Students Design Animal Themed Games for Change

We are excited to be providing resource support for the Games for Change Student Challenge (www.g4cstudentchallenge.org/animal-welfare) in partnership with the NYC DOE. All public NYC middle and high school students have the opportunity to design a digital game that addresses the cat and dog overpopulation crisis by teaching players about the issue and how they can help! Thanks to A Kinder World Foundation for sponsoring the animal welfare theme. HEART created the resource page for students and facilitated a student meetup at the Museum of the Moving Image that was filmed by NY1 for its monthly cable show called It Ain't Rocket Science, which focuses on STEM learning.

HEART Wins Spirit of Giving Award

Communities in Schools in Chicago (CIS) awarded HEART the Al Ward Spirit of Giving Award at their Summer Institute for going above and beyond as a community partner in servicing Chicago public school youth. We were so honored to be the recipient of this award, especially considering CIS has such an impressive and dedicated group of over 170 community partners.

“HEART consistently becomes part of the fabric of the school community that they are serving. HEART educators… go above and beyond to nurture students to become socially conscious and compassionately engaged with their world… HEART’s work is a living testimony to Margaret Mead’s assertion: a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world… Through HEART, they do change the world, every day.”

- KJ Hardy, Communities in Schools
Taking Action for Others

We implemented our new 10 lesson program called Taking Action for Others, which is structured around three strategies for change: educating, lobbying, and boycotting. The curriculum uses examples of problems affecting people, animals and the environment to teach and practice these ways of making change. HEART kids wrote letters, organized fundraisers, taught their peers and more, all with the goal of creating a more peaceful world for all life.

Glimpses of Our Student Programs

After learning about puppy mills, 8th grade students organized a Puppy Mill Awareness Week, which included activities such as daily morning announcements with facts about puppy mills, students teaching younger students, a basketball game fundraiser for a local animal shelter, and a student-run school assembly.

Our middle school animal rights club took part in NYS Humane Lobby Day and learned how to engage their elected officials in meaningful and effective ways.

Middle schoolers in our human rights elective raised $7,700 for the Andrew Grene Foundation, supporting the people of Haiti through education, loans and building projects.

We conducted a Climate Camp with Youth Power Indiana and the Peace Learning Center, teaching 4th-12th graders about the risks of climate change and how they can support sustainable living through hands-on learning experiences.
Teacher Training

Here are just a few examples of our extensive teacher training efforts over the past year:

• We brought our 36-hour credit-bearing professional development course offered through the NYC DOE online, now making it accessible to many more schoolteachers.

• HEART partnered with TAPS, The Animal Protectorates, in Los Angeles to train a network of 40 enthusiastic volunteers to teach humane education lessons. The day-long workshop was an extension of the Animal Law Guild’s annual animal law conference at Loyola Law School.

• We teamed up with Tribes Learning Community, which was selected as a model program by the Collaborative for Social and Emotional Learning, to add a humane education component to its existing 24 hour SEL training and we are piloting this program in Indianapolis.

• After getting trained by HEART as our intern in Portland, an international student at Reed College started her own organization to promote humane education in her hometown of Hefei, China and taught a 6-day summer camp.

• We partnered with Universidad Cooperativa, a law school in Colombia, to conduct a 3-day training webinar for law students to teach animal welfare lessons in high schools. The law school translated many of our high school lessons in our resource guide into Spanish.

Free Humane Resource Guide

Our resource guide with 40 animal protection lessons and activities for K-12 is now being used by educators in more than 30 countries. Over 100 hard copies of the guide have been distributed to people attending our training workshops and the entire manual can be downloaded for free from our website: teachhumane.org/humane-resource-guide.

HEART Certified Instructor Program

This summer we launched our HEART Certified Instructor Program to expand our geographic reach to FL, WA and CA. Meet Morgan Nati, Jennifer Whitworth and Megan Pincus Kajitani, our talented new representatives!

Morgan is an attorney who participated in our ABA humane education public service project at the University of Miami Law School when she was president of the law school’s Student Animal Legal Defense Fund.

“At this program’s core is a way to get young people thinking about the lens through which they view the world and its inhabitants…I know I’ll learn as much or more from the children as they will from me.”

Jennifer is already a passionate humane educator with a shelter in Seattle and a board member of the Association of Professional Humane Educators.

“Through humane education, we are able to bring awareness to key issues that impact us all and provide the tools to work towards a better tomorrow…The Certified Instructor Program provides the necessary tools and opportunity for an individual to get involved locally and spread the HEART message.”

Megan is a children’s book author, educator and artist who has also given an inspiring TEDx talk on humane education called Who Matters?

“For me, sharing the message of comprehensive humane education is a passion and a service to the planet, to all living beings, and to the future our children will inherit.”

Launch of Webinar Series

HEART started a teacher training webinar series this fall and we are posting recorded webinars on our website that you can listen to for free! Compassionate Connections in the Classroom aired in September and Teaching Compassion for Animals was held in October. Check out our archived and upcoming webinars for 2016 at teachhumane.org/webinars.
**HEART Director Wins Pet Hero Award**

Our very own board member, Candy Udell, won the Pet Philanthropy Circle’s 2015 Animal Advocate of the Year Award. After Hurricane Katrina, Candy set up Rescue Paw Foundation to help build and sponsor model humane no-kill shelters, providing spay and neuter services and housing numerous animals she rescues on a monthly basis. The main fundraising vehicle for Rescue Paw Foundation is the Cause for Paws jewelry collection she designed with her team as President of London Jewelers.

**Run for HEART: Calling All Trotters!**

We are honored and thrilled to be one of four charities receiving donations from the digital Tofurky Trot (trot.tofurky.com). Grab your friends and family to trot in our honor this holiday. Help animals and the environment by joining or hosting a trot and selecting HEART as the charity to benefit from your race!

**Grand Opening of Be the Change**

In collaboration with the Peace Learning Center we developed 30 engaging exhibits where youth and adults can think, touch, see, and discover the power of living consciously. In April we had the grand opening of Be the Change, which is an interactive humane education museum within the Peace Learning Center in Indianapolis. Exhibits have activities for participants to delve deeper into issues like littering, spaying and neutering, food choices, water usage, climate change, and transportation.

**Animals & Society Institute**

**Focus on Evaluation**

HEART is partnering with the Animals and Society Institute (ASI) to assess a new Social and Emotional Learning training program we are developing. Together with ASI, we are poised to evaluate and develop knowledge about the effectiveness of humane education programs. We look forward to sharing what we learn and about best and evidence-based practices in humane education.

**NYC and NYS Back Humane Education**

Led by NYC Council’s Education Committee Chair Daniel Dromm, we co-signed a letter with 32 City Council Members to the NYC Schools Chancellor urging enforcement of the state humane education law. We subsequently met with senior officials at the NYC DOE regarding an implementation plan. We are also pleased to share that NYC Council Members Palma, Arroyo and Dromm are providing grants totaling $27,000 for Fiscal Year 2016 to support HEART’s programming in their districts in the Bronx and Queens. Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal, who sponsored two humane education bills, also nominated HEART to receive $2500 for teaching in her district in Manhattan.

**HEART’s services rely on the generosity of individuals like you who are dedicated to humane education programming!**

Please make your contribution online at teachhumane.org/donate, or mail your donation to HEART, PO. Box 738, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. All gifts are enormously appreciated! For more information on HEART, contact Meena Alagappan, Executive Director, at meena@teachhumane.org, 212-744-2504, or Kim Korona, Program Manager, at kim@teachhumane.org, 313-282-7597.