

## Encountering Generosity: Kids Edition

Pathfinder Kids talks a lot about generosity and the potential kids have to be generous in little and big ways! This 6-step resource guide outlines a simple way for your student to practice being generous by planning their own mission project to show generosity towards others! You will need to work together, but allow your child to make as many decisions as they can so they are leading the project with you supporting and encouraging! Working together on this will be such a blessing to both you and your child!

\*Parents these steps are meant to be age appropriate for children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade; we recommend that every step is facilitated by you and adjusted as needed to make sure everything is age appropriate by your personal family standards. You are your child's best advocate!

### Step One – Who do you want to help?

To get the creative process going, use the coloring sheet and word bank below (pages 3 and 4) to narrow down what your child's interests.

- Print the coloring page and have your child draw their answers to the five prompts.
- Word Bank: Read the different types of causes out loud, which causes got a reaction from you child? (you can read the different words to your child, or let them practice reading the words themselves!)
- Talk about: what your child drew in the different boxes. What types of causes from the word bank caught your child's interest? Do they see any themes between their drawing and the causes?
  - o Example: they drew your pet dog, it makes them sad when they see a hurt animal and they lit up at the idea of helping animals that are hungry. (their cause could be animal shelters)
- Have your child pick two different causes to research.

### Step Two – Research organizations that focus on the causes you picked.

As a team (think functioning as a sous chef to your child's 'head chef') work together to learn about different non-profit organizations that are making a difference in the two areas your child chose.

- Parents navigate a search engine with your child looking on- search: (your cause) non-profits in St Louis.
- Spend time looking at different organization's websites from each of the causes your child is excited about.
- Let your child – look at the pictures; which grab their attention? which create emotion in your child?
- Parents dig deeper: find the different ways you can volunteer with this organization; some things to look for:
  - Is there an age limit for volunteers to be on site serving?
  - Is there a wish list of items the organization needs that your child could collect?
  - Is there something that is age appropriate for your child to do?
- Reach out to the organization or organizations your child is most excited about that has good options for your child to contribute. \*Sometimes organizations don't have direct contact info, so fill out a 'contact us' form.
  - o introduce yourself and your child.
  - o Explain that your child is practicing being generous.
  - o Make it clear that this is your child's project, you are assisting them.
  - o If your child is comfortable set up a phone call so your child can directly ask what the organizations biggest needs are (this is a big deal for them to be the ones to communicate with an adult and advocate for their own self/project!).

### **Step Three – Choose how you want to help.**

- Part One: With all the information your child found, begin brain storming ways they can help. They can have 15 ideas, or 3 ideas to start.
  - o If they want to raise money, how are they going to do that?
  - o If they want to collect items, how will they do that?
  - o If they are going to go and serve, when will they go?
  - o Have your child dream and plan in creative ways i.e. draw pictures, or make diagrams, or cut out pictures from magazines etc.
- Part Two: Your child will have grand ideas, your role during this step is to help them narrow down their ideas and think in ways of practicality and accomplishing the project.
  - o Example: You want to buy a horse for every child in foster care? (costs a lot of money, how about we raise money to buy supplies for one child to take horseback riding lessons?)
  - o Narrow down their brainstormed ideas by asking your child if they can commit to all the steps required for each idea, if they feel like they can do it themselves.
    - Example: are you going to call our family/friends and ask them to donate \$5 to this cause?
  - o Children can have short attention spans, so help guide your child to a project that is accomplished in a short amount of time.
  - o Example:
    - hand out flyers about collecting items on Friday, pick them up Sunday, drop them off Monday.
    - lemonade stand – buy ingredients in the morning, set up and sell lemonade in the afternoon.

### **Step Four – Make a plan and do it!**

- What are the steps needed to complete the project?
  - o Example: buy lemonade and cups, make a sign, set up a table and chairs.
- Decide on the date and time (again keep it simple and short – we want to encourage your child to complete the project, not lose interest!).
- Create flyers or push it out on social media to spread the word!
- Do the project!!
- Let us encourage you!
  - o When your child is ready to do their project let us know! We'd love to stop by, or encourage your child!
- Take pictures of your child in action, interacting with others!

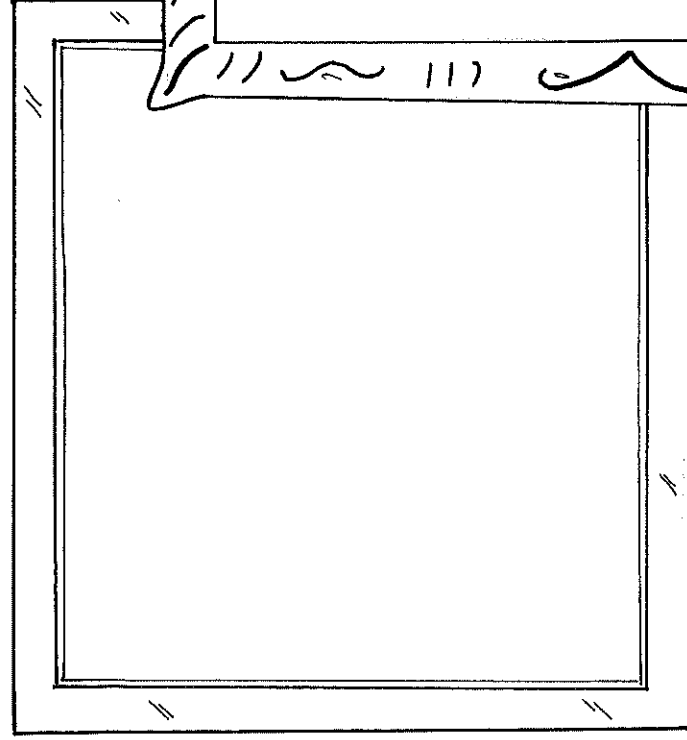
### **Step Five – Connect with the organization.**

- If you are serving at an organization, make it a point to introduce your child as the person who initiated this serve opportunity!
- If you are collecting items, or collecting money set up a time to drop it off when your child can meet someone from the organization.
  - o This will be a growth moment for your child, being brave and the one to actually complete their task!
  - o This will be such an encouragement and blessing for this organization to have a young child doing something so generous!

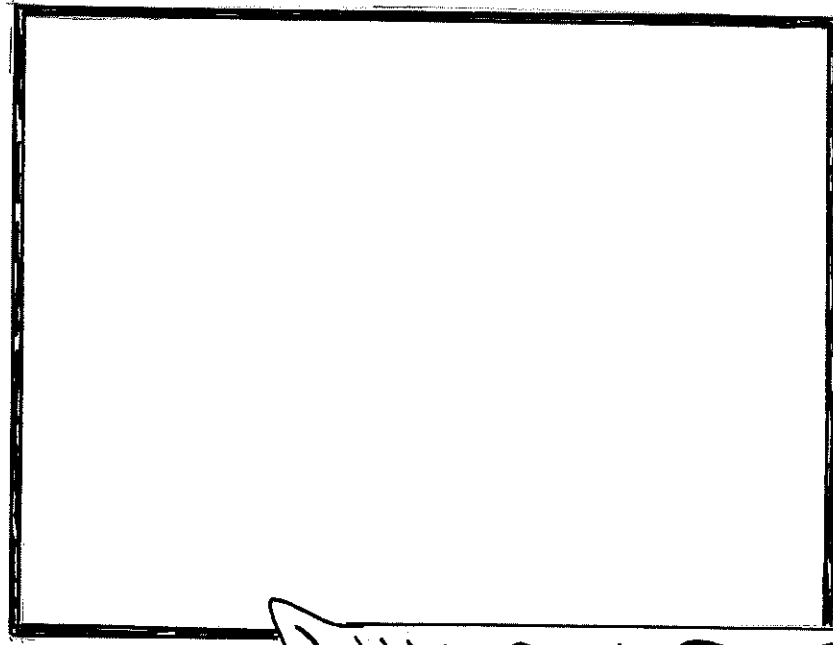
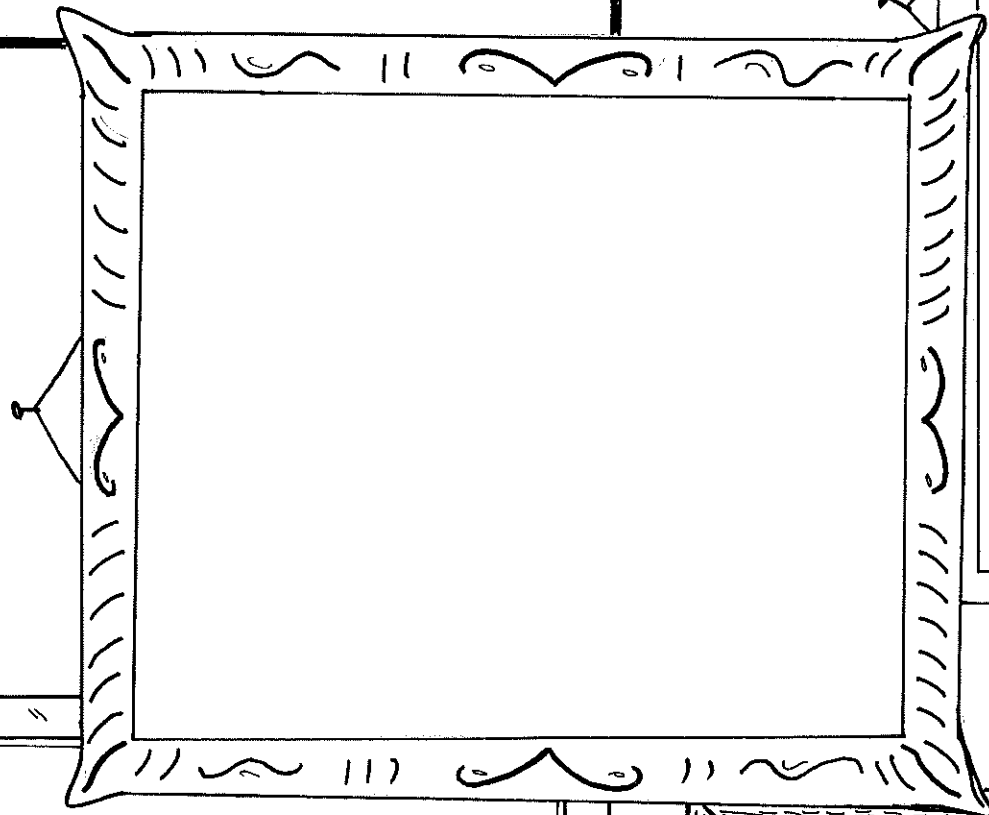
### **Step Six - Debrief with your child and celebrate.**

- Make a big deal of completing the task, maybe go for ice cream, or have a special meal, or make them a thank you card. Positive reinforcement for your child being generous will stick with them for a long time!
- Ask your child:
  - o What was the best part of the project?
  - o What was the hardest part of the project?
  - o Would you do it again?
- Let us celebrate with you!
  - o Tell us about what your child accomplished, and what their answers were to the questions above!
  - o Take pictures and send them to us so we can celebrate what your child has done!

HERE'S WHAT I LOVE TO PLAY THE MOST!

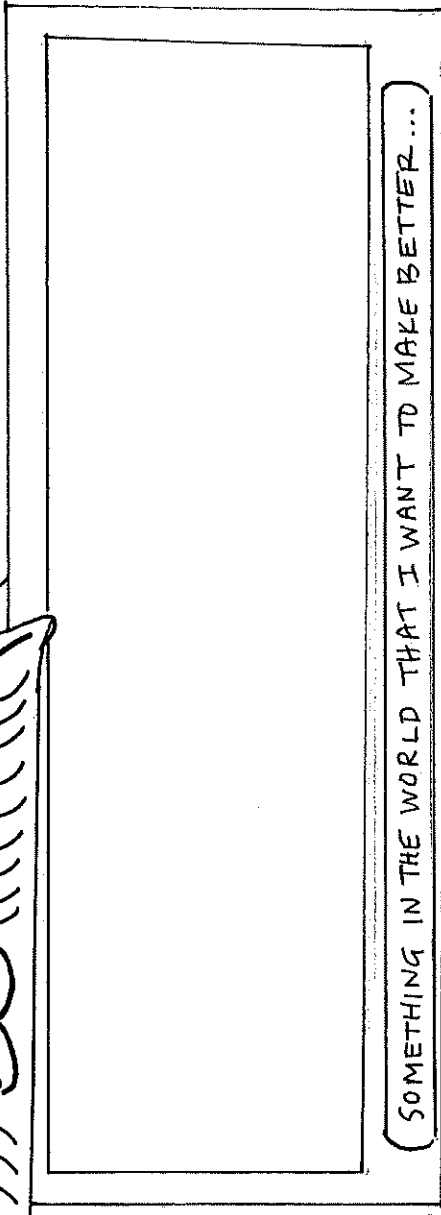


MY FAVORITE THING IN THE WORLD TO DRAW



HERE'S MY FAVORITE ANIMAL, PET, OR PERSON!

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SOMETHING THAT MAKES ME SAD

SOMETHING IN THE WORLD THAT I WANT TO MAKE BETTER...

## **Encountering Generosity Word Bank for Causes.**

- Animals – sick, hungry, lost their homes.
- Animals – sanctuaries to protect species.
- People (kids) that are hungry.
- People (kids) that are sick.
- People that are sad (depression/mental illness).
- People that have lost their homes.
- People with Special Needs.
- Kids who don't have families (foster care).
- People that served in the military.
- The Environment (Nature).
- People (kids) who don't know Jesus.
- People in other countries (war, third world conditions).