



## Philanthropy in the Classrooms Program Overview and Lesson Plan

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**Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP)** Professional group that represents more than 30,000 members in 235 chapters throughout the world, working to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education and certification programs. The association fosters development and growth of fundraising professionals and promotes high ethical standards in the fundraising profession.

### National Philanthropy Day

The AFP Greater Atlanta chapter celebrates philanthropy and its role in our community at the 2015 National Philanthropy Day (NPD) Luncheon. This year, the event is on November 3rd at the Georgia Aquarium. The goal of this event is to bring together professional and volunteer fundraisers, individual philanthropists, and corporate and foundation grantmakers to celebrate the role of philanthropy and to recognize key individuals who have made an impact on our community. Awards spotlight the many ways in which philanthropists, fundraisers, and volunteers have stepped up to sustain the Atlanta tradition of taking care of others in times of need. Exceptional Georgians are given the 2015 Philanthropist of the Year, Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year, Philanthropic Leader of Tomorrow and Teen Volunteer of the Year Awards.

### Philanthropy in the Classrooms

In 2009, AFP Greater Atlanta launched the Philanthropy in the Classrooms program to introduce elementary school children to the concept of philanthropy and help them understand its vital role in their personal lives and the greater community. Since the program's inception, AFP volunteers have worked with an estimated 400 children in multiple elementary schools.

Designed for grades 2-4, AFP's Philanthropy in the Classroom program is a one-hour lesson that begins with the volunteers reading a book, *City Green*, to start a discussion with the students about philanthropy. The children are then invited to express their understanding of philanthropy both verbally and artistically through an art project that shows an example of how they can give their time, talent or treasure. The artwork created during this lesson is distributed at AFP's National Philanthropy Day (NPD) luncheon (described above).

This one-hour lesson can be modified to fit within any existing framework your teachers or school currently participate in regarding service, giving back, community building etc... Some ideas to customize this lesson include:

- Planting Seeds – Students plant seeds in small pots and learn about nurturing/growth over time
- M&M Game – Students use M&Ms as money to make donations to their favorite charities
- Piggy Bank/Penny Drive – Students collect pennies (after the lesson) during the month
- Other Books and Quotes – Students share books

\*Books and supplies are provided by AFP volunteers.

**2015 Schools:** Burgess Peterson Academy, Whitefoord Elementary, Drew Charter Elementary 10/13, and Hamilton Holmes Elementary.

## **City Green, Book Summary**

There is a garbage-filled, vacant lot on the street where Marcy lives. Instead of growing flowers in coffee cans like they usually do each spring, she and her friend Miss Rosa decide to plant a garden. Old Man Hammer, who used to live in the building that was torn down, believes that they're getting their hopes up for nothing, but Marcy and Miss Rosa lease the spot from the city. Their enthusiasm and energy spread and everyone in the neighborhood joins together to create an urban oasis. Even Old Man Hammer sneaks into it at night and secretly plants seeds that grow into bright sunflowers. This is a pleasant, positive story of cooperation and community building.

## **2015 Philanthropy in the Classrooms Lesson Plan**

Duration:

45 - 60 minutes

- 15 minutes – Read *City Green* to the class
- 15 minutes – Discuss community and philanthropy with the class
- 15 - 30 minutes – Ask the students to draw a picture or write a poem of something they could do in their community on the sheets attached. Encourage them to describe their artwork with the class.

Lesson Plan:

1. Have the students gather in a circle to read them *City Green* a. Before reading aloud the book, show students the cover of the book and discuss what the book may be about. Accept all answers.
2. Read the book and discuss how the members of the **community** came together for the good of all. Discuss how the people felt about their efforts.
3. Discuss what **time, talents** or **treasures** that people in the book shared to build the community garden.
4. "Sharing your time, talents or treasures is called philanthropy." Write "philanthropy" on the board. Review the definition of **philanthropy**. (**Philanthropy**—giving of **time, talent** and **treasure** for the **common good**/to help someone else.)
5. Lead students in a discussion about what they have to offer and to whom they could offer it. For example, "*I could **volunteer** my time at the Animal Shelter playing with the lonely pets.*" "*I could help my classmate use the computer, since I am good at it (talent).*" "*I could donate my old toys to kids in my community who don't have any (treasure).*" Explain that people give some of what they have (**time, talent** or **treasure**) because they have strong feelings for the cause they selected.
6. Tell the students that each of them must now think of something philanthropic that they could do personally to make a difference in their class, school, or community. Have them each write a sentence and draw a picture of the philanthropic act on the attached paper. (The schools should provide copies of the paper and crayons for the students to draw.)
7. Spend the last five - fifteen minutes having students volunteer to show their picture to the class and explain what they drew. Make sure they say whether the picture is an example of giving their **time, talent** or **treasure** to someone else or to the **community**.