

SPECIAL ISSUE CELEBRATING **GRATITUDE**KIDS NOVEMBER EDITION VOLUME 15!



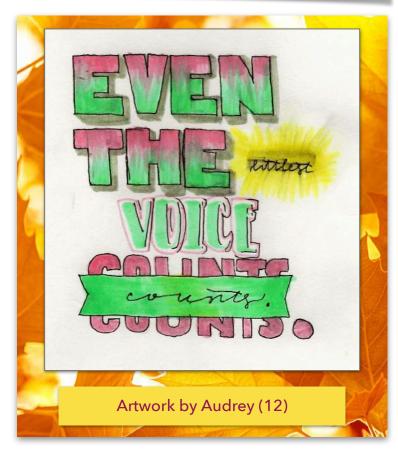
"Thank you." - The Imagine Society

THANKSGIVING

by Alison Blumstein

It's been a hard task to sit down and reflect on things I am thankful for recently. Besides COVID-19 pressing pause on all of our lives and causing me to miss out on all the good things senior year was supposed to bring, a good friend of mine passed away last week, landing a dark cloud over my entire campus community.

Charlie was different than most people. His impact on his peers, acquaintances, and the world was unmatched. He lived by a quote from Andrew Carnegie, which said that you should spend the first third of your life getting all the



...continued from page 1

the education you can, the next third making all the money you can, and the last third giving it all away to worthwhile causes. Charlie's generosity, his selflessness, and the positivity that he brought to every room he entered was contagious; and I guess he really knew that he didn't need to make it to 22 to leave his mark on the world and everyone who surrounded him. My friends and I have been struggling this week to be positive, but this tragedy has brought us closer than ever, allowing us to reflect on the good times we've had and remind us that we have created such a close knit family at school that any kid would be lucky to be a part of.

Although it has been difficult, I've realized that I actually have a lot to be thankful for right now. I got the chance to love and be loved by an extraordinary human who has forever made me a better person. I have an incredible network of friends with whom I can grieve, reminisce, and share. I'm about to fly home to my family for the holidays who treat me with the most unconditional love and support. I survived COVID-19 and am as healthy as ever. The country is about to embark on a new chapter, with leadership who will lift us up and make us stronger. And for these reasons, I guess I have a lot to be thankful for this year.

Rest in Peace Charlie. You will be missed. You are loved. I hope to help make the world the kind of place you dreamed it could be.



Alison Blumstein (21) is a Senior and Pre-Med at the University of Miami

THE IMAGINE SOCIETY GRATITUDE QUILT

am
grateful for my
family and friends
that support me and for
the opportunity to
give back. - Lily
Samuels
(18)

I am grateful to live in an evolving world where everyone's voices are starting to be heard. - Emily Blumstein (21)

My job being an essential worker :).
Aneesah Ali
(21)

I am grateful for my family, friends and loved ones. -Dave Figaro (17)

I am grateful for music because it brings joy to my life and brings people together from all over the world. - Chris Chan (16)

I am thankful none of my loved ones have died from COVID. - Joshua Lupton (13)

I am grateful for the unconditional love around me. - Dayelin De La Cruz (17)

I am thankful for being safe. - Hava Kampe (8) I am grateful for the health of myself and my family and the seemingly endless compassion I have received from my neighbors. - Paul Bloom (16)

am grateful to be who I am and have the support of friends and family that I do. - Max Packer (17) I am grateful for the education that I have access to. Marre Gaffigan (16)

I am thankful for BOLD, which does so much good and supports the well-being of people in my Bronx community. -Nadia Garcia (19)



I am thankful for my friends and family, the blessings in my life, and my overall health and wellbeing. -Nephertiti (16) am thankful for the for the home I have!" - Christina A. Martinez (20)

I am grateful to be alive and having a family. -Isabella Frias (16) I am grateful for the earth. - Dashiell Hall (9) I am grateful for my home and my education. - Zaylen Palacios (13) I am grateful to have a house to go to during these difficult times with COVID and my comfy bed. - Sabrina Turner (17) I am grateful for being healthy and alive. - Nicholas Rolan (17)

I am thankful for New Yorkers for wearing masks and keeping the community safe! -Isha Asim I am grateful for being a part of The Imagine Society because it gives me the chance to help people. That makes me happy and the people happy! - Emery Brown (16)

I am grateful to
have come out of this
era with nothing but more
ideas, gratefulness and love
as to what God has done for
me despite what we may
be going through. Sadiyah Ali (19)

I'm grateful for my family, and the life I've been able to lead. But this year, it's different. Because of COVID-19, to put it simply, I'm grateful even just to be alive. - Susanna Steinberg (13)

I am thankful for the game of basketball. - Sekou Kourouma (15)



I am grateful for everyone in the Spirit Squad today. -Avery Smith (17)



My mom. -Layla Vyas (3) My family, our health and my family being financially stable in these times. -Isabella Alli (16)

I am grateful for my friends and my brothers and sister. - Nellie Fitzpatrick (15)

I am thankful for being fortunate enough to have a home. - Melannie Vinueza (24) I am grateful for all the helpers in the world that inspire each other to solve problems that no one person could do alone. - Jack Gaffigan (14)

l am thankful for another year of life. -Nicholas Khan (23)

I am thankful for the community I was raised in. - Jennifer Zhumi (21)

I am thankful because my family loves me just as much as I love them. - Kamilah Tamayo (3)

I am grateful for being healthy. -Janete Garcia (17) I am
thankful for the
opportunities to
make a change in
society. - Kathy
Rubio (19)

I am grateful for sunrise surfing. -Chloe Castles (19) I am thankful for my family and my friends. - Sophia Lupton (15)

I am thankful for not giving up on life. Oasima Muner Mahi (22)

am grateful for the tinier things that used to pass me by. - Susanna Steinberg (13)

I am thankful for God blessing me with life every day. - José Leonardo Romero (22)

I'm grateful I can attend online school. I'm also grateful for the resources to attend. - Shelby Fenton (14)



thankful for sunny days. -Kathy Flores

Although these past months have been awful for some, it has brought attention to spending more time with your loved ones. - Sadiyah Ali (19)

thankful for turkey and my family. - Aoife Vitt (7)

I am grateful for my family, ability to still attend college and the free time I've been granted. -Zafirah Alli (21)

(20)

I am thankful for the doors open and doors closed for being a part of the beautiful family of BOLD and enjoying every bit of it. - Enerjola Elezaj-Bucpapaj (29)



I am thankful for my family and my friends. - Sophia Lupton (15)

I am thankful for the opportunity to attend my high school, Regis, because it offers me an excellent education. -Alex Chan (16)

Technology allowed me to keep in touch with family, continue my education and discover new ways to keep busy via social media. - Kayla Mulligan (18)

I am thankful for being able to learn, grow and work hard in my school. -Nadia Garcia (19)

I am grateful for my family and friends and all the support and love they give me, and for the opportunities I am given. - Alessia Turner (15)

I am
thankful for
my community that
has helped me during
these tough times. Julia Hacker
(14)

I am grateful for my family. - Patrick Gaffigan (8) I am thankful for giving back to the community through BOLD in these hard times. - Isha Asim (20)

I am thankful for my health and wellness during a difficult time in the world - Steven Zeldin (13)



I'm thankful for being able to pursue higher education and for everyone who supported me along the way. - Mina Koltnow (18) I am thankful for my health and strength. - Kathy Flores (23)

I am grateful for my friends and my family. - JT Sheeler (14)

I am grateful for my family and friends that support me. -Abraham Rodriguez (17)

I am thankful for being able to watch my niece Kamilah grow up. - Melannie Vinueza (24) I am thankful for being able to witness the world. Oasima Muner Mahi (22)

I'm thankful for waking up today. - Kathy Rubio (19) I am grateful for the opportunities my parents gave me. Jessica Plepi (17)

I'm grateful for skating at the beach. - Zac Castles (19)

My and my family's health. -Tamerah Jumarally (22) I am grateful that I have food to eat and a roof over my head. -Michael Gaffigan (9) I am thankful for my family and friends who support my dreams. - José Leonardo Romero (22) I am grateful that nobody
I love has died from
COVID-19. Thanksgiving
was always a day about
family, joy, and of course
thanks, but the depth of
the feeling of gratitude is
so much more to me now.
- Susanna Steinberg (13)



her chest is tight and her feet are bare she feels the gravel digging into her heel as she walks forward and forward again and she looks out at the crowd below and her stomach pitches like a lifeboat in a storm but her voice is clear when she closes her eyes opens her mouth and sings. they don't look up, those businessmen with their grey suits and black umbrellas those children who jump off of curbs and into puddles the city is a dance and they know their steps but she knows hers, too and she doesn't stop, water streaming down her shoulders, her hair hanging loose in tendrils the people move like ants but she is a bird and she sings. long and short and loud and quiet sweetly until she is making up the words until she isn't sure if she is making the music or the music is making her the music twitters around her; birds of a feather and when she closes her mouth. it settles across her shoulders like a blanket when she opens her eyes the sun is on her neck.

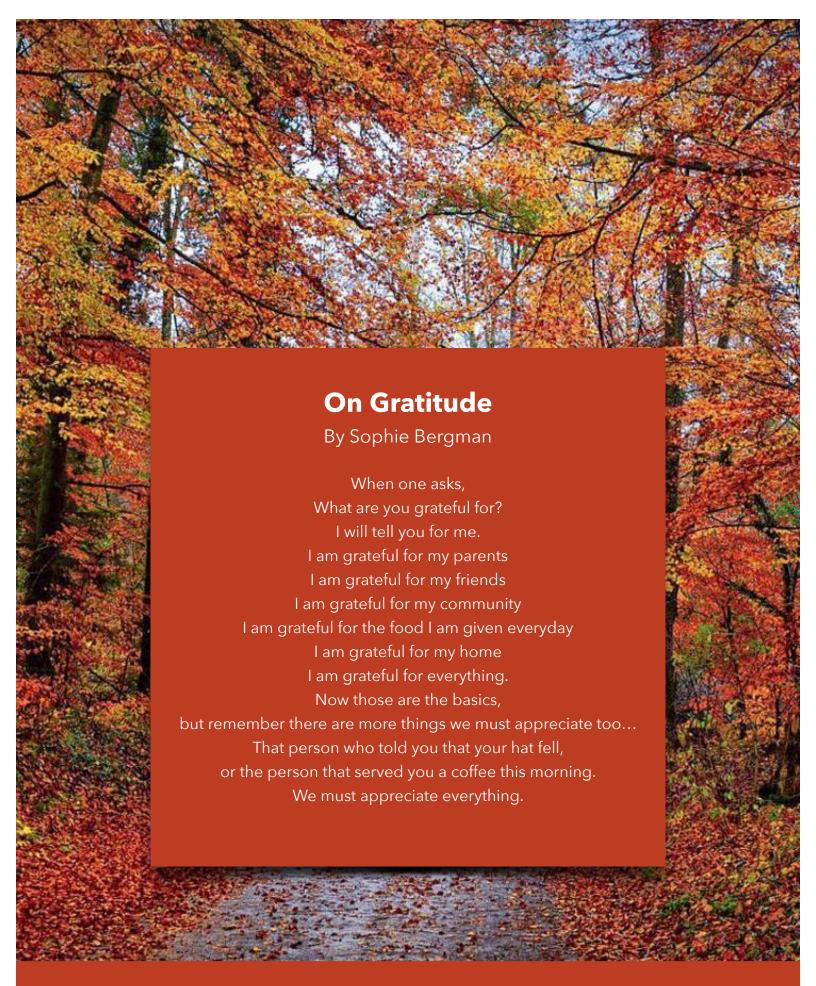
A Poem of Gratitude for my Grandfather

By Marre Gaffigan

For Papa My mind has ached and yearned to come back home,

Back to your roof and windows painted red. I'd say the woods were the best place to roam, Where the Milwaukee snow is like my bed. Remember how we walked together there? Then came back to the kitchen just to eat, And you would sit down in your big armchair. I couldn't stay too long, but you were beat. Those days play musically in my mind, And though your voice confers so nimbly now, It still is found around my heart entwined. Until I see you next, you have my vow: Although right now we're facing a divide, My heart is in that kitchen by your side

Marre Gaffigan (16) is a Junior at Marymount School of New York



Thank you world

by Katie Gaffigan

Thank you world.
For my hair that ties in knots
For my brothers who fight with me,
for my fish up in heaven
for my mom and my dad
for my great older sister,
for my dogs
for my aunts
and uncles
and grandparents
and more.

For the earth and the sky and the grass and when the rain pours for the cats and the dogs and the bees and reptiles amphibians, Marsupials and mammals.

for snakes and lizards and turtles and frogs.

Even in the darkest times you make me pause i think about all the ways of the world.

About the hurt
the lost
the dead and bored
and then i think more,
how can i make them happy
how do i make them smile?
How do i make a mark on my world?
Don't know yet.
I'll figure out how.
For now i just want to say.

THANK YOU WORLD!







WARM WINTER KITS FOR THOSE IN NEED by Jack Gaffigan







My name is Jack Gaffigan and I am a youth leader at The Imagine Society. The group I am from is The Saint Patrick's Warriors, a youth-lead service group from the Basilica of Old Saint Patrick's in New York City.

As winter swiftly approaches, the need for coats and other warm clothing increases, especially among those experiencing homelessness. Every year, the Warriors run a coat drive for our friends at the <u>Bowery Mission</u>. They provide food and shelter to those seeking assistance, as well as services that help those experiencing homelessness attain and retain a sustainable lifestyle.

The pandemic has resulted in financial hardship for an increasing number of families, so this mission is more important now than ever. The obstacle we faced is that we normally put the word out to our community and people clean out their closets and drop bags of items off at the church. In the past, we sorted through all the items and pulled out the things we needed: Men's coats, hats, gloves, and socks that were in good condition. The other items we folded and made donation bags for another charity such as Housing Works. This year due to the pandemic it would be impossible to do it this way because of the contact with so many people. We decided to raise funds through SpotFund, a fundraising platform, and purchase the items ourselves in bulk through BluSource, a wholesale resource company for not for profits. One of the Warriors, Emma Braatz, age 16, designed the Spotfund page.

We advertised our fundraiser on our Instagram account, @WarriorYouthNYC and another member, Joseph Fitzpatrick, age 16, designed the Instagram campaign, posting a new image every day to call attention to our "Winter Kit Drive." Lily Vaysman, age 17, designed the sock image.

Our original goal was \$900 to purchase 24 new men's coats, 24 winter hats, 24 pairs of gloves, 24 fleece blankets and 24 three packs of socks. The campaign was named "#24For24 meaning we could keep 24 people warm for 24 hours a day this winter. We ended up going even further and at the writing of this paper we have already raised \$1116.00 (124% of our goal) and the first shipment of items is on the way to our friends at the Bowery Mission.

I want everyone to know about doing things like this that may seem small compared to how many people are in need in New York City, but the more that we realize we can help in a small way and share these ideas with other groups, our small ways can become larger and larger. I am so grateful that I can be part of a youth led service group where we can use our creativity and resources to help others. It is my hope that we can inspire so many other groups to take small actions like this that make a meaningful difference in someone's life, and someday, we can make sure that everyone who has been left without a home during the winter can at least have winter clothes and a blanket to help them survive.

Here are some key facts about homelessness in New York City today:

About one in 106 New Yorkers, or nearly 80,000 people, is experiencing homelessness.

- For every person sleeping in a public place (there are about 4,000 currently), twenty are in a shelter.
- Homelessness is at its highest ever in New York City
- 60% of New Yorkers don't have enough savings to pay for three months of food and rent.
- 20% of New Yorkers live below the poverty line. *









SHINING STARS!



A SHINING STAR SHOWS TRUE DEVOTION!

Yanzhang (Chris) Chen, born in 1996, is a Graduate Student at Columbia University, a digital game designer and software developer. Chris is from China and has been a volunteer with our friends at Ascension Church Educational Program since February 2019, assisting catechists in the classroom. Since the COVID19 pandemic, Chris has been incredibly devoted to helping Saturday Food Pantry Programs and Sunday mass livestream. He helps translate for and speak with the Chinese clients who visit the pantry, and is especially engaged with clients that need help, whether it be registration or particular issues with their food insecurity. His service is invaluable to the community. A part-time photographer, he recently contributed to filming bilingual cooking videos for **The Imagine Society** including Chinese cuisine and Pasta Bolognese. Robin Klueber, Director of Religious Ed, tells us "Chris is such a kind, genuine, hard-working guy, and we're so proud that he's

THANK YOU CHRIS FOR BEING THERE TO HELP SO MANY PEOPLE IN NEED!

OUR TEEN SHINING STARS ARE ALL OF YOU!

So grateful for all our Imagine Teens. This year you've shown us what Gratitude, Integrity, Perseverance, Respect, Dignity, Knowledge, Unity, Community, Compassion, Hope, Healing, Connections, Helping, and Courage really means.

WE LOVE OUR ALL OUR IMAGINE TEENS!





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@theimaginesociety.org

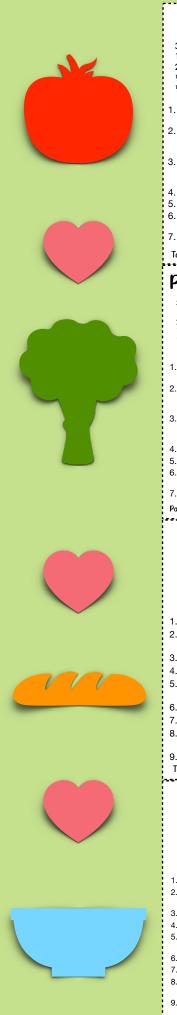
BUON APPETITO FROM THE IMAGINE SOCIETY!

October is Italian Heritage Month and The Imagine Society shared in the Italian love for a healthy and fulfilling meal with two pantry donations as part of our #FOODFORFAMILIES Healthy Harvest Initiative! With our friends at Ascension Food Pantry we held two Saturday services and served over 700 families combined! Donated were the ingredients for authentic Italian dishes Broccoli Pasta with spicy "Arrabiata" Tomato Sauce (plus a whole chicken) on October 3rd and Pasta a la Bolognese on November 7th! We received incredible donations of 350 traditional Pane Di Casa loaves from the delicious Terra Nova Bakery, parmesan cheese packets from Karen Petersen, and Jen & Chris Makowski, toys for the patient kids waiting in line from Valerie S. Halston, and hundreds of Italian flags from our new friends at the Columbus Citizens Foundation! Special thank you's to Imagine Moms Gina Larucci for sharing her special family recipes with us and Nora Fitzpatrick for donating festive decor and flowers! Thank you Balloon Planet Delivery for our Imagine Balloons that always make every service a joyful event. Recipe cards were printed in English, Spanish and Chinese to ensure that everyone could enjoy these heartfelt and healthful meals.

Thank you to our volunteers, thank you especially to all the teen and youth volunteers who give their Saturdays to helping others, thank you to our donors, and thank you to our communities for coming together to help one another!

Thanks to brilliant photographer Enid Alvarez @koolkat130 you can check out both amazing services in the photos below! For all the recipe cards and teen led recipe videos go to theimaginesociety.org/service





Broccoli Pasta with Spicy "Arrabbiata" Tomato Sauce

3 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil

1 small onion, chopped

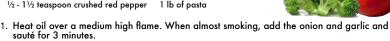
2 garlic cloves, minced 1/2 teaspoon of salt

1 28-ounce can of crushed tomatoes

1 small bunch of chopped fresh basil

1 head of broccoli

1 tablespoon of salt



Reduce heat and add salt and red pepper flakes (amount of red pepper flakes depends on how spicy you like it). Add the crushed tomatoes and basil then simmer until reduced slightly, this will take about 20 minutes.

- Wash broccoli then cut off the bottom stalk and discard them. Break or cut off florets. You want them large enough to still be florets, yet small enough to eat with a fork. Dice the top of the stalks into pieces.
- Bring 3-4 quarts of water with 1 tablespoon of salt to a boil. Add pasta.
- After 2 minutes add the broccoli to the water.
- 1 minute before cook time listed on pasta package remove from heat and drain. Pasta should be al dente.
- 7. Pour pasta and broccoli back into pot, add the sauce, stir then serve hot.

To view youth-fed tutorial video visit our website The Imagine Society org/service and follow us on Instagram @The Imagine Society

Pasta de Brócoli con Salsa de Tomate "Arrabiata" Picante

- 3 Cucharadas de aceite de oliva virgen
- 1 Cebolla pequeña, picada 2 Dientes de ajo, picado
- 1/2 Cucharadita de sal
- 1/2 11/2 Cucharadita de pimienta roja
- 1 Lata de 28 onzas de tomates triturados
- 1 Manojo pequeño de albahaca fresca, pi
- 1 Cabeza de brócoli
- 1 Cucharada de sal
- 1 Libra de pasta



- 1. Caliente el aceite a fuego medio alto. Cuando esté casi humeante, añadir la cebolla y el ajo, después sofreír (sauté) por 3 minutos.
- Reduzca el fuego y agregue ½ cucharadita de sal y hojuelas de pimienta roja (la cantidad de hojuelas de pimienta roja depende de qué tan picoso le guste). Agregue los tomates y la albahaca, luego cocine a fuego lento hasta reducir ligeramente. Esto tomará como 20 minutos.
- Lave el brócoli, luego corte el tallo inferior y desecharlo. Rompe o corta los floretes. Quieres que sean lo suficientemente grandes para que sigan siendo floretes, pero no suficientemente pequeños para comerlos con un tenedor. Corta la parte superior de los tallos en trozos.
- Ponga a hervir 3-4 cuartos de galón de agua con 1 cucharada de sal. Agrege la pasta.
- 5. Después de 2 minutos, agregue el brócoli al agua.
- 1 minuto antes del tiempo de cocinar indicado en el paquete de pasta, retire el fuego y escurra. La pasta debe estar al dente.
- Vierte la pasta y el brócoli nuevamente en la olla. Agregue la salsa, revuelva y sirva caliente.

Para ver Tutorial. liderada por jóvenes visite nuestro sítio web ThelmagineSociety.org/service y siguenos en Instagram @ThelmagineSociety



Pasta a la Bolognese

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 4 carrots chopped small
- 4 celery stalks chopped small 4 cloves of garlic minced
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 1lb of ground beef
- 1 6oz can of tomato paste 1¼ cup of whole milk 1½ teaspoon of salt Black pepper 11b Penne Pasta

Grated Parmesan cheese



- 1. Heat oil in a 6-8qt heavy bottomed pot until hot.
- Add onion, garlic, celery, carrot and cook stirring until translucent (not browned), 7-10 minutes.
- 3. Add the ground meat on higher flame and brown, add salt stirring frequently, 20 minutes.
- 4. Lower to medium flame and cook another 15 minutes.
- 5. Add can of tomato paste, then add a little water to can and swish around so you get it all and add to pot. Let cook another 20 minutes.
- 6. Add milk then let cook another 30-40 minutes. If it looks dry, you can add some more water.
- 7. Add black pepper to taste.
- 8. Boil pasta in salted water. 1 minute before cook time listed on pasta package remove from heat and drain. Pasta should be al dente.
- 9. Pour pasta back into pot, add the sauce, stir, then serve hot with grated cheese on top.

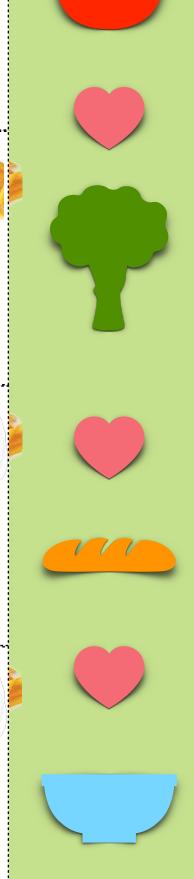
To view youth-led tutorial video visit our website $\underline{\text{ThelmagineSociety.org/service}}$ and follow us on Instagram @ThelmagineSociety



Pasta a la Boloñesa

- 4 Zanahorias picadas pequeñas
- 4 Tallos de apio picados pequeños
- 4 Dientes de ajo picados 1 Cebolla mediana picada
- 1 1/4 Taza de leche ente
- 1 ½ Cucharadita de sal
- Pimienta
- 1 Libra de pasta penne
- 1 Libra de carne molida Queso parmesano rallado 1. Calienta el aceite en una olla de fondo arueso de 6-8 at hasta que esté caliente.
- Agregue la cebolla, el ajo, el apio, las zanahorias y cocine hasta que estén transparentes (no dorados), de 7 a 10 minutos.
- Agregue la carne molida a fuego más alto y dore, agregue sal revolviendo con frecuencia, 20 minutos.
- 4. Bajar a fuego medio y cocinar, otros 15 minutos.
- Agregue la lata de pasta de tomate, luego agregue un poco de agua a la lata y haga buches para obtener todo, luego agregue a la olla. Deje que cocine durante 20 minutos.
- Agregue la leche y deje cocinar otros 30-40 minutos. Si se ve seco, puedes agregar un poco más de agua.
- Agrega pimienta a gusto.
- Hervir la pasta en agua con sal. 1 minuto antes del tiempo de cocinar indicado en el paquete de pasta. Retire del fuego y escurra. Pasta debería estar al dente
- Vierta la pasta nuevamente en la olla, agregue la salsa, y revuelva. Luego Sirva caliente con queso

Para ver tutorial. liderada por jóvenes visíte nuestro sítio web <u>ThelmagineSociety.org/service</u> y siguenos en Instagram @ThelmagineSociety



Spreading the Peanut Butter and the Good Will!

Back in August, thanks to supporter Marla O'Neill, *The Imagine Society* connected with *Saratoga Peanut Butter*, a small business from Central New York. Owner Jessica Arceri graciously donated 300 jars of "Plain Jane" all natural peanut butter for our September 12th Cold Sesame Noodles #FOODFORFAMILIES service at Ascension Food Pantry. And now owner Jessica Arceri graciously wants to help The Imagine Society again! From now until December 31st *Saratoga Peanut Butter* is DONATING 10% OF ALL SALES to *The Imagine Society* using the coupon code Imagine2020! This also happens to be the only time of year that they produce their popular holiday blends Mistletoe (white chocolate cranberry cinnamon) and Catch Me If You Can (delicious gingerbread) as well as their assorted Holiday Gift Pack which is a great and easy gift for the season!

Visit <u>yopeanut.com</u> to place your order now and don't forget to enter the coupon code at check out to support *The Imagine Society* as well as this incredible small business! And don't forget to follow @saratogapeanutbutter on Instagram!



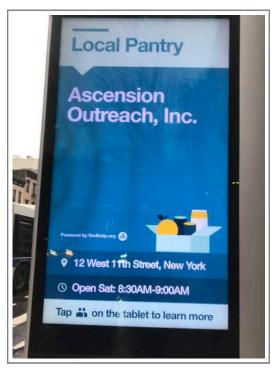
SPO TTED

ON

THE

STR EET!

Thanks Zaylen Palacios (13) for keeping an eye out for local Food Pantries! This one has the same name as our friends at Ascension Church Pantry! How cool!







Thanks Imagine Mom
Chloe Hall for snapping this
pic of the RBG mural in
progress in the East Village!
Happy to have RBG in the
neighborhood:)







Shelby Fenton (14)

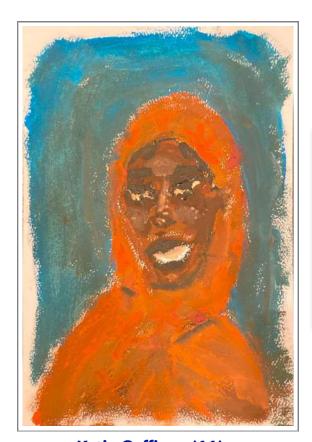


Edited by Junior Member Katie Gaffigan (11)



Olympia Hall (7)

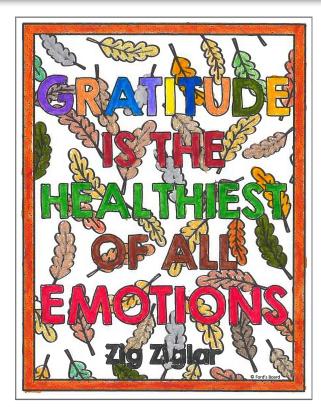
"I am grateful for art and the platform it provides to express awareness and love of how beautiful it is to be alive in this world. It's easy right now to see only the polarization and division that exists in our world today. But to do so is to ignore all of the beauty and love all around us. Art allows us to show our passion and to illustrate all of the beautiful people and things that make our messy, imperfect, wonderful world what it is." - Katie Gaffigan



Katie Gaffigan (11)



Dashiell Hall (9)

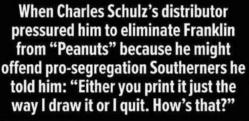


Taylor (14)

OH LOOK! PIE!

FUN PAGES

Edited by Junior Member Katie Gaffigan (11) If 2020 was a math wordproblem: If you're going down a river at 2 MPH and your canoe loses a wheel, how much pancake mix would you need to re-shingle your roof?





INCLUSIVENESS IS WHAT MAKES AMERICA GREAT



Lol!



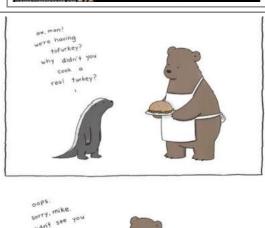
















Edited by Junior Member Katie Gaffigan (11)

Thanksgiving Word Scramble

dtiareutg	
ahstnk	
fmyali	
einnsdsk	
tdmroiiaan	
evlo	
endirsiphf	
ireasp	
uergnseo	
csmaopinos	
oehm	
teyip	
yoj	
coeeebvnenl	
bgessnli	
rrwdea	
rtgehoet	
gathre	
aidreamreac	
nhktaulf	

Answer Key: 1. Gratitude 2. Thanks 3. Family 4. Kindness 5. Admiration 6. Love 7. Friendship 8. Praise 9. Generous 10. Compassion 11. Compassion 12. Home 13. Piety 14. Joy 15. Benevolence 16. Blessing 17. Reward 18. Together 19. Together 20. Gather 21. Camaraderie 22. Thankful