



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Youngstown
Providing Help. Creating Hope.

2023-2024
First Step to Service Program

TEACHER RESOURCE

Our Common Home

January 2024:

Poverty Awareness
through Sustainability
and Simple Living

"Helping Handles"

Design Contest and Service Project

Scripture Reference:

"Abound in Hope."
Romans 15:13

**"For I know the plans to give
you hope and a future."**
Jeremiah 29:11

"Be strong and courageous."
Joshua 1:9

**"Do not let your hearts be troubled
and do not be afraid."**
John 14:27

"Rise up."
Ezra 10:4

**"Nothing will be impossible
for you."**
Matthew 17:20

***note to teachers:** please ensure your students include the passage, chapter and verse reference on their bags.

DESIGN TIPS

Encourage your students to select the scripture passage they find the most inspirational.

Do not worry about perfection - authenticity is preferred.
Please do not glue enhancements to grocery bag, or use paint or glitter.

We recommend giving students two, thirty (30) minute sessions to complete their design.

EXAMPLE



Each student must fill out and submit one entry form with their bag/design. Upon activity completion, please contact Catholic Charities to schedule the bag pick up.



Estimated Activity Time:

- Artwork: (2) 30 Minutes
- Entry Forms: 10 Minutes
- Total: 70 Minutes

Deadline for Entries:

- Student entries to teacher by 1/31/24
- Arrange pickup with Catholic Charities by 2/5/24

This program is made possible through grant funding issued by The Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions, USCCB.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Lucarelli @ 330-744-8451 or jlucarelli@youngstowndiocese.org.



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GRADES K-6/8

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LESSON SUMMARY

The church calls on all of us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. This teaching and compassion for the poor and vulnerable should be reflected in both our daily lives and public policies. A fundamental measure of **Our Common Home** is how we care for and stand with our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, "We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked, and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty."

Catholic Charities is dedicated in the practice of **providing help and creating hope** for those in need, whether it be food and a prayer, or shelter and a kind word. Take a moment to imagine what it would be like to be homeless and hopeless. Reflect on the simple and basic ways you are blessed. How would your life be different if you didn't have a home to live in or hope for a bright future? Give thanks for the blessings in your life by sharing your gifts of time, talent & treasure with those less fortunate, even something as simple as a smile or artistic talent.

ACTIVITY

Step 1: Teacher will need to opt-in to receive materials necessary to complete this activity by: **NOVEMBER 15, 2023.**

Step 2: Select the scripture reference that you find most inspirational - use it as a starting point by writing the quote on a white grocery bag.

Step 3: Design and decorate the grocery bag (around the quote) with crayon, markers, or colored pencils.

Step 4: Complete Student Entry Form.

Step 5: Please return bags to your school's FSTS contact person or call Catholic Charities to arrange pick up. We will vote on a winning design and distribute the bags to our local agencies (to aid our clients during pantry pickups).

Scripture Reference:

"Abound in Hope."

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"For I know the plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

"Be strong and courageous."

Joshua 1:9

"Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:27

"Rise up."

Ezra 10:4

"Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20

Catholic Charities will select one winning design that will be featured on our Bonfire merchandise. The winning designer will receive a gift card and a special merchandise prize pack to share with their parent(s), teacher and principal.



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STUDENT ENTRY FORM

Submit entry by: **January 31, 2024**

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"We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked, and homeless. **The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty.** We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty."

St. Teresa of Calcutta



SCHOOL NAME

STUDENT FIRST NAME

PRINCIPAL'S NAME

STUDENT AGE

TEACHER NAME/GRADE

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STUDENT LAST NAME

optional

SCRIPTURE QUOTE USED ON PROJECT:

Please put completed entry forms inside your grocery bag.

PRIZE

GRAND PRIZE WINNER:

- o \$50.00 Gift card
- o Bonfire merchandise prize pack (valued at \$100.00) featuring winning design to share with principal, teacher and parent(s): one tote, two t-shirts, and three coffee mugs
- o \$100 Classroom gift card



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2022, Catholic Charities served 9,294 clients through our food pantries.



Congratulations on your participation!

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