

Sponsoring a child in a disadvantaged Country

Each year Houses sponsor a child in a disadvantaged country. The idea is for students to raise the money themselves from doing chores, part-time work etc., rather than just asking their parents for money. It's an opportunity for them to reflect on how privileged they are when compared to millions of young people their age.

What do the students learn from doing this? Some reflections follow (Year group of student and either M = Male or F = Female) and, although there is repetition, it's always interesting to read the reflections from our students:

"I realised the importance of work ethic." (11F)

"It made me feel good to be doing things for others and made me more grateful for the things they do for me." (12F)

"I have learnt that when I put my mind to a task I can complete it, and that I like helping people." (7F)

"It makes me think how hard [sponsored child] has to work just to get food and water. While I'm vacuuming my house, he is having to walk 10 km just to get water for him and his family." (8F)

"You get a feeling inside when you have helped someone else; this feeling gives you satisfaction knowing you've given a hand to somebody else." (10M)

"I learned that we can't just get everything we want, sometimes you have to work hard for it. This project made me realise that helping others helps us gain leadership qualities such as teamwork, organisation, encouragement and confidence, which will one day change us forever." (7F)

"It has been great contributing to something beyond myself and for a great cause." (12F)

"It feels great to contribute and take part in the community, because I enjoy seeing the smiles on peoples' faces as they walk past." (Year 7M raised \$200 from busking)

"Some people are not luck enough to be rewarded for their tasks." (11F)

"I have learnt that it is so simple to help people out. If the people in the world stop thinking of themselves, then we could help save as many people living in poverty. And helping people is such a heart-warming thing to do that will leave you satisfied." (10F)

"I have realised that helping others not only brings some financial reward – but more importantly, there is something about helping others that makes you feel good inside. This is the reason when I helped my mum in the kitchen, I decided not to ask for any payment from her, as I have seen her do everything for me without asking for anything in return. Helping others made me realise how blessed I am to be in a position to help rather than need help." (8M)

"I have learnt that I shouldn't take things for granted because people like (Compassion child) aren't fortunate enough to have the things we have such as cars and tap water. It has made me want to do more to help those in need so they can have a better life." (11F)

"From participating in this project I have learnt that it doesn't take a lot to give up my time to make money for others." (10F)

"This project has again reiterated just how much our little actions do to help those less fortunate than us. I am even more open to helping others." (11M)

"To be a servant leader and put others before myself." (12M)

"It has made me grateful and proud to know I contributed to a community that needs help." (9F)

"It feels really good because you, and the rest of people putting towards this project, are giving someone who has nothing, the things taken for granted every day." (8M)

"I have learned that by helping others, there is also benefit for myself." (12M)

"It's a small sacrifice to help others." (9F)

"I have learnt that a bit of hard work can earn some money to help change someone's life." (10M)

"That the only things worth doing are those that you do for others." (11M)

"How grateful I am to be living in Australia. Other people and children do much more work in other countries to put food on the table, so I'm grateful." (9F)

"It makes me realise that I have what other kids don't and that I should be thankful for it." (7M)

"Even the smallest contribution can create change." (12M)

"It doesn't take a lot to help make a difference." (8F)

"It's good to help others. If I can make anyone's day a bit better, I want to." (12F)

"Just doing a little bit for someone else can make a big difference when we work together." (10M)

"To be grateful for what you are given and always keep others in mind." (8M)

"It feels good to help others because then you feel good because you're not just looking after yourself." (7F)

"I have learnt about the global issues from poverty to public health, most importantly, helping others not only benefits others but also myself, as a global citizen. I felt grateful that I have the ability to help others and make an impact on the community." (11M)

"Both the job and the cause have continually opened my eyes to other's circumstances and how we're all different and can help." (11F)

"I am very privileged to be able to go to school and earn money at a casual job and it's only right for me to help others get the same opportunity." (11F)

"Giving a part of my own money is much more significant, as it feels much more genuine – helping others is much better when it actually comes from you." (11F)

"I am proud of myself because I learnt new skills. It made me happy because I did something somebody else appreciated." (7M)

"It makes you feel good when you know that you are positively impacting someone's life." (11F)

"I feel that this project was worth the effort because I know that I'm doing this for a good cause." (7F)

"I have learnt that by helping others the world is a more happy place." (7M)

"This project has inspired me to work and support my community." (7F)

"It shows that it doesn't take much of yourself to give so much to someone else." (10F)

"It feels good helping people in need." (7M)

"I am very lucky to have this life and that I take lots of things for granted." (9M)

"I have learnt how far \$8 can go for (our sponsored child)." (10M)

"Hard work gets rewards." (9M)

"The teamwork involved in my job has taught me the need for teamwork." (12M)

"Earning money by helping others reiterates the value of money and the wealth and positive environment that we live in. Simply helping around the house can earn you money, whereas others in less fortunate situations, have to work tireless hours to earn substantially less. Upon completing this project for the fifth year in a row, gratitude never fails to flourish." (11F)

"This project has helped me understand that helping others feels like a new accomplishment to the world. Helping others is kind, and that they will remember you for what you have done." (8F)

"How lucky I am to have an education and life like this." (8M)

"We had a great time helping others and working together. It's always very humbling to help another person." (12F and 10M – siblings)

"That helping others also helps yourself by learning the responsible and appropriate tasks." (12M)

"I feel a sense of accomplishment and joy from helping someone else." (12F)

"I have learned that I take simple things like walking down stairs for granted. I have learned that I am incredibly lucky and need to remember that more often." (7F)

"You learn more about yourself and through your willingness to self-sacrifice, it can encourage others to do the same. It is a very fulfilling feeling to give a person something they truly need." (12F)

"I have learnt that the more I give to those in need, the better it makes me feel. This project has made me feel very grateful for what I own and the luxury I already have. This project will lead me to living a simple life." (7F)

"Well, I thought about all those kids in Uganda that don't have a comfortable place to sleep at night and I thought I can sleep uncomfortably for one night if it means that someone else can sleep better off." (7M – did a night of shift work to raise funds)