



WE ARE CALIFORNIA



Holiday Edition!

Wishing you and your students all the best this holiday season! We hope the holidays bring good food, good memories, and many good cheers to you and your family. We wanted to take a moment to thank you for all that you do to help shape the next generation of change-makers. We feel so lucky to work with such hard-working, passionate and committed individuals, and I can't wait for what's to come in the New Year!

**This newsletter is your platform to share your actions, stories, and group spirit with other local WE Schools! To be featured in future editions please [click here](#) and fill out one of our profile packages.*

HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

WE has a challenge for you! This holiday season help us light up the world with positivity.

Create your own WE Lights and display them in your window to show everyone that you believe in a better world. It's easy to do and fun to share.



To find out more about how you can get your group involved [click here](#)!



WE Schools Shout Outs!



A HUGE Shout-out to Carmel High School!

The Carmel High School club, This Club Saves Lives, sponsored a toiletry drive for Family House in San Francisco. Family House serves as a home away from home for families of children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses by providing a place to live and support while going through treatment at UCSF's Benioff Children's Hospital. The club had a competition between the freshmen class and collected over 3,000 toiletries for Family House. Many of the toiletries were donated by local

hotels, stores, and families. The toiletries are available for families to use while at Family House. Carmel High School senior Caroline Mierzwa was the organizer of the drive and is pictured with part of our collection. Caroline volunteered as a live-in intern over the summer and is going back for two weeks during winter break. Congratulation Carmel High and Caroline for living WE in your community!



A Round of Applause for Antioch Charter Academy II!

For their first trimester Social Political Action project, students at Antioch Charter focused on the issues of local hunger and homelessness. They held a canned food drive for Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano counties and collected an amazing 623 items of food total! The students also learned more about the issue by arranging for the school to host a play with professional actors put on by the Food Bank called the "Hungry Play". One hundred students watched the show which was both entertaining and raised their awareness about hunger in the local community and how the food bank plays a role in helping to fight hunger. Further, students collected toiletries to put together 61 care kits for the homeless - and they did not stop there. Students volunteered time to serve breakfast to approximately 40 people at Café Sunrise, a local soup kitchen serving breakfast from First Baptist church in Pittsburg, California where they were also able to pass out the toiletry kits that they had put together. Finally, 10 students volunteered two hours each to help set up for a large homeless community event called *Project Connect* put on by the Contra Costa County Health Services, which helped over 500 adults and 100 children get medical care, information about local shelters, clothes and coats, and toiletry kits! What an amazing example of **Living WE at School** – and it is only one out of three social action projects these students will take. Wow!

Want your group to be featured in our next issue? Share your schools action by filling out our profile package [here](#).



Happy Holidays from the WE Schools California team!



Thank you all for making your schools and communities a brighter place!



Spotlight Campaign: WE Create Change



A campaign we're spotlighting this month is **WE CREATE CHANGE!** Collect quarters or pennies with WE Create Change, and your small change could help families in developing communities make big change for the next generation through the WE Villages model. To learn more about our sustainable WE Villages model and pick your pillar of impact, [click here](#).

Four hot cocoa mugs full of quarters is enough money to give six children a full primary education.

Here are some ways your group can harness their holiday spirit to create big change!

- Grab your group and go holiday caroling - WE Carol for Change!
- Challenge your group to commit to their New Year's resolution with a quarter or penny for change!
- Host a coin competition between classes and reward the winners with a New Year's themed party!

Teachers: check out our FREE lesson plans that connect an educational component to your groups service project! These lesson plans can be connected to Arts, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies! Here is quick outline of what to expect: *Ask your students what they already know about the financial world and where they fit into it; then build on that information. Introduce key topics of saving, spending and sharing to younger students while tackling more challenging concepts with older students. With the right tools and a little courage, students will be empowered to make sound financial decisions that impact themselves, their community and the world.* **Download a WE Create Change lesson plan for [Elementary/Middle Schools](#) and [High Schools](#).**

To sign up for WE Create Change [click here!](#)



WE Villages Updates



The facts are clear: educating children empowers the next generation with the life skills to transform their lives, the lives of their children and their communities.

Since the creation of our Education pillar, more than 1000 schools and school rooms have been built in WE Charity communities, giving 200,000 children the opportunity to gain an education and realize their true potential. [#PillarOfImpact](#)

Learn more about how you can help by [clicking here](#).

We strive to meet the World Health Organization's vision of [health promotion](#) in the communities in which we work. Our health care programs differ in each country in part because each country's and community's needs are different. We also align our health care practices with each government's national priorities, and in most cases partner with the government to administer health care to the communities. [#PillarOfImpact](#)

Learn more about how you can help by [clicking here](#).

