GIVING SERVICE

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS

ED U. GATOR TAKES A FALL

ICE CREAM'S NOT THEIR ONLY PASSION
EY YOU! Yes, you over there in the corner! And you over there, the second to last in the row. Can I please get a hand? Oh, I guess I can do it myself, but if you and I could do it together, it would get done a little faster, and we might even have some fun doing it!

You know, it’s an amazing thing. When one person helps just a little bit, it can make a big difference! Here’s a good example. The next time you see someone with a bunch of packages, hold the door open for them. It won’t take much time or energy on your part, but it will make it much easier for that person. You will have done a great service! And I bet you get paid with a really BIG smile!

There are lots of little ways to help out that make a big difference. You can help dry the dishes, sort the laundry, put your toys away or feed the dog. The more we all pitch in and help, the more time we all have to play!

There’s another way you can help that’s really important. Did you know the Earth needs your help? I know, you’re thinking, “I’m such a little person, how can I help something as big as the Earth?” But you can. The Earth needs your help to stay clean and green. Here’s what you can do. The next time you take a walk, keep your eyes wide open. Pick up that gum wrapper and popsicle stick and throw them away. Pick up that soda can and recycle it. Pretty soon you’ll start to notice stuff everywhere! But, if each of us could pick up a little bit, it would make a very big difference!

**VOCABULARY:**
- **Amazing:** surprising and wonderful.
- **Energy:** strength.
- **Recycle:** to use again and again.

**ACTIVITY:**
Garbage and trash can be smelly and gross. But sometimes people throw things away that can be used again, like bottles, aluminum cans, and newspapers. Go with an adult to a recycling center and see how the materials are divided. Can you think of a way to neatly sort the good stuff from the bad stuff at school or at home?
Hi, Ed here. Well, it turns out Gatorsville Park isn’t so bad after all. Our new house is great, and there’s a big backyard for building my clubhouse, just as Mom said! It took us two days to unload the truck and two more days to unpack everything. But it’s already starting to feel like home.

Things were going along just fine, that is until yesterday evening. There’s a park right down the street from our house, and after dinner El and I took a walk. The park has a baseball field and some guys and girls were playing ball. They asked El and me if we wanted to join them. “Sure,” we said.

That’s when the trouble started. I just had to show these guys what a super baseball player I was. I looked so cool stealing bases and jumping extra high to catch fly balls. Then I landed the wrong way on my ankle. Yikes! My foot was killing me. I couldn’t even stand up.

El ran home to get Mom or Dad. Then a surprising thing happened. Two of the players on the other team, Alice and Franklin, came over to see what they could do. They tried lifting me up but I was too heavy for them. Then these other two, Will and Nancy, decided to give a hand. The four of them picked me up and carried me all the way home. I couldn’t have done it without their help.

Mom and Dad met us in the driveway. My new friends carried me in and laid me down on the sofa. Dad checked my foot and said it wasn’t broken, just badly bruised.

Mom thanked the kids for bringing me home. She made sundaes for everyone and we all got to know each other a little bit better. It’s funny how some things happen. If I hadn’t been trying to impress everybody I wouldn’t have hurt my ankle. But, if I hadn’t hurt my foot, I might not have gotten to know Alice, Franklin, Will and Nancy. They helped me when I couldn’t help myself. And I think we’re all going to be great friends!

**QUESTIONS**

1) How was Ed feeling about the move to Gatorsville Park?

2) Why was Ed trying to impress the kids at the park?

3) How did everyone pitch in to help Ed?

4) What good thing happened from Ed’s accident?

5) How did you meet your best friend?

6) Have you ever helped a friend who was hurt? What did you do?
COMMUNITY HELPERS

Directions: Some people have jobs that help the community. Firefighters and police officers help keep us safe. Color the drawings of the fireman's helmet and the policeman's hat below.

I CAN HELP!

Directions: Are you a good helper? I bet you are! If you can think of two ways you help somebody else, then you deserve this "I'M A HELPER!" badge. Color it in, cut it out and wear it proudly!
IN THE NEWSPAPER

Directions: In the picture below there's a nice house, but it could sure use some trees, bushes and flowers to make it more beautiful. Fill in the open spaces with crayons, or cut out pictures of plants, flowers and trees from the newspaper or a magazine and glue them on.

PUT IT IN THE RECYCLING BIN!

Directions: Here’s a bunch of items that Ed U. Gator and his friends threw in the garbage at the ball park. Which ones do you think could be put in the recycle bin and used again?
Early one Saturday morning, Phoebe woke up to the sounds of her father rummaging through the house. Suddenly, there was a knock on her door.

"Phoebe," he called, "it's time to rise and shine!" Phoebe dragged herself out of bed, knocking Molly to the floor. Molly was an old, somewhat ragged stuffed animal dog that Phoebe loved and kept close.

"Sorry, Molly," Phoebe said as she gently picked her up and set her on the bed. Then Phoebe went downstairs.

In the kitchen, she found stacks of empty boxes and her father and brother, Jake, starting breakfast. "After breakfast," her father said, "I want you to go back to your rooms with a box. Go through all of your old stuff and fill the box with things you won't mind giving away. Then we'll take our boxes to the homeless shelter. Any questions?"

Jake said, "Why do we have to give our stuff away?"

"Good question," his father replied. "We have a house full of things. Some folks have very little. So, we're going to share our belongings with them."

Phoebe pulled her dresser drawers out and dumped them on the bed. "Sorry, Molly," she said, as an old skirt buried the dog. Then she sorted through her closet. When she was done, she brought the overflowing box downstairs and put it in the car.

Phoebe and her family drove to the homeless shelter. The woman in charge was very grateful for their boxes.

Phoebe's father was very proud of his family, and he took them all out for lunch. When they got back home Phoebe went upstairs to her bedroom. She noticed something was wrong. "Oh no!" she cried, "Molly's gone!" Then she remembered her old skirt falling on Molly. "I must've picked her up by mistake and put her in the give-away box!"

She ran downstairs to tell her father. He promised to take Phoebe to the shelter. When they got to there, the woman remembered the old, floppy-eared dog. She took Phoebe down the hall to a room filled with cots. They walked over to a woman who was sitting next to a sleeping boy. He was holding Molly close to his heart. The woman from the shelter explained to the other lady that Phoebe was the girl who had brought Molly to them. But before Phoebe could ask for her dog back, the lady said, "Thank you so much. He just loves this dog."

Phoebe bent down next to the boy. She couldn't bring herself to ask for Molly back. Instead she said, "Please take good care of Molly for me."

"We will," the lady promised. And then Phoebe and her father left the shelter and drove home.

"You did a very grown-up thing today," Phoebe's father said later, as he kissed her goodnight. Phoebe laid awake thinking. She was sad that she would never see Molly again, but deep down she was glad that Molly had found a loving new home.

— By Ned Andrew Solomon
scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!” There aren't too many people in the world who don't love ice cream. Some like it topped with nuts or chocolate chips. Some like it in a cone, some in a dish. It goes great with cherries and strawberries and bananas. Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield love ice cream too. They love ice cream so much that they started their own ice cream company called Ben & Jerry's. You've probably seen their truck on the highway with the funny-looking cow. Their flavors have funny names too, like Cherry Garcia, Chubby Hubby and Chunky Monkey.

Ben and Jerry have a lot of fun making ice cream. But Ben and Jerry have a very serious side, too. They are very concerned about the environment and about the welfare of families and children. They treat the workers at Ben & Jerry's very well and provide day care for their kids while they work. Their company has been very successful, and Ben and Jerry have donated a great deal of money to many very worthy causes.

One of their big projects has been working to save the rainforests. They are also very involved in recycling and in finding the most earth-friendly ways of producing, packaging and distributing their delicious ice cream. Ben & Jerry's is a good example of a company willing to give service to the community and to the Earth's natural resources.

**VOCABULARY:**
- Welfare: well-being.
- Worthy: good and honorable.
- Resources: a supply of something.
- Producing: making.
- Packaging: putting something in some kind of container to sell.
- Distributing: delivering.
TIPS

1) Our children are growing up in a society that has respect for the Earth and its resources. They are learning in school at early ages about recycling and conserving energy. It would help if we could show the same respect at home, by recycling bottles, cans and newspapers, and by turning off water and lights when they are not being used. These are good things to practice and very good habits to learn.

2) We cannot shield our children from the harsh realities of poverty and homelessness. It is important that we teach our children about these issues in a positive way and refrain from using negative terms to describe people who are less fortunate. Encourage discussions about ways in which you might help the homeless and the poor.

3) In our hectic lifestyles it is easy to forget about people who are not present in our immediate surroundings. Most of us know people or have older relatives who are living at home alone or in senior centers. Young children and senior citizens can learn a great deal from each other. Give your child opportunities to learn to respect older generations.

4) We almost always believe we can get things done faster if we do them ourselves. When your child wants to help with something, be willing to slow down a bit and let him/her learn by trial and error. When your child finally masters a certain task, it will encourage his/her self-esteem, and it will be one less thing for you to do!

FAMILY ACTIVITY

The world has come a long way in being more accessible to people with disabilities. In some ways, we still have a long way to go. Most new buildings have special parking spaces, ramps and electronic doors for people with disabilities. The next time you visit a mall, point out and discuss the different ways the mall has made special adaptations. Then, visit an older building and discuss how difficult it would be for someone with a disability to get in and around. Also, imagine you were having a visitor with special needs to your house. What would you have to do to make arrangements for that person to get in the door and be comfortable once inside?

RESOURCES


FAMILY PLEDGE CARD

Our family has completed the Family Page together:

______________________________    ___________________________
Child’s name

Family members:

______________________________    ___________________________
______________________________    ___________________________
______________________________    ___________________________

School: ___________________________

Teacher/grade: ___________________________

For more information about Project: Solution, call 726-8918 or 1-800-351-1227, ext. 8033 or 8918.