



Changing the World
is Our Business

Book Exchange

Act of Kindness
Community Service Project Kit

“I can change the
world with books!”



WARNING: Contents enjoyable for kids of all ages!

Dear Friends,

We're excited you're trying out one of our Act of Kindness Community Service Project Kits! Please take a minute to read about some of our kits' special features:

Easy, step-by-step instructions. We've kept directions for each community service project short and simple. But, we've provided a few extra details for those of you who haven't done this kind of project before or appreciate a little bit more guidance.

Useful and fun and information. Each kit lists everything you need including supplies, participant invitations, a countdown calendar, and estimated costs for the project. We've also included fun resources that vary from kit to kit such as craft projects, learning tools, websites, or groups we like.

Something for everyone. While our kits are designed for elementary school-aged kids at home, in school, or with clubs or faith groups, we also give you ideas for older kids. For example, older kids may enjoy supervising younger kids' projects, organizing an activity with peers, or getting their community service requirements.

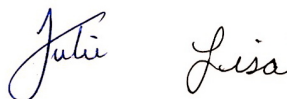
Kid tested. We kid test our kits to make sure they are super fun and work smoothly. We value your feedback, so if we can do anything differently, let us know. Or, share your ideas for a new kit!

Keeping the good vibes going. We believe it's as important to recognize kids' efforts as it is to encourage them to give back. So, here are ways to applaud kids' accomplishments. Hand out the free *You Did Good* Certificate of Achievement in the kit. Post your kids' kind acts on KidzPlace!, our online social networking site. It's safe and free. Kids can write up a project summary, and we'll give them a by line on our blog!

100% goes to children's causes. YesKidzCan! is a social entrepreneurial company. This means we dedicate our business to bettering the world by donating 100% of our net profits to children's causes. We've made our kits affordable so you can buy them, and we can invest in all that kids can do!

Changing the world is our business. Thanks again for being part of YesKidzCan!

Kind regards,

Handwritten signatures of Julie and Lisa in cursive script.

Julie and Lisa
Co-Founders, YesKidzCan!

Book Exchange

Did You Know?

A book is a gift that keeps on giving. Reading helps kids develop their imagination, learn, and figure out how to make decisions and problem solve by seeing what storybook characters do. Kids who enjoy reading also do better in school and are more likely to excel at other challenges throughout their lifetime. And, reading is key to breaking the cycle of poverty – underscoring the importance of making books accessible to underprivileged children all over the world.

Act of Kindness:

Invite a group of kids over and ask each to bring at least *three* gently used books. Kids play a book exchange game that results in each child getting one book for him/herself. The remaining books are donated – each with a specially designed bookplate or bookmark.

Timeframe:

1 – 1 ½ hours, and approximately 1 hour required to deliver books to a drop-off location or package and ship them.

Instructions:

We know you are busy, so we created bulleted instructions for a fast read and a clear game plan!

- The book exchange game requires a group of kids. However, you can have individual kids collect books for donation and create bookmarks or bookplates.
- Send out the YesKidzCan! invitation to prospective participants (see sample invitation on page 10). Email the invitation or type up and mail your own. The invitation asks that each child bring at least three (or more) gently used books to the event. At least one of the books should be age appropriate for those participating. All other books can work for kids of any age.

- Decide what organization will receive your book donation. To avoid paying shipping costs, select a local group. There are many worthy options to consider:

- 1) Local libraries accept book donations - call your local branch or look them up on the internet and review their guidelines such as book condition and drop-off location.
- 2) Local daycare center or nursery schools – ask if they need early reader or picture books.
- 3) Public schools – some accept donated books; contact the principal’s office to assess the need.
- 4) Homeless shelters – especially women’s shelters since their children are often with them.
- 5) Local hospitals - call the community outreach or volunteer office.
- 6) Local thrift stores - check out these options:

Habitat for Humanity (www.habitat.org). Search for a “ReStore” near you that sells used items to help purchase building materials for home construction. While not all are the same, some accept used books.

GoodWill Industries International (www.goodwill.org). Under “Search,” type in “GoodWill Locator.” Enter your zip code when prompted to find a store near you.

Salvation Army (www.salvationarmyusa.org). Click on “Ways to Give” and then on “Find a family store.” Enter your zip code to find a store near you for drop-off. Or, you can call 1-800-SA-TRUCK to see if they will pick up your donation.

Finally, under our “Groups to Know” section later in this Kit, we have listed two wonderful organizations that would welcome book donations if you are willing to cover shipping costs.

- Before the kids arrive, have three large boxes (e.g., copy paper box size) or shopping bags set up. Label bag #1: “Book Exchange Game.” Label bag #2: “Donation.” And, label bag #3 “Mystery.” As the kids arrive, ask them to pull out one book they think someone in the group may like, and put it in the box or bag marked “Book Exchange Game.”

- After the kids have put their selection into the “Book Exchange” bag, let them have some playtime while you pick one other book from each kid’s contributions and put it into the “Mystery” bag and close it so no one can see inside. Any remaining books go into the “Book Donation” bag.
- Once everyone has arrived, explain the value of donating books (see “Did You Know” paragraph, page 2) and what group will receive the books.
- Tell the kids that before you get the books ready for donation, you are going to play something called the “Book Exchange” game. This game has some similarities to a “white elephant” gift exchange. Game instructions follow:

“Book Exchange” Game Instructions

- Have the kids sit in a circle. Bring the boxes or bags marked “Book Exchange” and “Mystery” into the center.
- Take the books out of the “Book Exchange” bag and spread them out so everyone can see them. Keep the “Mystery” bag closed.
- Have a shoe box or plastic bowl ready that contains folded slips of paper. Each slip has a number on it. (If you have 10 kids, have numbers one through 10 each on its own slip of paper.) Have each kid select a number. Explain the rules of the game before beginning so the children know what to expect.
- The kid with number one gets to go first. Kid #1 can either pick a book from the “Book Exchange” pile that he/she would like to keep. (Remember these books are spread out in front of the kids so they can see the choices.) Or the kid can take a chance, and reach into the “Mystery” bag and pick a book sight unseen!
- The kid #2 goes next. This child has three options: 1) Pick a book from the “Book Exchange” pile; or 2) Take a chance and pick a book from the “Mystery” bag; or 3) Request the book from any child who went previously. If the child chooses the book from someone who has already made a selection, then the child who had to give up his/her book gets to reach into the “Mystery” bag for a replacement.
- The game continues until the last child has taken his/her turn. It is important to manage the kids’ expectations and help them enjoy the twists and turns of who ends up with which book. They may be excited

about the book they pick initially but they need to understand at the start that there may be an unexpected ending. If they end up with a book they do not like or have already read, you can offer a few remedies: 1) You can allow all the kids to go around the room and see if anyone wants to have one final exchange; 2) You can allow a child who is dissatisfied to put his/her book in the "Donation" box/bag and take one final chance in the "Mystery" bag; or 3) You can encourage them to present the book to a sibling or friend as part of the giving experience. While you certainly do not want sad faces, you also want to remind the kids that walking away with a book is a bonus for them. The event is about giving to others in need.

- Each kid should end up with a book for themselves. All remaining books go into the "Donation" bag. You can show everyone how many books will go to kids, schools, or other facilities in need.
- A note about younger children: Because it may be more challenging to manage younger kids' expectations, feel free to modify the rules of the game to fit your audience. You can simply have kids pick numbers, go in order, and select a book from the "Book Exchange" pile – plain and simple. No exchanging with other kids. No "Mystery" bag.
- **Book Plates:** After the game, set up an area for the kids to make book templates to glue to the inside front cover of each book being donated. (As a fun fact, you can let the kids know that book plates or labels were first used after the introduction of the printing press in 1440 in Germany. Putting bookplates in children's books makes the books extra special, encourages kids to build their own library, and instills an appreciation for books and reading!)
- See page 11 for Book Plate Templates. Make copies of the template page to have the correct number of bookplates for your participants and/or number of books you have to donate. Have the kids cut out the bookplates and color them in with crayons, marker, or colored pencils. Use regular craft glue or paste to affix one bookplate to the inside front cover of each book. If the kids are feeling extra creative, they can use the templates as a guide and create their own with original drawings or designs. Cut out a rectangle, square, circle or oval that fits inside your books. Have the kids go at it!
- **"Best Leftovers Bookmarks:"** In addition or instead of making bookplates, you can set up a bookmark station. We call this "Best Leftovers Bookmarks" because you can use things you already have on hand to make great looking bookmarks. First, cut out bookmark forms

out of cardboard. (Strips that 6 inches long by 1.5 inches wide are a good size.) Use the lid of a shoebox, the back of a writing pad, shipping boxes, poster board, or even the back of an old greeting card. This is where the "leftovers" comes in. Use any of the following that you have in the house: cut-up pieces from old greeting cards, scraps of wrapping paper, pictures from last year's calendar, comic strips from the newspaper, or fabric or felt scraps. Kids can use different items to make a collage on the cardboard; glue down favorite images; or simply use markers or crayons to make a design.

- Some bookmarks may need to dry before putting them inside the book. Have the kids take the bookmarks that are dry and tuck them inside the book. We recommend that you use a piece of blue painter's tape to affix the bookmark in the book so it doesn't fall out later. (Painters' tape will not rip the bookmark or the book pages.)
- On page 12, we have included a "You Did Good" Certificate to recognize your kids' accomplishments. You can print out copies, fill in each kid's name, sign them, and hand them out to applaud their acts of kindness.

Post Event

- Donate your books to the facility you have selected. (Or if you have picked an organization that is not local, ship your books to the address that group provides on their website.)
- Decide if any of the kids want to accompany you to the local facility or even to the post office for mailing, and organize the outing.
- Share your project stories, photos, or videos on KidzPlace! – our free, secure, global, sharing site for adults to post kids' community service activities. Go to <http://kidzplace.yeskidzcan.com>.

Shopping List:

- Blue painter's tape (if you are making bookmarks): \$7
- Craft glue: \$2

Other Supplies Needed:

- 3 bags (for book game and donations)
- Boxes (if donation requires shipping)
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- "Leftover" Scraps (if making bookmarks): These can include cardboard, old greeting cards, scraps of wrapping paper, pictures from last year's calendar, comic strips from the newspaper, or fabric or felt scraps.
- Snacks and drinks (if desired)

Dollars That Make Sense:

The cost of this project ranges from zero dollars to \$15 depending on what supplies you have on hand and whether you choose to serve a snack. (This does not include the cost if you decide to ship your books.) As host, you can decide to absorb the cost for this meeting. Or, in your invitation, you can ask each person to bring a suggested contribution to help cover the costs (especially if you decide to ship your books).



Countdown:

2 Weeks Prior	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send out invitation.• Identify the facility to receive the book donation.
1 Week Prior	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shop for supplies and snacks.• Confirm participants via email.
Day Of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set up craft area for bookplates/bookmarks.• Pick area for "Book Exchange Game" and play activities.• Label 3 bags before kids arrive.• Play "Book Exchange Game."• Do desired craft project.• Take photos!• Hand out "You Did Good" Certificates.
Post Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donate books, and take photos of this, too!• Email photos to participants.• Post project stories, photos, or videos on KidzPlace! http://kidzplace.yeskidzcan.com

A Perfect Fit:

This activity works for children of any age. It also is great for community organizations who want to set up a book drive. The only difference is that since book drives usually result in many more books, your group may need to segment the books according to age or reading level. Many causes that accept book donations provide specific parameters such as segmentation for large drop-offs. Check with each group for specific directions.

Have Fun Fundraising!

This project can also be used as a fun way to raise money for an organization or cause that is important to you. Once you have created your book marks, you can sell them to people in your community and donate the money you earn to one of the "Groups to Know" listed in the kit or to an organization of your choosing. Get as creative as you like by making posters or flyers to spread the word; setting up a table around your neighborhood, playground, recreation club, or faith group; and letting everyone know where the funds will go.

Or, if you like using this kit to fundraise for a cause, then take this project one step further and apply for a \$100 YesKidzCan! *Social KidPreneurz Award!* Our Awards Program is available to kids who are interested in undertaking a simple social entrepreneurial activity to benefit society (creating a product or service to sell and donating the money to a cause.)

Kids just need to fill out the application with an adult, answer 10 questions, and mail it to YesKidzCan! You can find out more about the program and download the application. Go to:

www.yeskidzcan.com/socialkidpreneurawards.html.

Creative Twists:

As part of your Book Exchange event, you can consider picking a recommended book from YesKidzCan! KidzBookReview. Depending on the age of your participants, you can read the book to them or have the kids take turns reading aloud. If you want to have a discussion about the book, go to www.yeskidzcan.com/kidzbookreview.html for some tips on getting a conversation going.



Another twist for your group is to visit the National Geographic Bookmark Factory (www.nationalgeographic.com/bookmarkfactory/). This website allows kids to make and print their own bookmarks in about one minute. Simply click "Begin" and pick from a selection of words, objects, and borders. (You also have the option of writing your own words.) Hit print, and you have your bookmark. To make it sturdier, cut out the bookmark and glue it to cardboard.

Groups to Know:

Project Night Night (www.projectnightnight.org)

A nonprofit that donates 25,000 free Night Night Packages each year to homeless children who need childhood essentials to feel cozy, secure, ready to learn, and significant. Each package contains an age-appropriate children's book, a security blanket, a stuffed animal all in canvas bag. Visit their website for shipping instructions.

Books for Africa (www.booksforafrica.org)

A nonprofit whose mission is to end the book famine in Africa. BFA ships age- and subject-appropriate books to rural schools. Since 1988, BFA has shipped more than 24 million books to 45 African countries. It costs 50 cents to ship one book from the United States to Africa so financial contributions are also welcomed. Visit their website for shipping instructions.

Sample Invitation

You're Invited to Participate in a YesKidzCan! Community Service Activity

WHAT: Book Exchange and Donation

Kids bring at least **three** books for a book exchange and donation event. At least one of the books should be appropriate for ages (fill in age range of participating kids).

WHERE: Host Family's Name
Street Address
City, State, Zip
Phone Number
Email

WHEN: Date
Time (Determine a 2-hour window)

RSVP: Please call or email by (select a date that gives you a week's notice) and indicate if you are joining your child at the meeting or dropping off.

Hope you can be there!

Bookplate Templates

Instructions:

Make copies of this page to have the correct number of templates for your participants and/or number of books you have to donate. Kids cut out the bookplates and color them in with crayons, marker, or colored pencils. Use regular craft glue or paste to affix one bookplate to the inside front cover of each book.





You Did Good!

Certificate of Achievement

Congratulations!

_____ has successfully completed an act of kindness!

You gave your time and energy! You showed you cared!

You helped out a cause! You made a difference!

Random acts of kindness are great. Regular acts of kindness are even better! Keep up the good work!

Lisa Novick

Lisa Novick
Co-Founder of YesKidzCan!

Julie Chapman

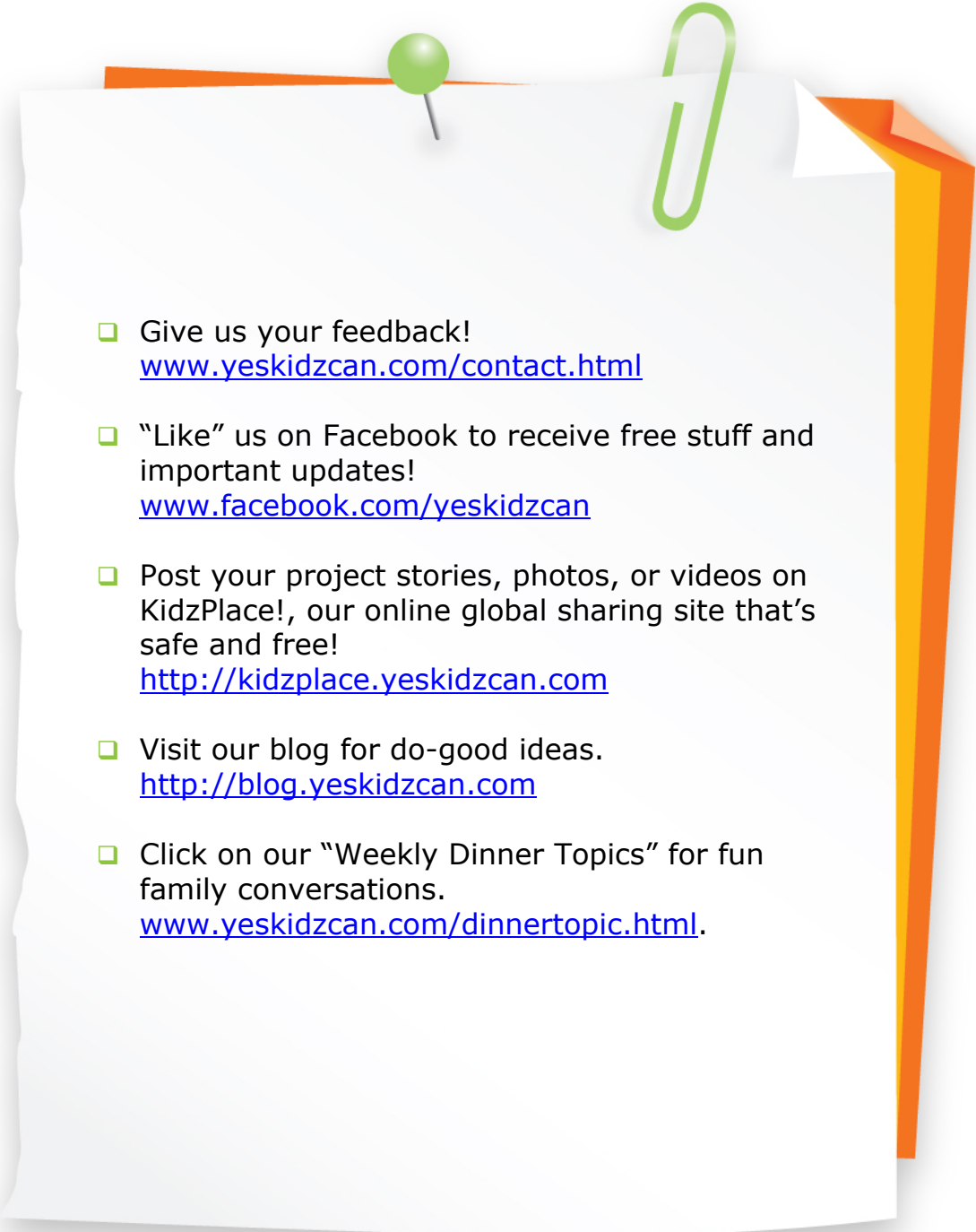
Julie Chapman
Co-Founder of YesKidzCan!

Project Leader



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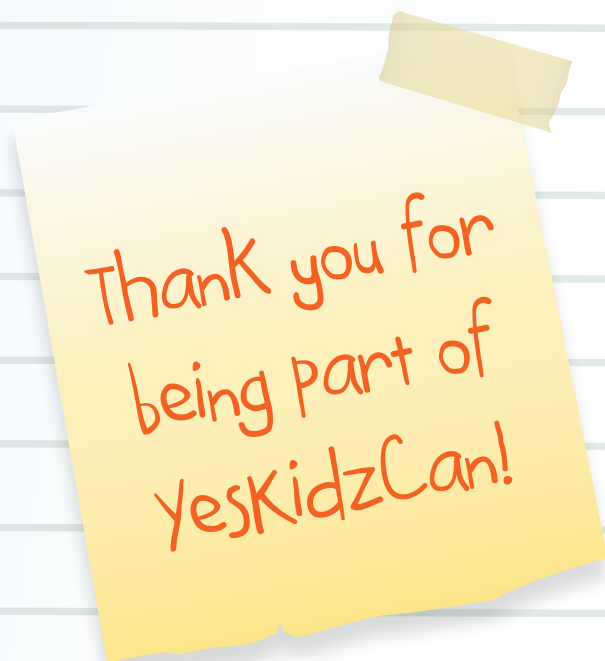
Final To-Do List

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- ❑ Give us your feedback!
www.yeskidzcan.com/contact.html
 - ❑ “Like” us on Facebook to receive free stuff and important updates!
www.facebook.com/yeskidzcan
 - ❑ Post your project stories, photos, or videos on KidzPlace!, our online global sharing site that’s safe and free!
<http://kidzplace.yeskidzcan.com>
 - ❑ Visit our blog for do-good ideas.
<http://blog.yeskidzcan.com>
 - ❑ Click on our “Weekly Dinner Topics” for fun family conversations.
www.yeskidzcan.com/dinnertopic.html.



We believe: Yes kids **can** change our world one kind act at a time. We want you and your kids to enjoy giving back and make it a regular part of your lives.

Changing the world is our business!



YesKidzCan! is a do-good company dedicated to helping kids change our world. We donate all net profits to children's causes.

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