



A Curriculum and Activity Kit for Teaching Young Children About Giving





The Perfect Gift is authored and created by Janine Yeske, Extension Agent for Ohio State University Extension of Jefferson County. The kit has been provided and prepared by Appalachian Ohio Giving, a partnership between grantmakers serving Appalachian Ohio and the Ohio State University Extension.



The mission of Appalachian Ohio Giving is to build, through an increase in the region's philanthropic resources, stronger communities and improvement in the region's economic opportunities. Appalachian Ohio Giving is working to create greater public awareness and appreciation of the power of philanthropy and its importance to bringing positive change to the 29 counties of Appalachian Ohio.

Appalachian Ohio Giving's collaborative approach enables joint development of strategies, tools, products, and services that, broadly marketed and disseminated, reach a large audience of current and potential donors and donor advisors with charitable interests in Appalachian Ohio. Appalachian Ohio Giving gratefully acknowledges New Ventures in Philanthropy, a grant program of the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers for financial and informational support. For more information about Appalachian Ohio Giving, please visit www.appalachianohio.org or contact the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio at **740-753-1111**.

Using “The Perfect Gift” with Young People

The Perfect Gift was designed for use with children ages 5-9, but the message—**it’s never too early or too late to teach children the habit of giving**—holds true for all ages.

Appalachian Ohio Giving hopes this kit will assist you in encouraging the spirit of charitable giving and volunteerism in the children and families you work with. The Perfect Gift is designed to teach children about the differences between needs and wants, the needs of others, and things they can do to meet those needs. Our ultimate goal for The Perfect Gift is to plant the seed of philanthropy and charitable giving in our region’s youth so as to form life-long givers, experienced at working to bring positive impact to the places and issues they care about most.

The Perfect Gift & Youth-Serving Organizations

The fun learning activities in the kit are perfect when you need a short filler activity or if you prefer to do an entire program on philanthropy and how even one child’s gift can make a difference. The kit may be placed in public libraries for checkout or used by youth-serving organizations such as Girl Scouts, Brownies, 4-H and libraries.

Julie Banbury Robinson, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development for Ohio State University Extension in Belmont County, shared the program with youth ages 5-8 at five different libraries during the summer. After Julie shared the program, **Ellen Kilgore, Children’s Service Coordinator for the St. Clairsville Public Library**, St. Clairsville, OH, sent a thank you card to Julie, saying, *“...I was so impressed with all the answers that you received (from youth) in your discussion of The Perfect Gift...I was able to share one child’s observation of her parents being the best gift she had ever received with her mother. I think it made her day.”*

“The activities and games and the story were all right on the mark for making children more aware of how each person can be a gift to another. Children can never be reminded too often of the difference that they can make in someone’s life by their kindness and unselfishness,” wrote Kilgore.

Using “The Perfect Gift” with Young People continued

Carly Cummiskey’s Brownie Troop used The Perfect Gift during a meeting. *“We did the activities, and then voted on helping other girls we found out don’t have some of the things we take for granted. We brought in school supplies and soap and shampoo and bought socks and gloves. The perfect gift for them was having warm feet and hands. It’s great knowing we can help people who really need help,”* said Carly Cummiskey, age 8.

4-H’er Jaqueline Bartels, age 17, lead an effort of the Belmont County 4-H Junior Leaders to plan a fundraiser to assist the family of a friend and fellow 4-H’er diagnosed with leukemia. Together, through obtaining donations and organizing a school dance with proceeds going to their friend’s family, the Junior Leaders group raised over \$1,000, paying for many of their friend’s trips to and from Children’s Hospital in Columbus for medical treatments.

After this experience, Jaqueline and the Junior Leaders were interested in teaching others the lessons they had learned about giving. In December 2002, they were trained to share The Perfect Gift with young people. Of the training experience **Franklin County Extension Agent Beverly Kelbaugh** wrote: *“The training was the perfect follow-up to facilitate reflection upon their own act of love and giving.”*

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Letter from the Management Team



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Dear Friends of Philanthropy,

Appalachian Ohio Giving believes that anyone can be a philanthropist and that it's never too early to teach children the habit of giving. We hope The Perfect Gift will be helpful to families and youth organizations in their work to instill a lifestyle of giving and thoughtfulness among our region's children.

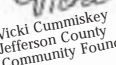
By giving, children learn that "gifts" come back—in the form of increased awareness of the world around them and the needs of others, greater self-esteem, and the important satisfaction of having some voice in making good things happen.

Youth are our region's greatest asset, and Appalachian Ohio Giving hopes the kits will be tools for helping our youth ensure that philanthropy stays a strong part of that future.

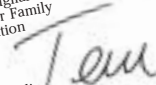
Thank you for taking the time to share the joys of giving!

Appalachian Ohio Giving Management Team


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 Ohio State University
 Extension


 Vicki Cumiskey
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 Community Foundation


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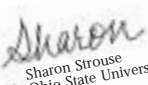

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About The Perfect Gift

Objectives

- * Introduce and familiarize children with the ideas of giving to others
- * Develop an interest in meeting a community need
- * Begin a plan for the class to help in meeting that need

Group Size

- * 5-9 children per adult volunteer

Time Frame

- * The lesson is designed for one or more group meetings between 20 and 30 minutes long. Each activity will take about 5-15 minutes to complete.

Background

- * Children can develop giving attitudes at an early age. They can learn that attitude is an important part of giving and that giving can come through thoughts, words, and deeds.

Life Skill Areas

- * Social skills will be developed as children share their ideas about giving.
- * Decision making and memory skills will be developed in memory game and discussions.
- * Communication skills will be developed through poems, songs, and discussions.

Extra Supplies Required

- * Gift wrapped roll of toilet paper, coffee can(s), scissors, glue, crayons

Help to the Volunteer

- * Choose one or two of the following activities from each section.
- * Ask children to bring a coffee can to class to make a bank.
- * Choose a need in your community to discuss with the class and to collect coins for.

1



Activities

- 1.1 What Makes a "Perfect Gift?"
- 1.2 A "Perfect Gift" Finger Play
- 1.3 "Opening the Perfect Gift"

"Thoughtful giving begins with thoughts on giving."

– Arthur Frantzreb



1.1

Activity

What Makes a “Perfect Gift?”

Materials: None

Time required to complete activity: 10 minutes

Fred Rogers tells a story in his book “The Giving Box” about a little girl’s excitement about giving. When asked what makes her happy, this preschooler replied, “I am happy when I get mom the toilet paper when she calls from the bathroom!” Mister Rogers went on to explain that it hadn’t been long since the little girls had been potty trained so helping her mother in this way was very meaningful to her.

- * What is the best gift you ever got?
- * Why do you think it was such a great gift?
- * What is the best gift you ever gave?
- * Whom did you give it to?
- * How did you feel when you gave that great gift?
- * Do you think that giving toilet paper to someone could ever be the perfect gift?

The definition of a perfect gift will be different for everyone. Perhaps the perfect gift is any gift that you get just when you need it most. When you see someone with a need, and you meet that need, you may be giving him or her a perfect gift.



1.2

Activity

A “Perfect Gift” Finger Play

Materials: None

Time required to complete activity: 5 minutes

Here’s a box (*make square with 2 index fingers*)

And here’s a bow (*but circles on top of square with 2 index fingers*)

What’s inside, I do not know (*open hands and shake head*)

(REPEAT FIRST THREE LINES.)

Let’s open it and see

(*pull stuff out of imaginary square with both hands*)

Together you and me

(*point back and forth to someone else with index fingers*)

Let’s open it and see (*repeat actions from above*)

What the perfect gift must be

(*make square and bow again with index fingers*)



1.3

Activity

“Opening The Perfect Gift”

Materials: Gift wrapped roll of toilet paper

Time required to complete activity: 5 minutes

After the class has had a chance to guess what is in the perfect gift bag, open it. Inside is a roll of toilet paper.

- * Do you agree that toilet paper is a perfect gift?
- * Could toilet paper ever be the perfect gift? When? (Would it be the perfect gift if you were in the bathroom and needed it?)
- * The perfect gift is any gift that someone gives you just when you need it. Giving the perfect gift means that you have the ability to give someone just what they need—just when they need it.

2



Activities

- 2.1 Coloring Activity
"Head, Heart, Hands, and Health"
- 2.2 Memory Game "The Perfect Gift"
- 2.3 Matching Game
- 2.4 Word Game
- 2.5 4-H Pledge

*"Give what you have.
To someone it may be better than you dare think."*

– Henry Wadworth Longfellow



Activity

“Head, Heart, Hands, and Health”

*Materials: “Head, Heart, Hands, and Health” handouts
(See pages 14-17)*

Time required to complete activity: 5-10 minutes

Use the hand out pictures to ask the group “What would be the perfect gift for the person in this situation?” After the class has discussed what they think the perfect gift would be and what it means in the shown situations, let the children do the coloring activities. Discuss how sometimes the perfect gift doesn’t come in a box.

In 4-H, we learn about head, heart, hands and health.
We can use those to give the perfect gift.

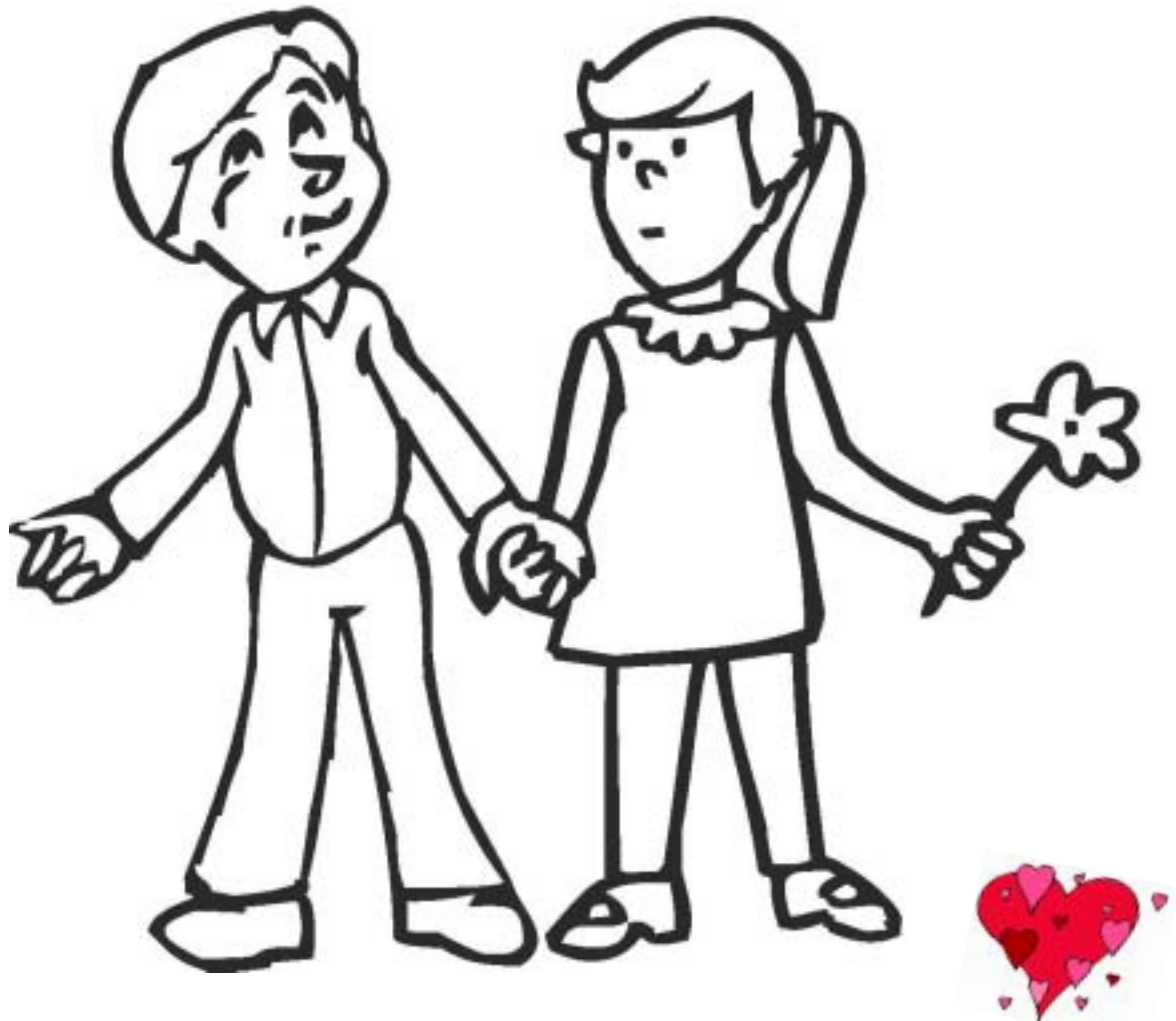
What if you see someone who needs help with homework?



Use Your **Head** to Give Help.



What if you see someone who is lonely?



Open Your Heart to Give Friendship.



What if you see someone's garden dying?



Stretch Out Your Hands
to Give Help.



What if you see someone
who needs help cleaning up?



Use Your Health to Help.





22

Activity

Memory Game – “The Perfect Gift”

Materials: Memory Game cards. (See pages 19-20)

Time required to complete activity: 5-10 minutes

Cut out cards by trimming along black lines, keeping “Need” cards separate from “Perfect Gift” cards. Turn all “Need” cards upside down and let each child choose one or more “Need” card (depending on number of participants). Lay the corresponding “Perfect Gift” cards out for children to take turns choosing which card(s) show something that will meet the need expressed on their card(s). When all cards have been chosen, have each child show the pairs he/she matched and why the cards went together. (Example: child who is cold would be matched with a coat.)

Need

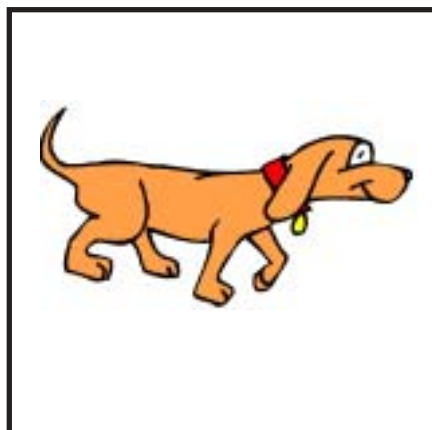
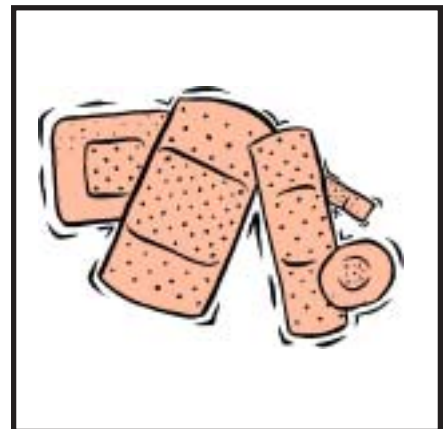


Perfect Gift



Memory Game Cards

Cut out cards by trimming around the black border.



Need

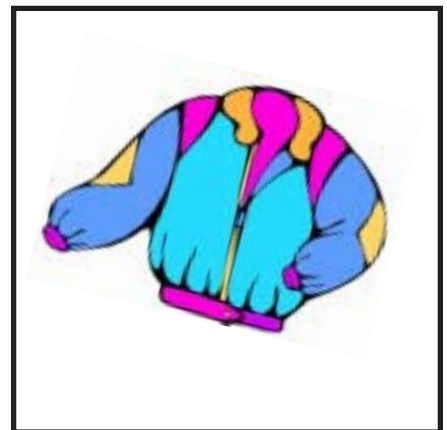


Perfect Gift



Memory Game Cards

Cut out cards by trimming around the black border.





23

Activity










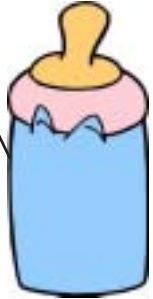
Matching Game

Materials: Matching Game handout (See page 22)

Time required to complete activity: 5 minutes

This is a quicker game that carries the same message as the Memory Game. Give each child a handout and ask him/her to match a person with a need to the way he/she could meet that need.

Draw a line from a person with a need in the left column to a way you could help meet that need in the right column. The first one has been done for you.



24

Activity Word Game

Materials: Word Game handout (See page 24)

Time required to complete activity: 5-10 minutes

This is another game to reinforce the same message.
The children can look for and then talk about different
ways to give.

WORD SEARCH

In this crazy, mixed-up world, sometimes it is hard to see acts of goodness. See how many “good” words you can find in these crazy, mixed-up letters. There are 10 words hidden in the letters: some are written in order, some are upside down, and some are diagonal. There is also a bonus word not listed below? How many of the hidden words can you find?

F	R	I	E	N	D	L	Y
E	A	N	C	D	N	I	K
L	U	F	P	L	E	H	H
I	J	U	T	T	C	L	U
M	E	G	I	V	I	N	G
S	V	L	D	O	N	B	Z
U	O	Y	K	N	A	H	T
P	L	E	A	S	E	R	V

NICE
KIND
LOVE
HUG
HELPFUL
GIVING
FRIENDLY
POLITE
PLEASE
THANK YOU

The bonus word is “smile.”

Having the right attitude is an important part of philanthropy.



Activity

4-H Pledge

Materials: None

Time required to complete activity: 1 minute

Say the 4-H Pledge with the group.

“I pledge

*my **head** to clearer thinking,*

*my **heart** to greater loyalty,*

*my **hands** to larger service, and*

*my **health** to better living,*

for my club, my community,

my country, and my world.”

Sometimes when we say things that we have memorized,
we stop thinking about what the words mean.

What do the words of the 4-H Pledge mean?

3



Activities

- 3.1 Discussion: "What is Philanthropy?"
- 3.2 Story of Phil and Sophie
- 3.3 Craft Activity: Make a Bank

"The heart that gives gathers."

– Unknown



31

Activity

“What is Philanthropy?”

*Materials: “Philanthropy” and “Philanthropist” word cards
(See page 28)*

Time required to complete activity: 5 minutes

Say the words “philanthropy” and “philanthropist” and show the cards. Ask if anyone knows what the words mean. After the group discusses the words, explain that philanthropy is defined as “love of mankind” and a philanthropist is a person who enjoys meeting the needs of others.

Philanthropy

Philanthropist



32

Activity

Story of Phil and Sophie

Materials: Poem and coloring page with poem and picture to color (See page 30)

Time required to complete activity: 15 minutes

Read the poem below about two children named Phil and Sophie. They learn about philanthropy when they collect money for friends who have had a fire in their home. Have you ever given something to someone who needed it? How did you feel when you gave such a gift? How did the person feel that received the gift? Color the picture and put it on your refrigerator. The next time you hear about a family who has a need, remember how important it is to help to meet that need.

*This is the story of Phil and Sophie
Who never heard of "philanthropy,"
Heard of words like "give" and "share,"
And "help out" people everywhere.*

*This is the story of Phil and Sophie,
They don't know about philanthropy,
They learned a lot when their classroom joined
To help a family, just by saving their coins.*

*It seems the family's house burned down,
They lost all their clothes, not a sock was found,
Phil and Sophie's class saved pennies and dimes,
And bought socks and shoes- the popular kind.*

*So goes the story of Phil and Sophie,
Who can't even say "philanthropy,"
But know the joy that kindness brings,
And the happiness that comes from sharing their things.*



Story of Phil and Sophie

This is the story of Phil and Sophie
Who never heard of “philanthropy,”
Heard of words like “give” and “share,”
And “help out” people everywhere.

This is the story of Phil and Sophie,
They don’t know about philanthropy,
They learned a lot when their classroom joined
To help a family, just by saving their coins.

It seems the family’s house burned down,
They lost all their clothes, not a sock was found,
Phil and Sophie’s class saved pennies and dimes,
And bought socks and shoes- the popular kind.

So goes the story of Phil and Sophie,
Who can’t even say “philanthropy,”
But know the joy that kindness brings,
And the happiness that comes from sharing their things.



33

Activity

Make a Bank

Materials: Coffee can, glue, construction paper, scissors, crayons, markers, glitter, and other desired craft supplies, local newspaper, saved coins

Time required to complete activity: 20 minutes to make bank, ongoing after that

Make a bank out of the coffee can and craft supplies. Begin saving coins and talk about giving them away. What do you think is a good percentage of your money to put in the bank? Should you just save the amount that is easy for you or should you really save some of the money that you would like to use for yourself?

After you have saved some money, read your local newspaper together and look for a story about a family who has a need for help. Send your money to the family.

Talk about how it feels to give money away to people you don't even know. After giving, do you get a thank you from the family? Thank you cards always make the gift giver feel appreciated, but people with tragic needs may not remember to say thank you. The good feeling you have about giving should not be based on a "thank you." Your good feelings should be based solely on the fact that you gave.

4



Activities

- 4.1 "Smile"
- 4.2 Greeting Card "Giving Smiles"

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

– Aesop



41

Activity

“Smile”

Materials: Your face

Time required for activity: 1 minute

Time required to do what activity says: A lifetime

Have you ever given a gift that you didn't want to give? Have you ever grumbled and complained because you had to give him/her a gift? Is a smile an important part of giving? I think so. When you give a gift in a selfish or angry way, your giving is not truly philanthropic. A philanthropist loves to give.

The next time you give a gift, look at your face in the mirror. Are you happy that you are giving this gift? If not, think about why you are giving and how you can change your motive. The old saying is that it is better to give than to receive. Do you agree?



42

Activity

Greeting Card “Giving Smiles”

Materials: Greeting card handouts and crayons (Pages 35-36)

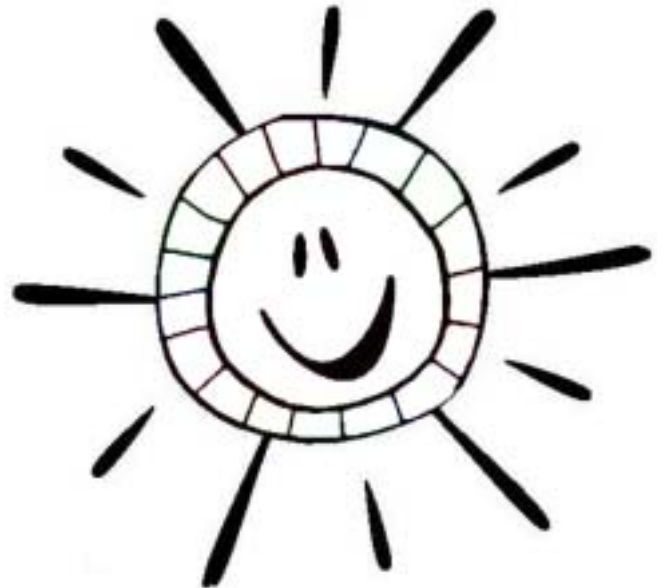
Time required for activity: 5-10 minutes

Use the activity sheets to make a greeting card by coloring in the pictures and folding along the lines. Fill in the “To” slot with the name of someone special who you wish to give the card, and fill in the “From” slot with your name. Write or draw your own message about the importance of giving smiles if you wish. After the card is finished, you can practice giving with a smile when you give this card away.”

From:

To:

Fold along these lines.



**Thank you
for giving me
a reason to smile.**

From:

To:

Fold along these lines.



5



Activities

- 5.1 "Boomerang Effect"
- 5.2 Story "The Brothers"
- 5.3 Poem "Boomerang"

"The open hand of giving is always full."

– Unknown



5.1

Activity

“Boomerang Effect”

Materials: None

Time required for activity: Less than 5 minutes

Discuss the boomerang effect of kindness. When we are friendly to others, we will have friends. If we are unkind, people will not want to be our friends. It is the same way with other feelings also. A pleasant attitude shown to others will bring pleasant results.



5.2

Activity

Story “The Brothers’”

Materials: None

Time required for activity: 5 minutes

In his book, “[The Giving Box](#)”, Mr. Rogers tells of a Hebrew legend about two brothers and their strong love for each other. The brothers inherited land from their father and they each farmed the land. For years, they did very well. One brother eventually married and had children while the other brother stayed single.

One year, there was no rain and the crops failed. The brother who was married worried because his brother had no one to take care of him. In the middle of the night, he took some of the little wheat he had and put it in his brother’s barn.

That same night, the single brother worried about his married brother not having enough food to feed his children. He took some of his grain and put it in his brother’s barn.

The next morning, both brothers were amazed that the size of their wheat piles hadn’t gone down. This same thing happened the next night and again the next morning. On the third night, while they were taking wheat to each other’s barn, they ran into each other in the field. They understood why their supply of wheat never went down. It was because of “their own kindness for each other!”



5.3

Activity

Poem “Boomerang”

Materials: None

Time required for activity: Under 5 minutes

Boomerang, Boomerang,
I do not understand,
I throw you away from me,
And you come back to where I stand.

Kindness, Kindness,
It is so plain to see,
I am kind to others,
And they are kind to me.



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Coshocton, Ohio

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Portsmouth, Ohio

For more information about youth philanthropy, philanthropy in Appalachian Ohio, or the work of Appalachian Ohio Giving, please contact:

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It has been the mission of The Ohio State University Extension through its 4-H program to enhance the experiences and educational resources of youth in order to instill in them a self-confidence and self-worth.

Our association with Appalachian Ohio Giving and The Community Foundation of Jefferson County has been another outlet to expand the principles that our organization embodies. Our collaboration with these organizations has made it possible to broaden our scope of teaching and knowledge to our youth in the area of philanthropic giving.

We are committed to "Making the Best Better" and our partnership on this project with Appalachian Ohio Giving and The Community Foundation of Jefferson County has certainly met the criteria that we strive for everyday.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Janine Yeske".

Janine Yeske
Ohio State University Extension
