

Meeting the Needs of Our Community: A K-5 Year-Long Service Learning Project

**Small Hands, Big Impact: A K-5 Blueprint for
Empathy, Creativity, and Change Making**

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And you are ...

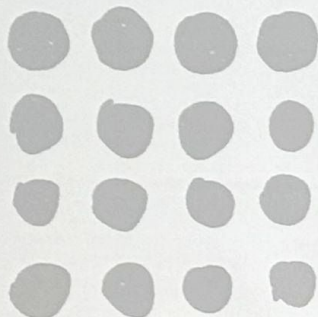
What is it like during the BEST DAYS of teaching?

Reflect for a moment on your own “Best Days” as a learner and teacher.

- ★ What conditions helped “make learning irresistible”?
- ★ What was going on when the “magic happened” in the classroom or outside of the classroom for students and teachers?
- ★ What were you kids DOING during those times?
- ★ Think of words that describe those times?

THE HUMAN REVOLUTION

1. FACTORY ERA



WHAT SHOULD
STUDENTS DO?

2. KNOWLEDGE ERA



WHAT SHOULD
STUDENTS KNOW?

3. HUMAN ERA



WHO DO WE WANT
STUDENTS TO BECOME?

WHAT IF CONNECTION **IS** THE WORK?

JANE R. SHORE 2026

THE
NEED
TO BE
HUMAN
!

What do we want students to know and why it matters:

- How can I impact tomorrow today?
- What do you want students to remember in 10 years?
- Interdisciplinary study - knowledge and skills should not be compartmentalized
- Product/Performance Task
- Real world purpose/audience, student voice and choice
- Authentic Problems, inquiry, investigation
- Open-ended questions, critical thinking
- Teaching others
- Make judgements and decisions
- Communicate effectively - strong communication skills
- Flexibility
- Collaborate and teamwork (and they barely know they are “working”!)
- Real Word Models/Experts/Experiences
- Impact my community and world/global citizenship
- Self-awareness, reflection, insight, career awareness and exploration



We are SOLUTION SEEKERS

when we engage curiously with each other and the world by asking meaningful questions, synthesizing knowledge, thinking critically and considering diverse perspectives to generate actionable ideas.

We are CREATIVE

when we take purposeful risks to build connections that allow us to innovate beyond what currently exists.

We are SKILLED COMMUNICATORS

when we clearly, thoughtfully and ethically give language to our ideas, listen with the intent to understand, and connect respectfully with others.

We are OPEN-MINDED and EMPATHETIC

when we listen with compassion, and seek to understand a range of perspectives different from our own and give space for all voices to be heard.

We are RESPONSIBLE and RESILIENT

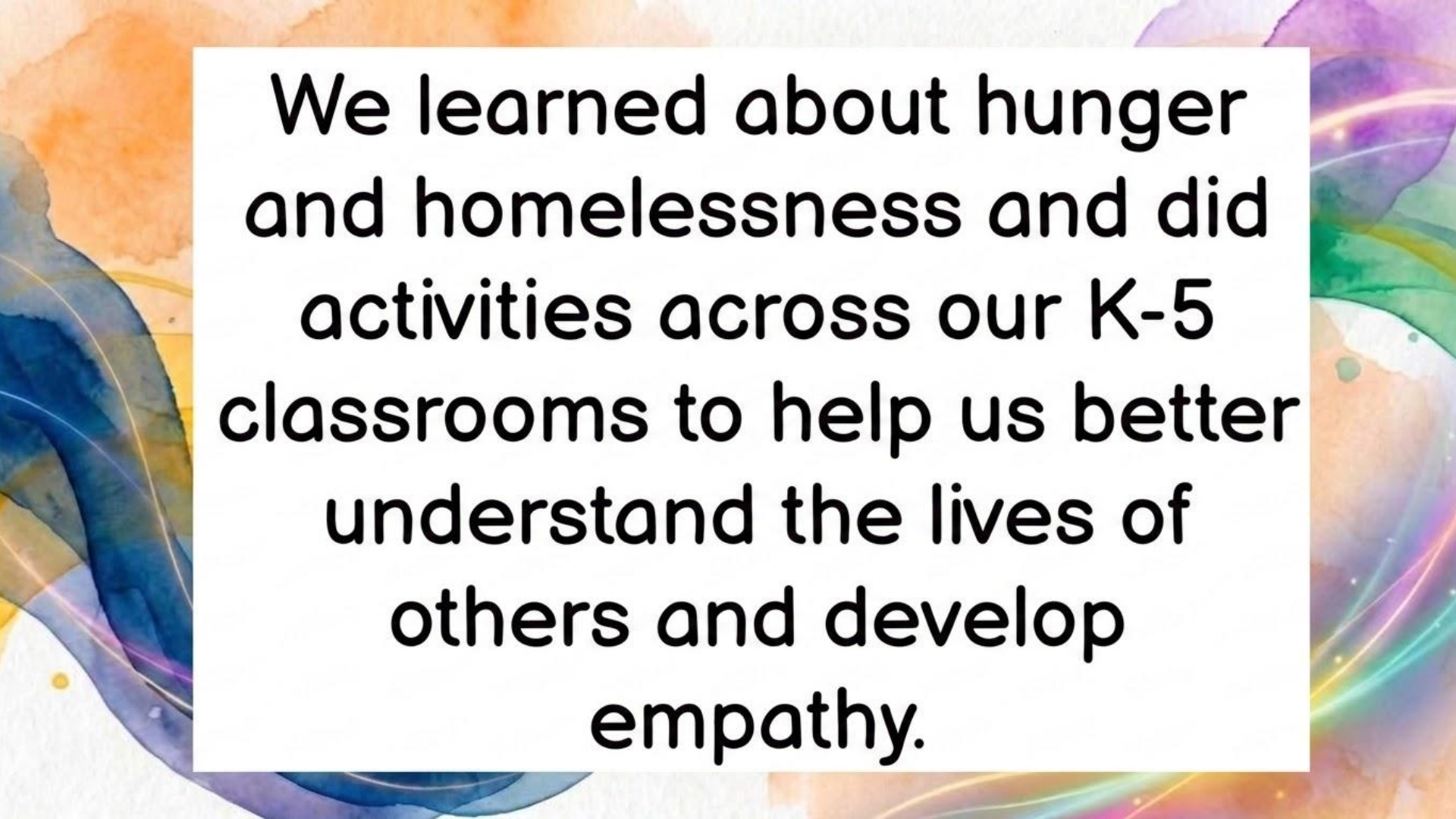
when we own our actions. We take pride in our work, accept challenges, and persevere through setbacks.

We are WELL-BALANCED

when we make intentional decisions to recognize, prioritize and enjoy the academic, emotional, physical, and social aspects of our lives.

Background

- Year long Experience
- Tackling food and housing insecurity
- Focused on age-appropriate lessons and activities
- Reflection & Sharing
- The Why: Raising Social Consciousness



We learned about hunger
and homelessness and did
activities across our K-5
classrooms to help us better
understand the lives of
others and develop
empathy.

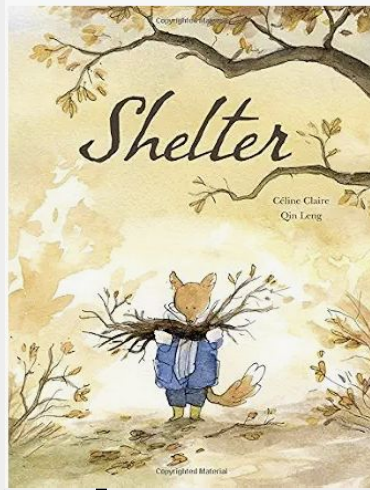
The background is an abstract watercolor illustration. It features soft, blended washes of orange, yellow, and light purple. Overlaid on these are dynamic, flowing lines in deep blue, teal, and magenta, which create a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is artistic and visually engaging.

**One in five children in
the United States is
going hungry.**

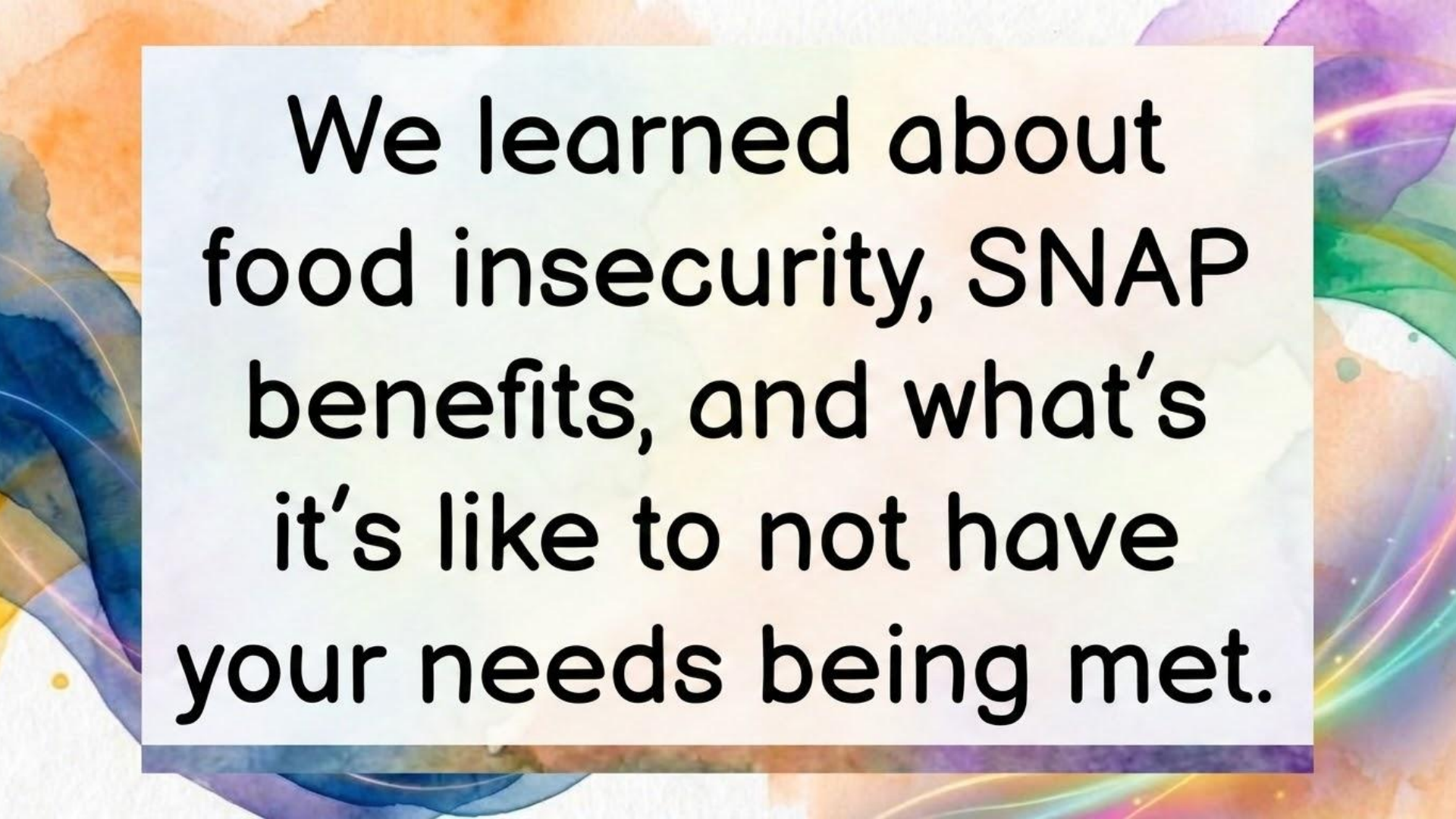
Some classes read the books *And Then Boom!* by Lisa Fipps, and *Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate, which helped us feel empathy for those who are hungry and without homes.

Both books were very powerful.

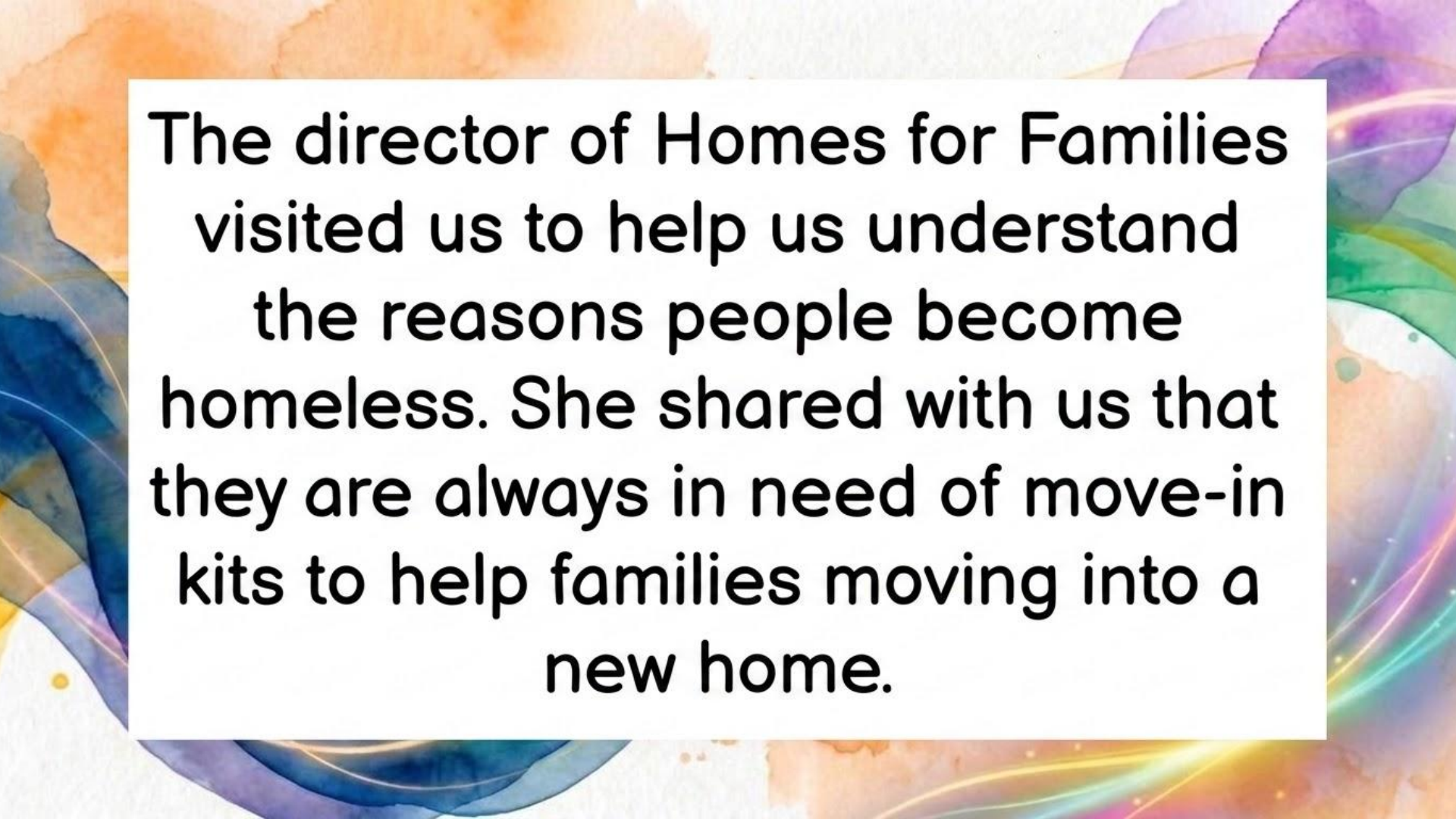




Kindergarten students read a book called, *Shelter*, by Celine Claire which taught them that you can be welcoming and help others in need.



We learned about
food insecurity, SNAP
benefits, and what's
it's like to not have
your needs being met.



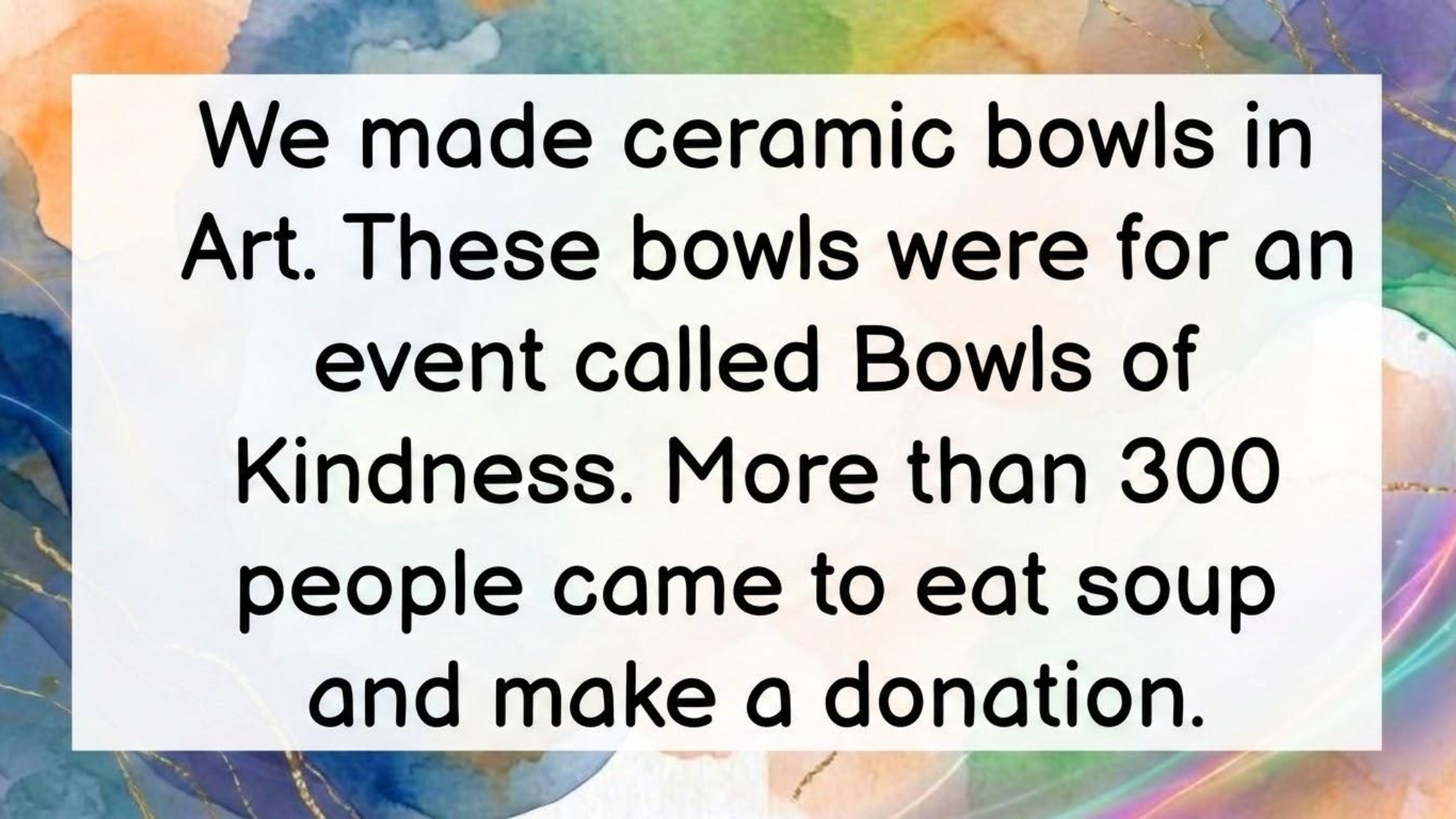
The director of Homes for Families visited us to help us understand the reasons people become homeless. She shared with us that they are always in need of move-in kits to help families moving into a new home.



Students toured the Mid-Ohio Food Bank

Meeting the Needs of Our Community





We made ceramic bowls in Art. These bowls were for an event called Bowls of Kindness. More than 300 people came to eat soup and make a donation.



BOWLS OF KINDNESS

Barrington Elementary Progressive



Join us for a cozy evening of community, compassion, and soup as families come together to support a great cause.

What: Community Soup Night Fundraiser

When: Thursday, January 29, 2026 from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Barrington Cafeteria (see teacher email to sign up for a reservation or to donate a crockpot of soup or Mac & Cheese)

Who: Progressive Families

Why: All proceeds will be used to purchase much-needed items for move-in kits for Home for Families, supporting local families in need. Enjoy a simple meal of soup, connect with others, and help make a meaningful difference close to home.

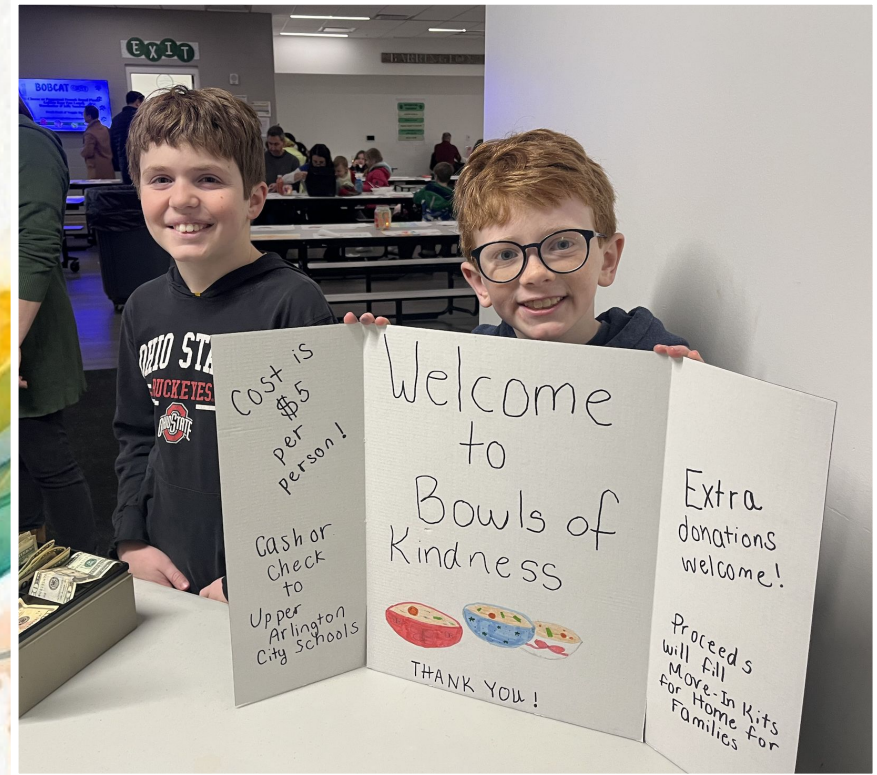
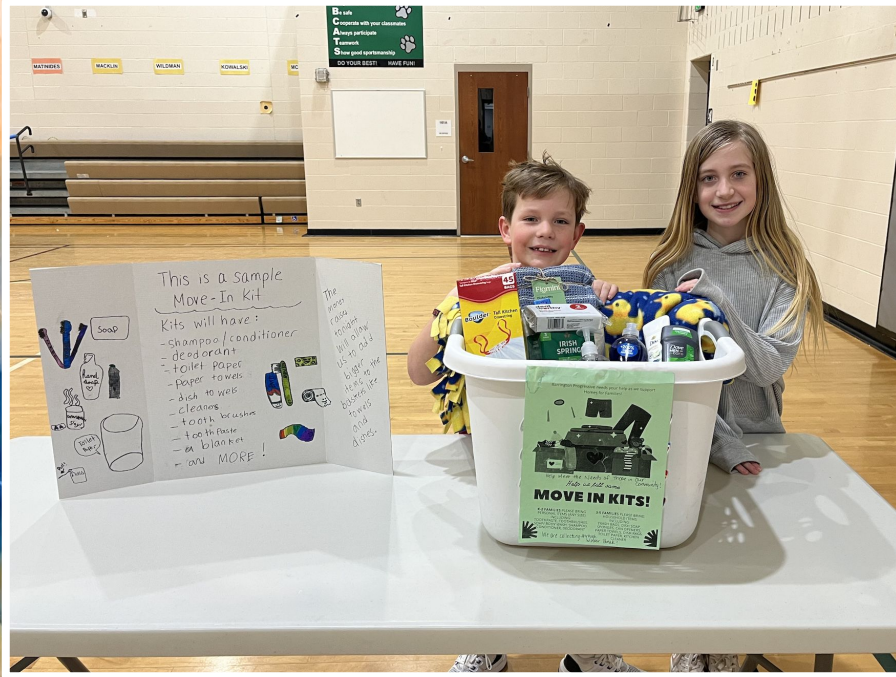
Suggested Donation:

\$5 per person











We raised \$2,300 from our Bowls of Kindness event to buy items for Move In Kits for Home for Families. We also collected more donations at school.





HOME FOR FAMILIES: MOVE IN KITS

- We collected items for the kits. 
- These support people transitioning into housing after being homeless.
- We successfully made 50 kits on Create & Discover Day!



We also built free little pantries. Families will sign up to keep them filled! We will place 5 pantries in Columbus where they are most needed.





Family Follow Up & Sustainability





Learning Objectives & Key Takeaways

SEL/Raise Social Consciousness - Ability to implement age-appropriate frameworks for student learning about complex issues in society like poverty, hunger, and homelessness without inducing anxiety.

Integrate Academics & Arts with Service - Lessons and activities that allow student to tap into gifts and talents - using math, writing, art, and more.

Forge Impactful Partnerships - Identify, contact, and sustain mutually beneficial relationships with local non-profits, shelters, food banks - AND REACH OUT TO YOUR RESOURCES WITHIN (parents, families).

Facilitate Kid-Led Student Agency - Foster empathy and student leadership throughout the project; it's OK to make adjustments as needed! All experiences are valuable, even if they don't turn out exactly as you imagined! Being flexible is key! Different things for different levels!

The "Before" Steps!

Heartbreak Activity

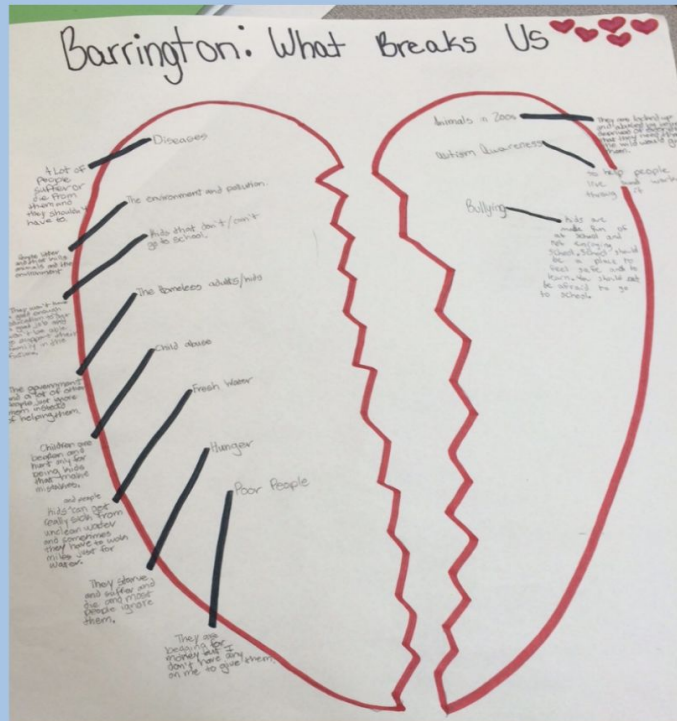
"Mapping Your Heartbreak" An Investigation/Pre-Planning Activity

This activity is based on the work of Angela Maiers, educational consultant and author of *The Passion-Driven Classroom* and *The New Book of Classroom Habitudes*. Ms. Maiers has also created a non-profit organization called *Choose2Matter*, which helps inspire students to become change-makers and social entrepreneurs.

Please use the paper and markers provided to "map your heartbreak."

- (1) In the center of your map, write and/or draw the things (issues/causes/needs) you are most passionate about, (e.g., poverty/hunger/homelessness).
- (2) Branching out from the center, write and/or draw what "breaks your heart" about each of these issues/causes/needs.
- (3) Branching out from your heartbreaks, write and/or draw your initial ideas for possible ways to address/resolve them. You might not feel quite ready to identify potential solutions, so just identify any initial impressions that come to mind. No worries—this is just a way of getting your thoughts and feelings flowing before you start planning/collaborating with others.
- (4) Somewhere on your map, be sure to include words and/or symbols that reflect several of your strengths/gifts/passions. These are important assets to recognize and utilize as you seek to become a change-maker.

Note: It's just as important to recognize and utilize the assets of your peers/colleagues. Together, we can have even greater impact on the challenges that concern us!



The "After" Steps!

Reflection

How did it go? What went well? What would you change? What did you learn? What advice would you give others? What? So what? Now what? This can take ANY form! Examples!

Demonstration/Collaboration

Assessment

Gains and impact

Sharing our knowledge

Raising social consciousness

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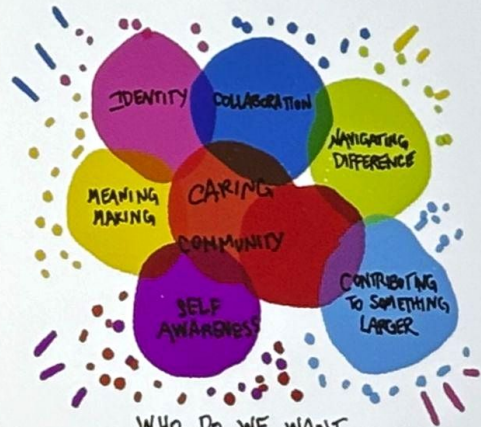
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What Now?

- Start somewhere ... things to share?
- Brainstorm? All you need is one idea!
Starting small is a GREAT first step!
- QUESTIONS? Meetings of the Mind!

THANK YOU!