



Transform Rhode Island Scholarship

“I believe the impact of this program will be far-reaching as students share their knowledge and experience with family and friends so that healthy eating in Grandma’s Kitchen transforms to healthy living in Rhode Island.”

~ Katelyn Santilli
La Salle Academy

Katelyn Santilli

BIG IDEA:

After learning about food insecurity and the lack of access to healthy food that people experience throughout the country, Katelyn created Grandma’s Kitchen to help those here in Rhode Island. The program draws upon our memories of mouth-watering smells and an abundance of authentic ethnic homemade dishes set in a warm environment. But many young people haven’t had that experience. Katelyn’s program aims to create that welcoming environment in the form of a classroom. By educating youth about nutrition, she hopes they will form healthy eating habits that improve health outcomes over a lifetime.

HOW WILL SHE DO IT?

Katelyn envisions implementing a six-week, summer program for middle school students who reside in a RI Health Equity Zone. Youth will learn about nutrition, have the opportunity to visit various sources of local food, eat healthy meals on a budget, cook and ultimately learn how to make healthier choices. At the program’s conclusion, students will be awarded a certificate of completion, a recipe book, and a gift card to a local grocery store.



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