

CHARITY FOR CHANGE



"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

—AESOP

SCHOOL “Giver” PROGRAM

Giving is easy at almost any age. And even the smallest acts of kindness from our youngest residents help make the world a better place. At least that’s what Charity for Change strongly believes and sets out to accomplish through its highly acclaimed School “Giver” Program.

Since beginning in 2008, the School “Giver” Program, affectionately known for its “Giver” mascot, has helped teach young children about philanthropy, as well as develop important math skills. The program has reached and touched more than 5,400 children. “It’s an honor to provide this educational tool to support the academic and social development of our future generation of volunteers, leaders and philanthropists,” Karen Conley, president and CEO, states.

To get students started, they learn about several local charities’ missions and activities, then select specific ones to actively support throughout the school year. Students donate spare change, hold mini-fundraisers and volunteer for their chosen organizations. The program not only educates but thoroughly engages their young minds.

“I was in first grade when I started in the “Giver” Program, and I’ll be in middle school this year. I’ve had lots of fun learning about charities. The visits from the charities helped me see how my donations helped others.

“The math games and puzzles gave me ideas of ways to give and how to follow the character traits. The “Giver” Program helped me to understand the importance of giving and volunteering. I will take these experiences with me into the future,” Abby Henning from Calusa Park Elementary says.

Teachers appreciate this highly engaging, multi-faceted program not only for what it adds to the current curriculum but most importantly—it makes learning fun. Students enjoy an interactive website, puzzles, games, puppet shows, incentive prizes, animated and live mascots, awards assemblies, and classroom visits and thank-you letters from the 72 charities participating in the program.



“The ‘Giver’ Program is important to my classroom because it not only helps teach math skills, but it teaches valuable character traits, shows students that it is good to give, and it allows the students to help the community and brings the community into the classroom,” Kathryn Klein, second grade teacher, Calusa Park Elementary, adds.

Over the past several years, the Community Foundation of Collier County has granted close to \$17,000 supporting the operations of this innovative program, which in turn has helped students and community partners raise \$82,000 for local charities.

“It’s a Great Day to Give!”

