

Community Service Connections

The Journey Selma Bortner

In *The Journey*, Selma Bortner uses fantastic images of people, animals, and monsters at sea to tell a story about her husband's battle with heart disease and her own battle with breast cancer. These diseases afflict people of all ages around the world, and every day people in the medical research profession battle to find cures. By hosting a lemonade stand, running a race, or selling handmade linoleum-cut note cards at a school fair, you can help the following organizations:

The American Association for Cancer Research

www.aacr.org

The AACR Foundation for the Prevention and Cure of Cancer seeks to provide researchers with the necessary funds to continue their vital work. This foundation does not organize national events for community involvement, so helping them would involve creating an event of your own and sending in the resulting donation.

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

www.alexlemonade.org

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation began with the idea of a four-year-old cancer patient, Alex, to host a lemonade stand whose proceeds could go to help her doctors fight cancer. The foundation is now active nationwide and continues to raise funds to cure pediatric cancer. All it takes is a table, a cooler, some cups, and a lot of lemonade to make a difference. You can also purchase a virtual cup of lemonade on the foundation's website.

The American Heart Association

www.americanheart.org

The American Heart Association supports research, education, and community programs. It leads the fight against America's number one killer, cardiovascular disease. The association organizes many fund-raising events.

The American Cancer Society

www.cancer.org/docroot/home/index.asp

The American Cancer Society seeks to prevent cancer and eliminate the suffering and death it causes. The society hosts events and programs so people of all ages and interest levels can participate in fund-raising efforts and support legislation on the local and national levels. Some of the society's programs include Relay for Life, Daffodil Days, Coaches against Cancer, and Making Strides against Breast Cancer. You could also host a local event of your own and make a donation to this organization.

Vincent Ceglia's love for the earth and his concern for the environment glow through his collage work *Early Light*. In this mixed media work, he has portrayed a landscape that remains untouched by the ravages of development and industry. There are many places on the earth that look like the scene depicted in Ceglia's work, and it is vital that citizens of all ages unite to preserve and protect these valuable natural resources. From trash clean-ups in community, state, and national parks to broad outreach and preservation efforts across the globe, every helping hand makes a difference. Gather a group of friends, relatives, and classmates (teachers, too!), and check out the local and international organizations below to find out how you can help.

The Cooks Creek Watershed Association (Upper Bucks County, Pennsylvania)

www.cooks creekpa.org/

The Cooks Creek watershed is located in Upper Bucks County and part of Northampton County. The CCWA was formed in 1974 with the goal "to protect, preserve and improve the quality of water, land and life in the Cooks Creek Watershed."

The Gallows Run Watershed Association (Upper Bucks County, Pennsylvania)

www.grwabucks.org

The Gallows Run waterway is a designated cold water fishery; its associated watershed is therefore economically important, in addition to being a beautiful area. The association's volunteer projects include regular stream clean-ups, the Stream Team, and the 1000 Trees Project.

Greenpeace

www.greenpeace.org/usa

Greenpeace was founded in 1971 and since then has become a leading international organization. It campaigns using "peaceful direct action" and "creative communication" to bring environmental problems to light. The organization's website provides many ways for individuals to get involved, including via blogging and other online activities.

Heritage Conservancy

www.heritageconservancy.org

Heritage Conservancy has been active in one form or another for fifty years. Its mission is to preserve open land and historic sites in southeast Pennsylvania and western new Jersey. Toward that goal, Heritage Conservancy provides services and sponsors projects to help residents with preservation planning.

The Natural Resources Defense Council

www.nrdc.org

The NRDC is an effective, national, environmental action group. It combines the efforts and expertise of professionals such as lawyers and scientists with the energy of grassroots activists—including young people like you!

Just imagine a world without art! Did you know that there are people who do not ever get to see beautiful works of art in real life because of physical, geographic, or economic limitations? Think about finding these people in your community through a nursing home, hospital, or homeless shelter. Inquire about volunteer opportunities at any of these institutions. Give your time and bring in some art materials to create a project with a person with whom you might develop a special connection. Find a local museum, such as the Michener, and inquire about volunteer opportunities through its outreach department to serve those in need. Host an arts event at your school, church, or youth center and invite people from local institutions to participate. Arrange a carpool for them. You can also help bring them closer to the art world by supporting one of these fabulous art museums.

The James A. Michener Art Museum

www.michenerartmuseum.org

The Education Outreach and Diversity Department of the James A. Michener Art Museum supports many opportunities for those in need through off-site museum programming. Volunteers of all ages can assist with programs for middle and high school students in public schools, programs for students living in Bucks County shelters, and intergenerational programs throughout the community. Volunteers are also needed for on-site programs involving people of all ages with disabilities.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art

www.philamuseum.org

In addition to culturally inclusive collections and exhibitions, the museum's commitment to diversity encompasses a variety of efforts that include the Diversity Newsletter and the following groups: the Diversity Task Force, the Audience Development Outreach Group, and the Korean Heritage Group. All of these groups need volunteers for specific outreach projects in order to guarantee their success.

Blues is a vocal and instrumental form of music based on the use of blue notes. It emerged in African-American communities of the United States from spirituals, work songs, field hollers, shouts, chants, and simple, rhymed narrative ballads. The blues influenced later American and Western popular music, as it led to jazz, rhythm and blues, and bluegrass. The city of New Orleans, Louisiana, is especially known for its strong association with blues and jazz music traditions. Festivals, restaurants, and cultures blossomed around the distinctive style of these musical arts forms. The city was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and people around the world are helping to rebuild it and help it reclaim the spirit and energy that was its essence for so many years. You can get involved in a variety of Katrina relief efforts through any of the following organizations. In addition, you can join forces with the Save the Music foundation to help New Orleans gain back quality music education in its schools.

Direct Relief International

www.directrelief.org

Since 2005, Direct Relief has helped affected Gulf States recover from Hurricane Katrina through collaboration with health organizations in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. You can help this organization be prepared should disaster strike again.

Friends of New Orleans

www.friendsofneworleans.org

Friends of New Orleans is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that informs people about the rebuilding effort since Hurricane Katrina. It also links people who are interested in the culture and community of the New Orleans area and motivates them to help the region recover.

Habitat for Humanity International

www.habitat.org

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit Christian organization that provides shelter to families in need. Volunteers of all backgrounds are welcome to help rehabilitate and build houses along with low-income families, who then buy the houses at an affordable price.

The VH1 Save the Music Foundation

www.vh1.com/partners/save_the_music

The VH1 Save the Music Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring instrumental music education in U.S. public schools and to raising awareness about the importance of music as a part of each child's complete education. Since 1997, the foundation has had an impact on the lives of over one million public school children.

***The Buffalo Jump
Called Chugwater
and an Irrigation
Pivot Near
Wheatland, Wyoming
Emmet Gowin***

The first Earth Day was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson on April 22, 1970. Since that time, the message of Earth Day has spread around the world. In recent years, growing concerns about the environment and climate change have motivated politicians and citizens all over the world to take action. Research has shown the connections between changes in the environment and the health of wildlife populations, and as a result several advocacy groups for endangered species have become powerful and effective organizations. In recognition of the needs of these animals, you can use art to promote their causes, to help animals not only in remote corners of the world but also in your local area. Create animal T-shirts and animal note cards and organize an animal parade or an animal art show to celebrate your love for animals. Adopt an animal or an animal family, support a zoo, or volunteer at your local SPCA. Take care of the animals in your own backyard by creating a comfortable habitat just for them. Learn more by contacting any of the following organizations.

Defenders of Wildlife

www.defenders.org

This organization was founded in 1947 as an advocacy group for the protection of fur-bearing animals, especially wolves. While the organization still promotes the health of the U.S. wolf population, it has expanded to conserve wildlife in general and to champion the Endangered Species Act. Through the website you can “adopt” (sponsor) an animal.

Earth Day Network

earthday.net

This website promotes Earth Day activism and involvement around the world. It also provides up-to-date information about activities and political achievements that support the environmental movement.

Heifer International

www.heifer.org

Heifer International encourages self-reliance through gifts of livestock and training. You can purchase a flock of chicks for a family in the Caribbean or Cameroon for as little as \$20. You can buy a water buffalo for a Filipino village for \$250. Look into how this organization helps the world become a better place.

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, International

www.spca.com

SPCA International raises awareness of animal cruelty and teaches good pet parenting. It accepts volunteers to provide foster homes for pets and to help animals when natural disasters strike.

The World Wildlife Fund

www.worldwildlife.org

WWF is the world’s largest multinational conservation organization. It relies on scientific knowledge and the efforts of its members to accomplish its goal of “protecting the future of nature.”

***James Gallagher as
George Washington***
David Graham

Everyone loves portraits, whether they are satirical like David Graham's *James Gallagher as George Washington* or serious like Gilbert Stuart's "Lansdowne" portrait of the first president. To celebrate portraiture, invite parents and students in your school to create presidential portraits in any medium, using dollar bills, coins, *Time* magazine covers, or works in the National Portrait Gallery as inspiration. On President's Day, host an art show and sale of these portraits. Send all the proceeds to the School Kits Project. For every ten dollars you send, this organization is able to supply children around the world with much needed basic school supplies including notebooks, pencils, erasers, and rulers. Better yet, plan another day to create school kits on your own. For more inspiration, see the websites below.

The School Kits Project

www.lwr.org/parish/schoolkit.asp

Lutheran World Relief provides "school kits" to children (and adults) in need, such as those whose education has been interrupted by war. The website provides information on how you can put together your own school kits to send to Africa, Asia, the Middle East, or Latin America.

The National Portrait Gallery

www.npg.si.edu

On this website, you can type in the name of a "sitter" (under "Portrait Search") and see every portrait in the collection that features that person.