HEART and the Peace Learning Center partnered to create the *Justice for All* resource guide to help K-5 educators teach youth about social responsibility. The content supports social-emotional growth, delving deeply into real world topics related to diverse human, animal, and environmental topics. This 300 page guide contains 31 engaging, standards-aligned activities and lessons with all student materials included and ready to use. We hope this resource will help educators, in both traditional and non-traditional settings, empower youth to gain a deeper understanding of pressing contemporary issues that impact us and confront them using empathy, critical thought, and innovation.

Our previous humane education resource guide with 40 animal protection lessons and activities for K-12 has now been viewed by thousands of educators in more than 30 countries and over 40 states.

Download both HEART guides for free today from our website at teachheart.org!
Humane Education Expands Digitally

HEART is now a content partner with Nearpod, a popular student-facing platform with a user base of over 100,000 teachers in 10,000 schools nationwide. We are adapting our upper elementary lessons for this 1:1 delivery platform where the teacher’s screen is mirrored on the student’s screen. The presentations contain polls, videos, images, drawing boards, web content and more, allowing the students to interact with the media during this process. We have published 4 lessons so far, with over 9,900 views, and more will be published soon. From thousands of lessons, Nearpod selected Wildlife Under Fire (adapted from our animal resource guide) to be programmed as a showcase lesson for their new users. Check out our free store at nearpod.com/s/heart-A735977

Meet the CIT Squad

In partnership with 3C Institute, which has developed many successful educational games and web programs designed to improve children’s social-emotional health, HEART is creating an engaging digital educational game about puppy mills. Cora, Kazu, and their dog Casey are Compassionate Investigators in Training (CIT Squad). They investigate the case of a sick puppy purchased online and are led to Missouri where they learn about the conditions of a puppy mill, the issue of buying pets online, and how to properly take care of animals and find them forever homes. The game will be ready to play in early 2018, so stay tuned.
Student Program Snapshots

Upper elementary students in the Bronx learned about ways that they could become good neighbors to the people, animals and the natural places in their city environment. They researched why the Bronx has food deserts, learned about the animal suffering in factory farms, and examined the impact of modern animal agriculture on our natural world as well as our health. Schools and community groups in the Bronx are working hard to change the borough from a food desert to a site of abundant small gardens, farmers markets and local, affordable fresh produce. Hopefully these young Bronx residents will be leaders in this movement to make our food systems more humane, sustainable and just.

Early elementary students in Chicago sold terrariums to raise money to assist homeless people. Students spent weeks researching homelessness and were excited to learn about an organization providing temporary housing, so they educated their classmates about the issue and organized a successful fundraiser, donating over $100 to help the homeless.

We conducted a summer program at Animal Haven shelter for 7 and 8-year-olds. Campers learned about animal body language and responsible guardianship, made toys and treats for the shelter animals, promoted animal adoptions, and enjoyed spending time with the shelter’s adoptable dogs and cats.

Climate Camp, a project of HEART, Peace Learning Center and Earth Charter Indiana, has grown annually since we started it in 2014. This year we offered week long camps to accommodate the increased demand. We took a deep dive into Be the Change, our humane education museum, to help campers learn the content in a rich and interconnected way. We also took youth around the community to see, feel, and interact with the exciting and powerful work already happening. Campers discovered new passions and honed their advocacy skills. Their practice paid off and the Lawrence Common Council passed a climate recovery resolution, the second one in less than a year, led by our campers!

Teacher Training

We were inspired by the many talented and dedicated teachers we met in our professional development workshops across the country over the past year.

As a NYC DOE educational partner, we offered an online 36 hour professional development course: Promoting Success in Science and Literacy through Humane Education. NYC teachers were eligible to attend this credit-bearing course that qualified them toward a salary differential.

In Chicago we conducted two credit-bearing professional development workshops through WITS (Working in the Schools) on humane books and teaching conflict resolution skills in the classroom.

We partnered with the Detroit Zoological Society and The Humane Society of Huron Valley to offer metro-Detroit area teachers a workshop on enhancing science and literacy skills through humane education. Participants earned continuing education hours that could be applied toward their certification renewal.

HEART presented on the connection between social-emotional learning and humane education at the Association of Professional Humane Educators’ national conference in Seattle.

At the Educators’ Network for Social Justice Conference in Milwaukee, we offered a workshop on Teaching Students to Take Action for Child Farm Workers.

We presented on Using Humane Education Elements and Strategies to Teach Food Justice at Animal Place’s annual farmed animal conference in California.

We trained teaching artists from the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic in activities to help students manage conflicts peacefully.
Assessment Study Published

We are pleased to share that the successful results of our NY and Chicago program evaluation, spearheaded by Professor William Samuels, was recently published in an article in Anthrozoos, a multi-disciplinary journal of the interactions of people and animals: Improving Upper Elementary Students’ Humane Attitudes and Prosocial Behaviors through an In-class Humane Education Program.

NY Invests in HEART

We are very grateful to NYC Council Members Palma and Dromm for providing grants amounting to $20,000 for Fiscal Year 2018, and NYS Assembly Members Rosenthal and Kavanagh for grants totaling $10,000, to support HEART’s programming in their districts in the Bronx, Queens and Manhattan.

Youth for the Voiceless

What started as a HEART youth program will soon become its own non-profit organization! Youth for the Voiceless (YFV), born out of HEART-facilitated high school animal rights clubs in Portland, OR, has evolved over the last four years to become an innovative youth-leadership effort. YFV aims to amplify the voices of young advocates through the age-old power of storytelling as a mechanism for positive change. By working with adult counterparts, YFV members are given platforms by which to speak up for animals, other marginalized communities, and the environment. YFV seeks to build an influential community of youth activists that has until now been largely underrepresented. It will continue to maintain a close relationship with HEART and provide humane education students with opportunities to join fellow youth change-makers in creating a kinder, more compassionate world.

Webinar Series

Our bimonthly webinar series has been going strong and we now have an extensive free webinar library archived on our website at teachheart.org/webinars. Some of our topics include: teaching compassion for animals; making Earth Day education every day; service learning for elementary students; humane education clubs; humane literature; the political climate and our youth; and fostering empathy and humane behavior.

A Big Thank You to Our Supporters!

HEART’s humane education services rely on the generosity of individuals like YOU!

Please support our work by making an online contribution at teachheart.org/donate, or mail your donation to HEART, P.O. Box 738, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. All gifts are enormously appreciated! For more information on HEART, contact Meena Alagappan, Executive Director, at meena@teachheart.org, 212-744-2504, or Kim Korona, Senior Program Director, at kim@teachheart.org, 313-282-7597.