HEMPSTEAD
City of Character

"Building On a Solid Foundation"

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." -Winston Churchill

Featuring this month~

Generosity
vs. Stinginess

"Carefully managing my resources so I can freely give to those in need."

I will:

- share what I have with others.
- recycle.
- give of my time and talents.
- not expect anything in return for my generosity.
- praise the good I see in others.

More...

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What is Generosity?

The word "Generosity" comes from a Latin word meaning "of noble birth." It springs from a heart that is focused on others and is sensitive to their needs. A generous person has the mindset that all he has is a gift from others (even his job or business has been provided by the input or support of others in some way). He is willing to give freely and sometimes sacrificially to keep the cycle of generosity flowing.

A generous person will share from the resources he already has, but also will look for ways to develop resources to share in the future. He gives with pure motives, not looking for anything in return. He recognizes the needs of those around him and seeks wise ways to share their burdens and help them become successful.

Talk about Generosity

1. Name some examples of generosity in your organization that have helped build goodwill.
2. When does an act that seemed to be generous not feel generous to the recipient?
3. Can you think of a generous act that could have been more wisely thought out?
4. Can you describe generosity you have observed that was unique, perhaps self-sacrificial?
5. What might discourage a person from being generous? How can that be overcome?

Just as water cycles from rain to lakes to evaporation to rain, generosity cycles from generation to generation and giver to giver.

Hero of Generosity

Sgt. First Class Nathan Chapman died in Afghanistan in 2002. His wife described him as a man who "gave everything he had, everywhere he was, to everyone he knew...." Before he even went to Afghanistan, he was already a hero to his children and community! --Cited Character First

The brown pelican is a very generous bird. Go to the kid's page to learn how!

What does generosity look like?

Cooking casseroles and freezing them so you will be prepared to share when a friend needs help with a meal.

Letting someone who appears weary go ahead of you in line.

Giving time you needed for yourself to listen to a friend's problems.

Finding the best buy in order to provide more resources for a charitable project.

Giving secretly to help fund college tuition for a needy young person.

Helping a co-worker obtain information for a report.

Margaret Haughery
1813 - 1883

Although orphaned as a young immigrant at 8 years old and widowed in her early twenties, Margaret helped found eleven orphanages and several homes for the elderly. She saved from her meager income as a hotel laundress to buy two cows and began to sell milk; she was then able to help found an orphanage. With her expanded dairy business and additional bakery, she supplied free bread and milk to many charities. She gave her time to help those who were ill with yellow fever. When she died, she was highly honored by the City of New Orleans and by many government officials.

Concept by Character First

Parents - Click here for tips on encouraging your children to develop the character quality this month.

Check out the Just for Kids pages for gratefulness in a nature analogy and a historical lesson.

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