

THE IMAGINE SOCIETY

JUNE 17, 2020



SPECIAL ISSUE CELEBRATING **COMPASSION**
KIDS QUARANTINE EDITION VOLUME 8!



"GOD'S DREAM IS THAT YOU AND I AND ALL OF US WILL REALIZE THAT WE ARE FAMILY, THAT WE ARE MADE FOR TOGETHERNESS, FOR GOODNESS, AND FOR **COMPASSION." - DESMOND TUTU**

COMPELLED TOWARDS COMPASSION

by Sofia Corsico-Sánchez

"Compassion and mercy, from me to you and you to me. Exactly what God wants to see, and yes, that is the point." I grew up hearing these words sung in my favorite Veggie Tales movie, based on the biblical story of Jonah. As a young kid, I viewed these lines as nothing more than fun rhymes to explain scripture, but writing this article has led me to think about them more in-depth.

So, what is compassion? There are so many books about it, so many stories, so many teachings, but it's difficult to verbalize. Merriam-Webster defines compassion as, "sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it."



Spotted on the Street - Carl Schurz Park in NYC

*Carl Schurz was a US Senator, General in the Union Army, German immigrant and a strong advocate for civil rights for Black Americans in the late 1800s.

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Although this is a literal definition, compassion itself is so intricate that one explanation cannot satisfy it. Compassion is an intense feeling. It's a movement. It drives us to help those who need it most because we feel compelled to act, not only because we can.

Although these feelings are very real and felt by many, overall we live in a world that is very much lacking in compassion. Throughout our lives, we're taught about how injustice disproportionately affects certain groups, and that in our positions of privilege we should show compassion to try and help. As we grow older, we may add community service into our lives to give us firsthand experience of where compassion is most needed. If we're learning all these things and feeling compassion for others, why is it that we still need so much more of it? One main reason is that not enough action is being done in response to the feelings we may experience. At its core, compassion is like a language. We can study it for years but if you don't go out and talk to others, we might not be as fluent as someone who does. We need to go beyond passive action, and be taught to go out in the world and help, not just to be able to graduate or feel better about ourselves, but because we recognize that active compassion is what can truly effect change.

Sofia Corsico-Sánchez (15) is a rising Junior at Notre Dame High School



Thank you Sofia for
your important
essay!

Follow us on Instagram! @theimagesociety



Artwork created by
Emery Brown (15) recent
graduate of
The Ideal School of
Manhattan! Thank you
Emery for your very
meaningful drawing!



If you would like to share what you or your group is doing, would like to contribute to the next newsletter or even be a guest editor please email us: outreach@theimagesociety.org

COMPASSION COMES EASY WHEN WORKING AT THE ASCENSION FOOD PANTRY

by Sebastian Huerta and Angel Guinazu

My name is Sebastian and I am a Sophomore at Regis High School. My name is Angel and I am a Sophomore at Xavier High School. When we were asked to write about our experience at the Ascension Food pantry, we reflected on the reason we volunteered at the food pantry 4 years ago. As a requirement for REACH, an academic program which has a keen focus on service, we decided to complete our service project at our church food pantry. Neither of us had a proper background in volunteer work, so we weren't sure of what to expect.

At the time of our arrival, the pantry was no more than a closet with unorganized non-perishable food. We began by working on a variety of tasks at the pantry. On Wednesdays we organized, stocked and checked cans for expiration, while on Saturdays, with other teens, we distributed pre-packaged bags of food to the needy of our community. During this time we learned the importance of treating every person with respect, regardless of their background or current situation. We found compassion came easy, it overcomes you; you see how you are so appreciated and so important in your job - helping others.

As time progressed, we became more familiar with the people who came to the pantry, as well as how to be more efficient and organized. Almost a year and a half ago, the food pantry underwent a major change. After receiving funds and food from a program called "Feeding Our Neighbors" (Catholic Charities), the pantry was able to expand and help more people, establish a registration system, and, most importantly, allow people to choose the food that they wanted to take with them. We began serving fresh, nutritious and appealing food.

At this point, we had both completed our service hours, but we both continued to enjoy helping out. For me (Sebastian) serving our community has become an important part of my life, one that has only been amplified by the recent pandemic. In this time, the pantry has become a vital lifeline for many families, and we enjoy being able to help others. On Saturday June 13, we were assigned an "on foot" distribution route, and we delivered food to elderly, ill and homebound neighbors. We both appreciated the experience. That day we delivered groceries to 58 families, and served another 220 who waited on line at our pantry.

We both appreciate the impact that Robin Klueber (Director of the Spirit Squad, who founded the Ascension Food Pantry) has had on us, and we thank her for helping us grow as men for others, and for being a great role model. The food pantry has been an incredible experience, and we hope to continue to work to positively impact our community.



Thank you Sebastian (left) and Angel (right),
for being incredible community leaders!

*Sebastian Huerta (16) is a Sophomore at Regis High School and
Angel Guinazu (16) is a Sophomore at Xavier High School*

Follow The Ascension Food Pantry on Instagram @ascension107

For information on how you can volunteer or donate to The Ascension Food Pantry email us at:
outreach@theimagesociety.org



STRENGTH IN UNITY

by Ava Lorino



On Friday, May 29th, 2020, four days after George Floyd was murdered by the police, I got added to a group instagram message along with 17 other kids from Montclair High School, in Montclair, New Jersey. My friend Shayla George, who graduated this year, wanted to organize a rally and unity walk at the high school on Sunday. After some discussion, we realized Sunday would be way too soon and moved it to a week later, June 7th. The biggest challenge we had as a group was trying our hardest to make the walk as socially distant and safe as we could. We made an instagram page ([**@blacklivesmattermontclair**](#)) and posted throughout the week leading up to the walk to keep the momentum going. We decided to use stickers to choose whether you went on the route uptown or downtown. We made a go fund me page and got over \$5000 in donations! With some of that money we rented a PA system for the speakers and performers. Multiple parents and employers of the organizers and volunteers donated tables, water, snacks, as well as masks and hand sanitizer. We had over 50 people volunteer! While it was hard to stay physically distant once everyone was in the field, every single person was wearing a mask. We made an itinerary and set expectations for the walk and tried to stay within them the best we could. The amount of people that came surprised us all but we were prepared and had enough stickers and masks for everyone. The only thing we couldn't control at that point was making people stay on the sidewalk, so the police blocked the roads with their squad cars. Coming together as a community in this way, shows that we are ready for a big change.

The event was amazing. More than 4,000 people showed up! Students, their families, parents and their little kids, twenty-somethings, older people who came by themselves, all came to support the Black Lives Matter movement. Students performed songs and poems, and shared racist experiences they have had at our high school.

I moved from a suburb in New Jersey to Astoria, Queens, and back to a different suburb in New Jersey, all before graduating high school. Coming into Montclair after Astoria in my junior year, I felt very alone. I didn't leave many friends in Queens and I didn't come to Montclair looking for them honestly. In meeting Gen Whitlock, Shayla George, and the 15 other organizers, I was taken aback by the constant love and support from each individual. Each one of us was dedicated to making the walk go well and to keeping the momentum going.

After the walk was over, Gen and I got invited to talk about the walk and share our demands with the Board of Education. After I explained the organizing process and Gen explained our demands, we got an amazing reaction from everyone on the board. They told us they would be having a meeting this summer to discuss changing the Eurocentric curriculum starting from the elementary schools on up. Gen will be on the board next year as a student representative, and will make sure this is a movement, not a moment.



The organizers from the top, left to right; Top row: Mikee Ellis (Junior), Diego Goldfrank (Alumni), Carlos Tapia, Nick Adubado (Junior), Aliyah Andrews (Senior), Isis Arevalo (Senior), Bella Moreno (Sophomore). Bottom Row: Claire Daddabbo (Senior), Trinity Thompson (Senior), Gen Whitlock (Junior), Brianna Barrett (Senior), Ava Lorino (Senior), Shayla George (Senior), Ariana Colatruglio (Sr)

...continued from page 4

I do have some advice for any young people that want to organize something. Make sure you have demands for the type of change you want to see, communicate with the people you're working with to see where you want things to go after the event is over, and talk to local businesses about using their bathrooms during an event! It's more important than you think!

Racism has been a part of America throughout its history. There are laws that are designed to put people of color and especially black people in situations of poverty and crime. Racist thought has been taught and perpetuated. Through movements like this unity walk, you can teach your community and maybe even yourself about the horrors and tragedies from history that were done to maintain the racist status quo. Keeping that in mind, while organizing an event in your neighborhood, try to involve the community. Involve the police and government when you need their help. Ask local businesses that support the demands you're fighting for to help you out. There is incredible strength in unity.

Ava Lorino (18) is a graduating Senior at Montclair High School



Protesters in the streets of Montclair. Taken by @matttgleason



More Organizers from left to right. Top row: Bella Moreno (Sophomore), Shayla George (Senior), Carlos Tapia (Junior), Diego Goldfrank (Alumni), Mikee Ellis (Jr), Aliyah Andrews (Sr). Bottom row: Cassie Slade (Sr), Arianna Padilla (Sr), Loren Johnson (Sr), Claire Daddabbo (Sr), Brianna Barrett (Sr), Sydney Hosier (Sr), Steel Gs (Sr)



Mikee Ellis Dancing to "I Find It Hard to Say" by Ms. Lauryn Hill.



Gen Whitlock during our moment of silence



Great Job Ava!
Thank you to the
Superstar teen
organizers at
Montclair.

For all the details about this incredible event visit:
montclairlocal.news/2020/06/09/mhs-students-black-lives-matter-march-for-unity/

SHINING STARS!

A SHINING STAR SHARES HER PASSIONS WITH THE WORLD!



Marina Franklin's compassion runs deep. As an Advisory Board Member of The Imagine Society, she's the leading Comedian Mentor our youth group events. If you have the good fortune to be paired with Marina, you know you're going to be with a leader who listens and cares, but one who is also a lot of fun and will help you find the humor in whatever conflict you tackle. Marina [@marinayfranklin](#) is a comedian, actor, writer, mentor, and activist - a true creative force. Since 2014 she's run the socially and politically relevant [@friendslikeuspodcast](#) featuring women of color giving voice to different views on the news of today. As a cancer survivor she's donated her time and energy to helping support both the BOLD Brothers and Sisters Program for Cancer Wellness at Montefiore and also at Calvary Hospital, a dedicated hospice provider.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEGRITY AND HUMANITY!

A SHINING STAR IS A DEDICATED FRIEND!

Zaylen Palacios (13) is one of the most dedicated members of The Imagine Society. His compassion is apparent to all who meet him, and he is always there and always eager to help in any way he can. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and the state of our Siena House Wellness Baskets were up in the air, Zaylen stepped up to the plate and, with the help of his younger sisters, wrote all 27 cards we needed for the baskets. He's been an invaluable contributor to the Imagine Newsletter, volunteering to write a moving piece about the history of *La Newyorkina*, and also leading a meaningful interview with our own Laurence Jolicouer of Pro Reps. Zaylen's hope for the future? "I have hope for the future because I believe my generation can end gender based discrimination and inequalities in education."

Zaylen, we couldn't agree more!

THANK YOU FOR BEING AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR COMMUNITY!



BOLD in a time of need

by Madison Butler

Since the beginning of quarantine lessons, I have been told most often that the actions you take today will make the greatest impact on your life; and, it's the small victories that make the ultimate change. With this in mind, being a *BOLD Brothers and Sisters mentor (BBS)* for families who are affected by cancer has truly brought these words of wisdom into existence. This organization not only makes it easy to form connections with the Bronx community, it also provides you with close friendships that can last a lifetime. By offering families tutoring, fun activities, counseling, and community service; *BOLD (Bronx Oncology Living Daily)* goes above and beyond to provide the best for its members. As a mentor I am proud to say I am involved in all of these activities and I can truly see what a positive impact it has on other teens affected by familial cancer. Teens are getting involved in a service they have an intimate connection to and it helps them bring their own experiences to the table. *BOLD* is seen as an outlet from the trauma of relative cancer and a form of expression to release the built up emotions that aren't always shared.

I feel this way too as I am also a person that has cancer in my family, and I can personally say that the connections I am building with *BOLD* has made me a better version of myself. When I was first told one of my relatives have cancer I had a hard time accepting it and sharing it with others. I feared the pity that would come from informing people of a negative event. I wanted to be positive and ignore it but I realized this only made me more timid. When I came into contact with *BOLD* I found that I could express my situation more easily because I was speaking to people who experienced the same dilemmas as me. Soon I had hope once again and I was more social than I had ever been before. All in all, this organization is like no other where it provides community support to all members affected by cancer. Whether it is the cancer patient, a close/distant relative, or a close friend, you can be assured that you will once again feel supported and connected by an event that once seemed terrifying.



Thank you
for being a
compassionate
leader Madison!

Madison Butler (17) is a Junior at Harry S Truman High School. She is a BOLD Brothers/Sisters Mentor, and aspiring surgeon (pictured in her Einstein Enrichment Program for STEM bound students).



For more information about the BOLD Cancer Wellness Program that serves the Bronx cancer community: [@BOLDLivingProgram](https://twitter.com/BOLDLivingProgram), einsteinmed.org/cancercenter/support, facebook.com/BOLDprogram/, youtube.com/watch?v=NcY-GkdjJuU



Montefiore



An interview with a

SHINING STAR!

Imagine Society Junior Member **Katie Gaffigan** (11) got the opportunity to speak with and interview children's poet and actor **Charles Waters**, co-author of **DICTIONARY FOR A BETTER WORLD: Poems, Quotes and Anecdotes from A-Z** and **CAN I TOUCH YOUR HAIR? Poems of Race, Mistakes and Friendship**. Both are co-written with Irene Latham and published by Carolrhoda Books, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group #proudtobealerner. Charles has multiple books forthcoming in the next couple of years. One of which deals with the last transatlantic slave trade in American History. To find out more about his extraordinary work, please visit his website at charleswaterspoetry.com.

Katie Gaffigan: Hi Charles! Where did you grow up?

Charles Waters: I grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs in a town called Yeadon. I tell students and faculty during my author's visits that Will Smith grew up 20 minutes from me in one direction in West Philly and Tina Fey grew up 20 minutes in the other direction in a town called Upper Darby. And both of their successes have meant a great deal to me to keep forging ahead in making my dreams come true.

KG: How did you know you were a poet?

CW: I worked for a touring company years ago called *Poetry Alive!* based in Asheville, NC where you would travel to schools and universities across the country performing poetry as theatre by way of audience participation, call and response and solo pieces. You had to learn each poem by heart and I wound up performing over 200 poems in a thirty month span. After performing those pieces so much poetry got in my bloodstream and I decided to try writing it. The first poem I ever wrote was in April 2004. It was a terrible poem, but I was on my way!

KG: What is poetry in your opinion?

CW: I think it's distilling life's essence in making the ordinary extraordinary. I actually wrote two poems about it. One's on my website and one I use at the end of my writing workshops. (*Who* and *Definition of a Children's Poet*)

KG: How do you and Irene write together?

CW: We utilize Google Docs. Thank goodness for 21st century technology! We both like it because we can make changes separately and together so we're aware of how our manuscripts are progressing in real time. Fun fact: We co-wrote *CAN I TOUCH YOUR HAIR?* having never met each other face to face until after the book was finished.

KG: Historically what role has poetry played in society and do you feel it has changed in present times?

CW: It's a fact that in times of joy and duress we turn to art. Poetry is read at weddings and funerals. It's written in honor of many things like the birth of a baby. I didn't find out about this until a couple of years ago but when I was born my father wrote a poem about my arrival into the world. **Poetry matters. It reflects the world back onto itself.**



Thank you
Charles!



Great
Interview
Katie!

...continued from page 8

KG: Why do you think reading and writing poetry is important for kids?

CW: When I was a child I had the hardest time - and still do once in a while - with focusing on reading. What poetry does is it makes reading less intimidating and more interactive because a story is distilled to its bare essence, it's also less intimidating to one's eyes due to there being not as many lines on a page in comparison to prose. You could read five poems in a book in one day and make steady progress which is encouraging. I wish I knew about this art form when I was a young person.

KG: It sounds like the friendship in *Ally* had some challenges but that you worked them out with patience and understanding. Was that story from a real friendship you had?

CW: That poem from *DICTIONARY* was fictional with real life elements threaded in. My favorite director, Martin Scorsese, talks about how he uses *faction* in his work, which is a combination of fact and fiction. I've done the same in a number of my poems. In some ways like the *Ally* poem there have been times when I messed up as an ally and times when I didn't. It's all about learning and growing.

KG: The poem *Courage* has such good advice about facing a situation you're nervous about. Do you have any advice for kids who want to get the courage to speak out and help their communities?

CW: My advice, to quote Mr. Rogers is to find the helpers and do what you can to be a helper as well. Is there someone in your school or community who you agree with in your thoughts? Potentially team up with them. Is there an adult that you trust in your life who feels the same way you do about topics that are happening in the world. Ask for their advice.

KG: The poem *Justice* is so strong and powerful, was it hard to write?

CW: Thank you for your kind words about the poem. :-) Yes, it was hard to write. Actually, most poems are hard to write in general if you would like for them to be any good. In order to have a chance of succeeding in life -- however you choose to define it -- hard work, to paraphrase the late Kate Sanborn and the late Thomas Edison is "99% perspiration and 1% inspiration." There's no other way around it. You have to put in the work.

KG: I love the poem *Yes*. Why do you think it's hard to listen to the positive voices inside us sometimes?

CW: Great question! This one is particularly important. I think we humans are the sum of our experiences and what's been passed down from generation to generation. Both in the macro and the micro of our lives. There's so much negativity in humans sometimes someone's jealousy or deep feelings of inadequacy gets projected onto another person by saying or doing something - an unkind word, a judgemental action, saying rude things behind their back -- to try and sabotage others from succeeding. This gets passed along and the person who is on the receiving end of this could easily get discouraged by the voices in their head saying *I'm not good enough. Maybe trying this wasn't such a great idea.* Once I took an acting class and the teacher said I was being too hard on myself and it was sabotaging my efforts. This made me more determined to bring more *honor* in my heart with acting, writing poems and working to better myself as a human. And here's the thing, if you look closely enough **there are people who want you to succeed, who believe in you**, maybe more than you might believe in yourself at the moment. They are there! It could be a teacher, a good friend, a family member.

Katie's Final Thoughts: The interview was so inspiring and Charles is so kind! Charles is a magnificent role model for all kids to have more compassion for people of all races. I was inspired to write my own poetry to support the Black Lives Matter movement. I also recommend that everyone read "Dictionary for a Better World" written by Charles and Irene Latham. I hope you will be as enlightened as I was and discover the inspiration within your own voice to help change society for the better.

Katie Gaffigan (11) is in the 5th grade at Marymount School of New York

See the next page for Charles Waters poetry!

Thank you to Charles Waters for allowing us to publish his poems that you see on this page.

They are from his collection of poetry *DICTIONARY FOR A BETTER WORLD: Poems, Quotes and Anecdotes from A - Z*, co-written with Irene Latham and published by Lerner Publishing Group. We hope they help inspire you to write, to be active, and to believe both in yourself and in a *Better World* for us all. Follow Charles at @charleswaterspoetry

ALLY



Take one cup of understanding:

When you listened,
without interruption,
after I explained
why a joke you made
about my faith wasn't
funny to me, then apologized afterwards.



Two dollops of fortitude:

When you stood next to me
when a pack of bullies
made fun of my complexion,
staring at them so fiercely
I thought each of them
would dissolve until one by one
they walked away, defeated.

Three pinches of support:

When you were the only friend to show
up at my first solo piano recital.
Afterwards, my no-nonsense
mother said, "You should invite him
over for dinner sometime."

Stir and marinate:

When you did each of these things
I realized this unbreakable, unshakable
support is the vital ingredient
in a wholehearted ally.



COURAGE

Sometimes
courage can be
getting up to face life's
stormy world when you'd rather hide
in bed.

JUSTICE



Innocent blood spilling down our street.
When are we gonna get justice?

Poisoned water in what we drink and eat.
When are we gonna get justice?

Abusers in positions of power.
When are we gonna get justice?

Time to come down from your ivory tower.
When are we gonna get justice?

Repeat offenders who get off scot-free.
When are we gonna get justice?

This is not how our world's supposed to be.
When are we gonna get justice?

World, make way for this wall of resisters.
When are we gonna get justice?

Let's stay united, brothers and sisters.
When are we gonna get justice?

Our march for equality's far from done.
When are we gonna get justice?

We won't stop till we're united as one.
We won't stop till we ALL get justice!

YES

I'm Dr. Affirmative.

First name: Y to the E to the S.
Yes!

Nickname: Amen!

I'm the letters cheering you on,
pushing you forward,
reserving no judgment.

All I ask in return is your best effort.

My friendly competition is named *No*,
Also known as Dr. I Don't Think So.

No has good points every now and again
because it can spur you on to get to
my word, the greatest in all humanity.

If you aim to do well,
not harm anyone,
and accomplish your goals
of being a dynamite,
out-of-sight,
equality-is-right
kind of human -
I'm the word you need
to help you succeed.
M'kay? Ya dig?
Sho nuff.



This Friday, June 19th, our friends @MV4NY Muslim Volunteers 4 New York and stewards of NYC's Upper East Side Ruppert Park invite you and your family to **"GOING GREEN: A VIRTUAL DAY AT RUPPERT PARK!"** Join in this event complete with craft activity, a read aloud, live music and an inspiring & fun talk with a teen guest speaker, Naila Ismail, on 'How To Go Green.' Naila won the 2020 Girl Scout Gold Award for her Environmental Sustainability Project. The Girl Scout Gold Award represents the highest achievement in girl scouting and is their most prestigious award. This event has something for kids of all ages! So much fun!

**SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT!**



EVENT DETAILS

DATE: Friday, June 19

TIME: 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

WHERE: Zoom meeting

To register for this event, please sign up with this link.
[Lets Go Green: Virtual Ruppert Park Event](#)



Beautiful
Ruppert Park!

NATURE

by Mikayal I. Din

Shh... can you hear that? This is one of my favorite parts of nature: just sitting still and listening to the sounds of nature. I hear birds tweeting, tree's leaves rustling as squirrels scurry through. When in there, it feels so different from the loud city I'm used to. It feels very calm and peaceful. Sometimes I can hear water running through tiny streams. I love going into nature. There are so many exciting things I can do! I can camp. I can bird watch or I can sit, and listen to the sounds of nature.



Wow, what a great poem Mikayal! Way to help NYC :)

Mikayal Ismaeel Din (10) is in 4th Grade at PS 198, Isador E. Ida Straus G&T and Junior Member of MV4NY

Were You JEALOUS

by Nicole Santos Peña

Hey cancer

Let me tell you something

You took away my grandma

You took away my dog

You took away my brother-in-law

You left two kids as orphans

Without a father to look up to 24/7

Their Legacy still lives on

Even though you destroyed their bodies

Slowly with pain

Without remorse or compassion

They fought to their last breath,

Listen real close when I tell you they didn't give up or give in

You took over and took control

Like if they were nothing, but just another body

My Grandmother was a hero

She was a mom to so many

She had art flowing naturally to her body

She was tough but she had a heart of gold

Were you jealous????

My brother-in-law was a hard worker

Even when his body was half dead

He was sick and in pain

But he never stopped smiling to give a sign of hope to his babies

Once again were you jealous????

There are so many other stories waiting for someone to tell their story

You have taken about 9.6 million lives

We will not lose hope

We will not give in

You try to take our bodies but we have the power of family and love

Which is stronger than anything you will ever know

I have proof

There are people who stand up high

And they're proud of saying

"I am a cancer survivor"

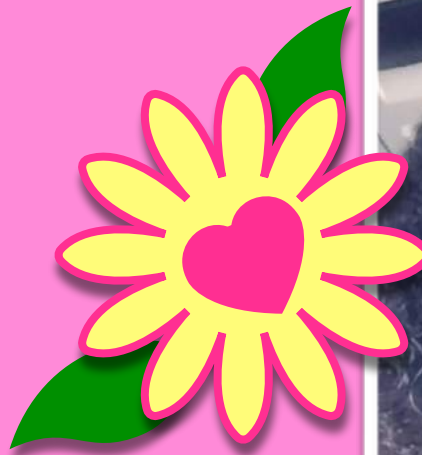
They represent all the people that you decided to take away

Even my dog.

And different but united

We will defeat you

Until your last breath



Dear Nicole,
Thank you for sharing
your beautiful
poem!

Nicole Santos-Peña is 13 years old and a BOLD Brothers/Sisters Mentee

UPDATE! FROM OUR PANTRY TO YOURS WITH



Thank you to all the AMAZING families that made The Imagine Society's June 2020 Pantry to Pantry Monthly Food Drive a great success! Special thanks to The Turner Family, The Sheeler Family, The Goodwin Family, and the The Fitzpatrick Family for organizing the group donation that delivered 25 bags of groceries and supplies to Ascension Food Pantry!

Every month there is a city wide collection that we invite you and your family to participate in. If you have a few extra items in your pantry that you would like to donate please email us at outreach@theimagesociety.org and we can sign you up as a stop on the **JULY PICK UP!**



UPDATE! THE IMAGINE SOCIETY'S SEWING SQUAD

Alessia Turner (15) is back at it! We reported in our last newsletter, that Alessia was putting the pedal to the metal at her sewing machine cranking out face masks for donation to food pantries, nursing homes, NYC folks in need. On Monday, June 15th, a grand total of 60 more handmade face masks were dropped off with our friends at The Ascension Food Pantry to give out to their families in need.

WAY TO GO ALESSIA!

For more information on how you can join The Imagine Society Sewing Squad, please email us at outreach@theimagesociety.org



A SPECIAL **THANK YOU** FROM OUR FRIENDS AND HEROES AT MOUNT SINAI WEST HOSPITAL



On behalf of the entire leadership team and staff at Mount Sinai West, we are extremely grateful for the opportunity to have partnered with The Imagine Society since the COVID-19 pandemic started in New York City several weeks ago. The contributions that your teams made had an incredible impact on our healthcare heroes – doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, security, environmental services, and so many other departments across the hospital. From the bags of candy and chocolates for Nurse's Week to food trucks and balloons – it all lifted the staffs' spirits and brought smiles to their faces as they worked tirelessly to care for our community. A special thank you to Emily Chen for her incredible commitment to supporting Mount Sinai West. Her energy, empathy and dedication is unparalleled. It has been a pleasure to work with you and your teams and we wish you and your families well. Thank you for loving our healthcare heroes!

Andres Moreira, MHA

Senior Director, Patient Experience & Patient Relations

Mount Sinai West | 1000 Tenth Avenue | New York, NY 10019



FUN PAGES

BEING KIND
TO YOURSELF
IS VERY PUNK
ROCK.



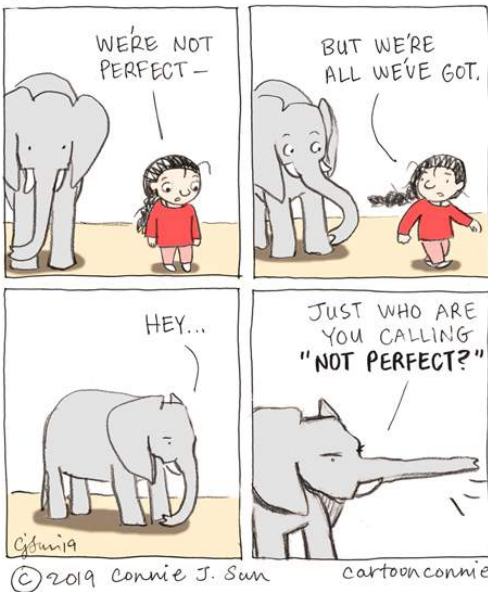
Junior
Editor Katie
Gaffigan (11)
Marymount School
of New York

MORALS, EMPATHY,
RESPECT, COMPASSION



CAN WE GET AN
APP FOR THAT

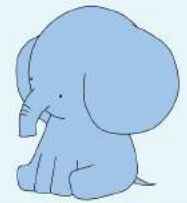
LOVING THE ONE YOU'RE WITH



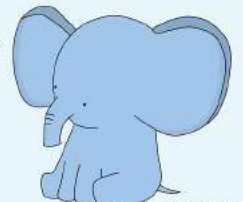
Katie's
Fave
Memes
:)

Lol!

It's a
long story



I am
all ears



I'M GOING
THROUGH A ROUGH
TIME. PLEASE
BEAR WITH ME.



OF COURSE.



RAWR RAWR*



RAWR RAWR*

WE ARE BEARS!*

DOING BEAR THINGS*

THANKS FOR
BEING AN
UNDERSTANDING
FRIEND.



OF COURSE! I ALSO
GOT US MONEY AND
THE BEES ARE AFTER US.

GREETINGS 2020

HANDSHAKE
...SPRING OF
2021?

IT'S
A DATE.

FITZSIMMONS @THEARTOFDAMN MAR 2020