

The Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, Inc.

The Olga & Eugene Guttman

Annual Visual Arts 2018 Contest Winners

The Holocaust: My Commitment to Stop the Hate,

The Prejudice and the Bullying

First Place Elementary School Arts Winner

Paulette Martinez, Grade 5

Everglades K-8 Center, Miami, FL

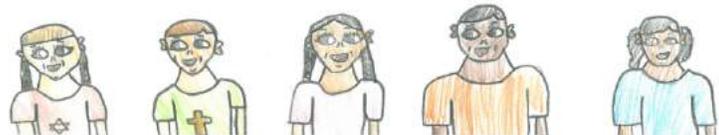


Second Place Elementary School Arts Winner

Natalie Negro, Grade 4

Everglades Elementary, Weston, FL

"We are all different and we should all love each other for that reason because that is what makes us special."



First Place Middle School Arts Winner

Alexis Hartog, Grade 8

Archimedean Middle Conservatory, Miami, FL



Second Place Middle School Arts Winner

Lok Ye Young, Grade 7

Charles S. Pierce Middle School, Milton, MA



First Place High School Arts Winner
 Montserrat De Allende Silva, Grade 9
 American Heritage, Plantation, FL



Which ending did you like better? The second one, right? Well, good news. YOU have the power to choose the ending. The next time you see someone having a hard time, give them a hand. It's better to do something than to do nothing. Choose the better ending. CHOOSE KINDNESS.

**First Place High School Arts Winner
Diego Maglione, Grade 9
South Broward HS, Hollywood, FL**



First Place Writing Winner - Elementary School Division

By: Kieran McManus

Grade 4 – Everglades Elementary, Weston, FL

Stop the Hate.

It's not too late.

Don't be the one who ruined someone's life.

Don't be the one to always start the fight.

Stop the Hate.

It's not too late.

It would be nice,

If we all stopped the prejudice.

Treat others like you want to be treated.

We don't want the holocaust to be repeated.

Get to know your neighbor,

It will do the world a favor.

It would be nice,

If we all stopped the prejudice.

Don't Bully!

A good person wouldn't do that, would they!

We are all the same.

Bullying shouldn't be your game.

Bullying will break someone's heart,

Do you realize you don't look smart.

Don't Bully!

A good person wouldn't do that, would they!

First Place Writing Winner - Middle School Division

By: David Gonzalez

Grade 6 - M.A. Milam K-8 Center, Hialeah, FL

The Holocaust: My Commitment to Stop the Hate, the Prejudice, and the Bullying

The Holocaust was a horrible tragedy that should never have happened, but that needs to always be remembered. We need to remember all of the lives that were lost because of hatred and prejudice. Hatred and prejudice led to the deaths of millions of innocent people, and we cannot allow that to ever happen again. As children we are the future of the world and we can make a difference. I commit myself to stopping hatred, prejudice and bullying, and instead be more understanding, caring and loving to others.

One way to stop prejudice and hatred is to learn about others. Learning about different people and their cultures will help us understand each other better. Sometimes people think that when someone is from another country or another culture that they are very different and cannot get along. While there are differences between different countries and cultures, we are also very much alike. If we are educated correctly about different cultures we will see the big similarities that exist among us. We will see that we are more alike than we think. Even though there are differences, those differences can be interesting and exciting to learn about one another, We can learn to appreciate those differences and respect others even though they are from another culture.

Another way to commit myself to stop hatred and bullying is to speak up and stand up against bullying. If I see someone being bullied I will not accept it or join in, instead I will speak up. I will tell an authority like a teacher or police officer. We cannot allow others to be bullied or get hurt. Bullying only makes hatred grow. Sometimes bullies need help. They need to see school counselors or other mental health professionals that will help them. The people bullied need support too. They need to see that they are not alone and that even though there are bullies, there are also good people that care about them. We have to be alert and aware of what happens to others. We have to care about others and look for help when needed.

Standing up for what we believe is right is also very important to end hatred, prejudice and bullying. For example, the survivors of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School are standing united against gun violence. They want guns to be more controlled because guns in the hands of those who have hatred is dangerous. The students are speaking peacefully and standing up for their beliefs. They are hoping that laws can be changed to protect people from gun violence. I stand with them and hope that we can decrease the number of guns on the streets.

I commit myself to stopping hatred, prejudice and bullying. I know that if people unite and learn more about each other there will be more understanding. If we care about what happens to others and try to help them, we can also stop the hatred. Finally, if we continue to remember the Holocaust and the millions of innocent people who died, we will stand strong so that nothing like that will ever happen again. Together we can make a difference to make a better world, now is the time.

Second Place Writing Winner - Middle School Division
By: Angelina M. Dobal
Grade 8 – St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, Miami, FL

Stop the Bullying

There was a girl at school

We teased earlier today

Made jokes, even called her names.

My friends all laughed,

They called it harmless fun.

Said it was just a game.

Now that I'm at home

Feeling horrid inside,

Long gone that thoughtless grin.

How will I face her

Tomorrow at school?

I wish I hadn't joined in.

First Place Writing Winner - High School Division

By: Matthew Alvarez

Grade 12 – Charles W. Flanagan HS, Pembroke Pines, FL

Prejudice and hate are two things that have always been a part of our lives (whether we want to admit it or not) here in the “amazing” United States, whether it’s a derogatory use of a disgusting word to slander African Americans, Hispanics, or Asians. These have been there and have been used throughout my entire life, even by myself as disgusting as it is to admit. These words were uttered by a much younger and more innocent version of myself but nonetheless still uttered, these words were so common at school that the horrific meaning behind these words never crossed my mind. But as I have gotten older I have noticed that for some of the kids who whispered these words were using them for the meaning not just because it was something kids said but because they actually believed the meanings to be true. To me, racism was a thing of the past and have long since been abolished but boy was I wrong. The idea that people actually believe themselves to be better than anyone else because they have a different skin color, or a different religion, or speak a different language is just shocking to me.

The idea of one person thinking they are better than another plays into the enormous amount of prejudice in our “beautiful” country, prejudice is something that we all catch ourselves expressing or maybe just thinking occasionally. Seeing someone who’s wearing raggedy clothes is automatically a homeless person who threw their life away on drugs, we never stop to think that maybe that person was thrown out of their home or forced to run away from an abusive partner, we never take the time to contemplate the idea that maybe they just caught a couple of tough breaks. It is always “oh that will never be me” but I guarantee you that the person in the raggedy clothes always thought it would never be them either. It is important to always stop and appreciate everything you have but it is even more important to put yourself in someone else’s shoes before you even think about judging them. This same prejudice is something that often leads to bullying because people think all Jews are rich, all Muslims are terrorists, every African American is a criminal, every Asian is smart, or that every white person is a racist bigot. These preconceived ideas that we all have for everyone who is not the same race or ethnicity as your own is the cause of the majority of the bullying in our country.

In order to end these disgusting habits, we, as a nation, have developed throughout the years is to embrace our differences instead of diminishing others because of them. To stop and view things from the other person’s perspective instead of assuming the prejudice to be true (let’s be honest here, we all know what happens when you assume). We need to spread love and positivity toward each other instead of belittling each other just so you can feel as if you are better than someone else when we should all be acting and treating each other as equals. This all starts with how we raise our children because racism, prejudice, and bullying are all things that are taught to our children.

Second Place Writing Winner - High School Division

By: Priscilla Flores

Grade 12 – Cypress Bay HS, Weston, FL

Who Are You to Judge?

I am a girl and I have a mustache.

I know not when it grew or when I began to notice it,
only that it lies above my top lip and is soft to the touch.

They have called me strange for growing a staple piece of manhood,
have labeled me as a peculiar sight as though they had only ever looked in mirrors before, unable
to see the rest of us.

I blamed it on my origin,
on the genetics of my Mexican ancestors who left me with this hairy curse.

And I wished I could curse them back

as revenge for the disempowerment they had left me to encounter over the years.

But, in Mexico, no one had ever pointed out the recently exposed evil on my porcelain skin.

How could my country, my people, my very own DNA be the criminals if it is not they who ridicule me?

I tried to defend myself.

Tried covering my mouth with my hand,
speaking into my palm and hoping it had no eyes to see.

I only wanted to be hidden,
to shelter my facial parasite,
but it could not be tamed.

It danced there, above my top lip, until it got me dancing too.

Our relationship grew communalistic

and my hands could stray from my face without the restraint of a straightjacket.

For years I had worked to rid myself of this follicle shame
before learning that it was no shame at all to be unlike my peers.

There is no shame at all in a fuzzy friend, a speech blockade, a religious belief, or a skin tone.

For we are all our own,
unique in countless ways,
impossible to demean.

I am a girl with a moustache,

and I wear it proud

for this accessory is a gift I have endowed.

“A Simple Act of Kindness” First Place Winner
Elementary School Division
By: Callie Cousin
Grade 2 – Embassy Creek Elementary, Cooper City, FL

Simple Act of Kindness Contest

I am in second grade and I believe KIDS can make a difference. I do lots of acts of kindness at home, school, and my community!

I am writing songs and singing them at school and in my community. I have written 5 songs. They are about Immigration, Trying not to give up, Hashem, being kind to others, and now I wrote one for this Holocaust contest.

What’s Your Story – I wrote to teach other people and myself to be kind to others and that it doesn’t matter if they have dark skin or light, if they are Jewish or Christian, if they are younger or older than you, or how they dress. I shared it with kids at my school and the country, and then it was even sent to States. I helped others because I taught people not to judge.

Try Don’t Give Up – It’s Within Reach – I am proud that this song was shared with students in my school, county, state, and around the country to teach other people and myself that I can do anything I put my mind to. I must believe in myself. Trust me I’ve done it before. I have. I have been like “OK I know... I know I can... I know I can!” When I decided I thought I could do it, it worked!

Immigrants – my whole class learned this song and the sign language for it when we sang it for the whole second grade and all the parents on Immigration Day. I wrote this song to teach people that just because you are an immigrant we shouldn’t be mean. We are all humans, and we are all the same. They just are from a different place and not from America. Why should we judge them from the place they live? That is their home! What if we were immigrants? Would you like to be treated like that yourself? Follow the Golden rule!

Peace Please Cover the Earth – I wrote this song (words typed below) & drew art for this Holocaust: My Commitment to Stop the Hate, The Prejudice, And the Bullying contest to teach other people to love and be kind. When you just hear the guitar, the love and kindness is taking time to flow through music to us.

I also wrote and taught the kids in my school a handshake to play at carpool car rider. The one everyone was singing was talking about punch you in the stomach and chop one finger off. I wrote one about kindness and taught it to everyone around my whole school. Well my friends helped me because I shared it with one friend and then I shared it with another one, and they shared it with another one. I asked them if they could share it around school and they said yes.

I also wrote a play for my birthday, and it was all about kindness, and not judging people by how they look. It was called Rainbow Right Choices – We all have a Voice Make a Good Choice!

I always try to give other people food and money when they need it! When driving on the road, and we see a homeless person we take something out like a pepper. We give money whenever we see a tzedakah box. I really want my mom to put tzedakah into it. We donate a lot of money for us. I went to a food bank for Kosher poor people and Holocaust survivors and I organized all the food and I looked if there were the Kosher symbols there like OU or K so they all get food.

This year I also performed for the Holocaust survivors at Purim. I put on a play and danced and sang to make them happy.

I march for things to change! The last 2 years I went to Relay for Life to raise money for people with Cancer. This year I marched for no guns. There was more than 1 million people marching with me because children got killed and so that was really serious. So, there was a lot of people there trying to make people change gun laws. I want there to be guns ZERO unless polices have them, instead I want us to use kindness and love. If we all have kindness and love, there is no reason for us to have guns anyways.

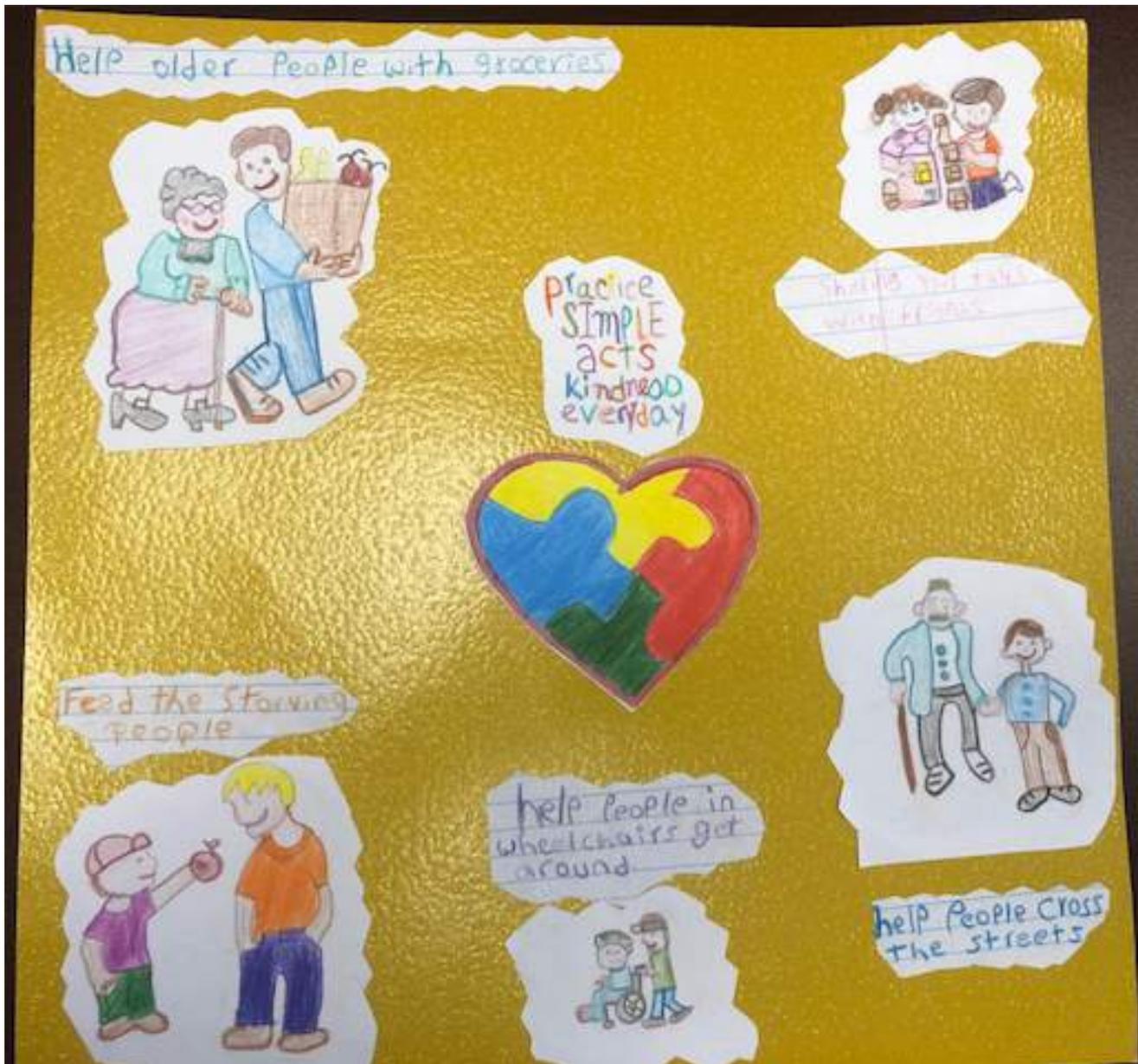
I also went on a march for saving the earth and to make sure it's not polluted. I was hoping at the end of the march that there would be more love of the earth and no more pollution. I recycle and put everything like paper and plastic in the recycle bin. Everything that can be reused I recycle. I was on television to save the water because water is more valuable than gold. We can all help to make it stop being wasted.

All these acts made me a little nervous at first, but I decided it was all very important, so I faced my fears and did it anyways! I tried and didn't give up! I found when I did it other people reacted and loved my actions!

**“A Simple Act of Kindness” First Place Winner
Elementary School Division**

By: Simon Santana

Grade 4 – Everglades Elementary, Weston, FL



“A Simple Act of Kindness” First Place Winner
Middle School Division
By: Lily McLaughlin
Grade 7 - Charles S. Pierce Middle School, Milton, MA

Oxford Dictionary defines kindness as “the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.” I define kindness as the times when I said thank you to my bus driver, usually every school day when I was in elementary school, or when I decided to compliment someone on her glasses because she wasn’t talking to anyone else. These little things I did can mean a lot to the person who receives the compliment or the recognition for dedicating their job to help kids get to school on time. Even though I’m just a kid, I know even a smile can go a long way for anybody.

One time when I was ten years old, I had pretty long hair. I loved my hair so much, and I wanted to be like the princess Rapunzel. Then my mom said that she should cut my hair for Locks of Love, and I was skeptical because I had grown it out for so long, and I wanted to grow it out even more. After days of wondering whether I should listen to my mom, I realized that she was and is always there for me, and I thought that by cutting my hair, I could repay her.

I can remember the day my mom cut my hair almost like it was yesterday. It was so sad to see the hair go, but my mom reminded me that we could donate my hair. At the time I didn’t know what Locks of Love was, and I was also a little angry because my hair looked so short in the mirror.

When I calmed down a little, my mom told me about Locks of Love and that it is a great organization. After she finished, I realized that I wasn’t just doing this for my mom. I was doing this for people in need. So, I told my mom that we should donate my hair, and she was really proud of me for sacrificing something that I really wanted and had put a lot of effort into.

After donating my hair, I felt happy with what I did. I knew that I should be less selfish and start to listen more to what other people might think is best. I was excited that someone could use something that I had had for a long time. Even though it was just hair, for other people it could be the best possible thing. When my mom talked more about how good that was for other people, I wanted to spread more kindness. Hopefully tomorrow, in a week, or even in fifty years, I am still spreading kindness like I did that day.

After writing about my act of kindness, I realize that spreading kindness is easy to do anywhere. No matter where you are—your house, your school, even on the other side of the country, smiling at someone if you liked their shirt is one way to start spreading kindness. Maybe that person will even smile back at you just because they felt happy that someone smiled at them. I am a believer in “what goes around comes around,” and kindness is definitely a part of that standard. Just remember that everyone is fighting a battle you know nothing about, so spread some kindness.

“A Simple Act of Kindness” Second Place Winner
Middle School Division
By: Isabella Yasher
Grade 7 – St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, Miami, FL

Sitting with someone lonely, smiling at someone each day, feeding the homeless, or even praying for someone. These are things we could all do and it's not that hard. It's just an act of kindness. We could all make a difference on how we act each day. We can start by making a difference at home, at school, and in our community. How have we affected the community with our kindness? What does being kind mean to us? Are we making our community better?

At home some acts of kindness I show are making my bed, praying for my family each day, and setting the table. Something as little as setting the table and making my bed really help out. This makes my mom proud and its helping her around the house since my mom is very busy. Praying, this simply helps because God will now watch over them each and every day, and this makes people feel happy when they know you were thinking of them. Helping at home and being kind should be easy for us because our parents do SOO much for us and we have to learn to appreciate it more often!

Helping in school, this one's easy! One little thing we could do is smile at every teacher and student this can make their whole day so much better. Another thing we could do is hold the door for someone, give someone an extra hand. A big help is sitting with someone when their alone, we need to be a friend to someone who doesn't have many for they will love company. All these things are yet so easy to do but it can really affect someone's life.

There are so many things we could do in our community to try to help people live better lives. I've fed the homeless before and to even see their faces is heart breaking. They are so happy with the little things they get, yet we have so much and they are more appreciative than us. I've also donated clothes and toys and that probably makes these kids that don't get so much very happy. One big help in our community is picking up trash, because this is helping everyone around us and our environment.

Kindness is such an easy thing to show to people yet it helps every day. There are so many ways to be kind and I have showed some things that I do to give acts of kindness throughout our world. Remember kindness goes a long way and it never stops repeating!

“A Simple Act of Kindness” First Place Winner
High School Division
By: Samantha Brodsky
Grade 10 – Cypress Bay HS, Weston, FL

Building Smiles

A simple act of kindness –
Can change one’s life.
As I built houses in Ecuador,
I changed the lives of others.
Providing them with shelter and safety –
Helping them was what I wanted to do.
The smiles appeared on their faces –
And I immediately felt rewarded.
Wheelbarrows were pushed –
Cement was stacked –
Plants were placed –
As the smiles heightened.
Building the houses for those who can’t –
Was the best reward.
Work and dedication in addition to –
Extreme smiles and laughs –
Lead to lifelong memories.
As the smiles lit up –
I realized how one act of kindness,
Can change one’s whole life.
It had become time to leave –
Time to leave Ecuador.
As I left, I cried –
For days and days.
The reward of happiness was evident –
And I felt extremely joyous.
The smiles of those I had helped –
Replayed in my head.
I always think about those I help –
And the ways I can help those around me.
Kindness is a simple task –
With the best award.
I was able to help those around me –
Supply them with shelter.
Their shelter will last forever –
And I will always remember their thanks and smiles.