join in on this project shortly after first meeting.

In the four years I've known her, Rachel has been such a prominent part of our school family experience. From building benches to building an outdoor garden, painting murals, and helping out in class, if you want to be a part of something, Rachel will get you there. Even if you don't realize yet that you're the volunteering type.

Home visits are another area where she shines. In particular she made my youngest's 6th birthday extra special. We were able to schedule our home visit on my daughter's birthday. We don't live near the school (it is a charter school about 20 miles from us) but Rachel made the trip and made my daughter's day. She was so excited to show a teacher her room and all her favorite things. Rachel has done many home visits since that first one, and it's always a fun time.

If you're looking for someone who has seemingly endless energy for outreach, volunteer coordinating, and making sure that school feels like a family, Rachel is an amazing addition to any team.

Warmly,

Melissa Roberts

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