

**A Be K.I.N.D. Program
(Kids Inspired to do Nice Deeds)**

Community Objective

To encourage acts of kindness by elementary school children.

Background

“K.I.N.D.” is the name given to the program developed by the Marshall County Animal Rescue League and adopted by the Marshall County School System to encourage kindness and respect for others. Humane and environmental education addresses the most challenging and serious problems facing society today: violence and an unhealthy environment. The subject of humane education can play a very important role in any school curriculum. Unfortunately, it is not yet possible to teach humane and environmental education as its own course due to the fact that schools are inundated with required courses. Until humane education can be taught as its own course, it can be integrated into other course material. K.I.N.D. is a competition of kindness that challenges educators to integrate acts of kindness toward people, animals, and the earth in other required class studies.

Challenged Student Conditions

~Project inclusion of special students requires no unique preparation. Teachers design suitable acts of kindness according to his/her team's capabilities. Each teacher's freedom to outline his/her own program increases participation and the possibility of success for all students.

Resources

- ~Uncomplicated record keeping sheets.
- ~Teachers who are seeking ways to improve attitudes of students while teaching the required curriculum.
- ~Funding to cover supervisory help, transportation, supplies, and field trip expenses, etc.
- ~Community volunteers of seniors and other service organizations for the awards picnic.
- ~Local businesses to provide billboard space for recognizing “kindest kids”.

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Timeline of Service Activities

September

- ~Introduce program as elective, open to all teachers and explain that each class within a school becomes an individual team.
- ~Introduce and explain the keeping of records, making sure this is a simple process that will not deter an interested teacher from program involvement.

September-April

- ~Organize and distribute a monthly newsletter to participating classes in each school covering examples of acts of kindness being performed and ideas for other acts of kindness.

November

- ~Arrange for sponsors and billboard space.

January

- ~Begin plans for awards picnic.

February-April

- ~Solicit support for picnic and awards.

April

- ~Collect records, score and determine the winners of plaques and billboard recognition.
- ~Photograph winning classes for billboards and deliver pictures to advertising agency for reproduction.

May

- ~Hold awards picnic to accommodate all participating students and teachers.

Reflection

- ~Teachers discuss and record all acts of kindness of students in Record Book during the school year.
- ~Faculty and school personnel watch for and report acts of kindness and respect to the classroom teacher.
- ~Bulletin boards display thank you notes to the students for service.
- ~Parents may submit written documentation of children's acts of kindness.
- ~Fishbowling activity in which some students take on the roles of those who committed acts of kindness. Other students take on the roles of those

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receiving benefits from the acts of kindness. Each group discusses possible reactions and then reports orally to the other group.

Celebration

~All accumulated acts of kindness are recognized before a gathering of all participants at the picnic. Awarded classes come forward for recognition and are cheered by all students. After the awards are presented, the students are entertained with music, games, crafts, and refreshments. The picnic lasts for approximately four hours and allows students from various county schools, to interact in a non-competitive atmosphere.

Academic Objectives

WV IGOs

Civics

- ~Explain why citizens voluntarily contribute their time and talents to the community. (K.6)
- ~Identify public agencies in the community that provide services and investigate opportunities for volunteerism. (4.5)
- ~Explain and experience the benefits of volunteerism in the community and at school. (1.5)

Economics

- ~Identify the need to conserve resources through recycling and litter education. (1.10)

Social Studies

- ~Choose and participate in a project of volunteer service to the school (2.4)
- ~Identify people in the community who volunteer for public service. (3.6)

Elementary West Virginia Studies

- ~Given a local problem, propose solutions and investigate opportunities for public volunteerism. (WV.6)

Contact Information

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