



2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Writing, & Multimedia Contest

Jaret Crist

8th Grade Writing Winner

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Bridget Wilson, Teacher

Chris Brooks, Principal

How to Make My Neighborhood a "Beloved Community"

My neighborhood is not currently close to becoming beloved community. The people are friendly, but besides here and there, people are not closely acquainted. You will find people stopping to talk once in awhile, but other than that communication is rare. Schools are really the only place in which a lot of communication occurs. In the schools, everyone knows everyone, but out of schools many don't even know their neighbors. While the people of the neighborhood are kind enough, they lack one aspect that really boosts the community. This aspect is something as simple as what we all learn as children; using please and thank you. If everyone can do small favors for others every once in a while and say thank you, the world will be a better place.

If everyone is willing to do small favors for each other occasionally, the world will run smoother and happiness will spread. A simple favor is something powerful enough to cause a bad day to turn into a joyful one. Something as simple as getting home from a bad day at work to a shoveled driveway can make someone happy. I say that if everyone could pass along this joy, rather than have it stop at himself, and do a favor for someone else the world would run smoother. If everyone is helping each other out, then work will get done quicker, resulting in more joy filled free time. Every community around the world can become a "beloved community" just by helping each other out and passing on the joy that comes with being aided.

Saying thank you to someone is a very powerful thing. If someone does something that helps you out, just saying thank you to them is enough to make the joy they gave you return to them. As strange as it may seem, I know that when someone says thank you to you for something that you did, it makes your whole day seem better. When you see the joy on the recipient's face it causes joy for you as well. Lastly, something as easy as a thank you can make people think that what they did meant something to you. Saying thank you when someone does something for you can boost both of your spirits.

Finally, the favors and thank yous can change the world itself. If the joy of favors and thank yous can be passed along infinitely, then everything from crime to world hunger will be diminished. When people experience the joy and kindness that this brings, they should pass it on in different ways. This could include giving to the needed and feeding the poor. Also, one reason that criminals commit crimes is because they feel that the world is not being kind to them so they need to reciprocate. If they see kindness, rather than darkness, they will be more likely to pass kindness along rather than evil and darkness. These small things of favors and thank yous can solve world problems such as hunger and crime.

Something as small as saying thank you when someone does a favor can turn anywhere from a common neighborhood to a beloved community. A favor can do wonders on someone and can totally change their day. Something as small as a thank you, can create joy in people. The spreading of kindness, if passed on from person to person, can solve world problems such as crime. If starting with yourself you begin a chain of kindness, the joy can spread eternally and can potentially alter the course of the entire world.

Beloved Community

