



The

Heart

of

Giving

Educate.
EQUITABLY

Radiate.
SUCCESS

EleVate.
SOCIETY

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Chapter 1:

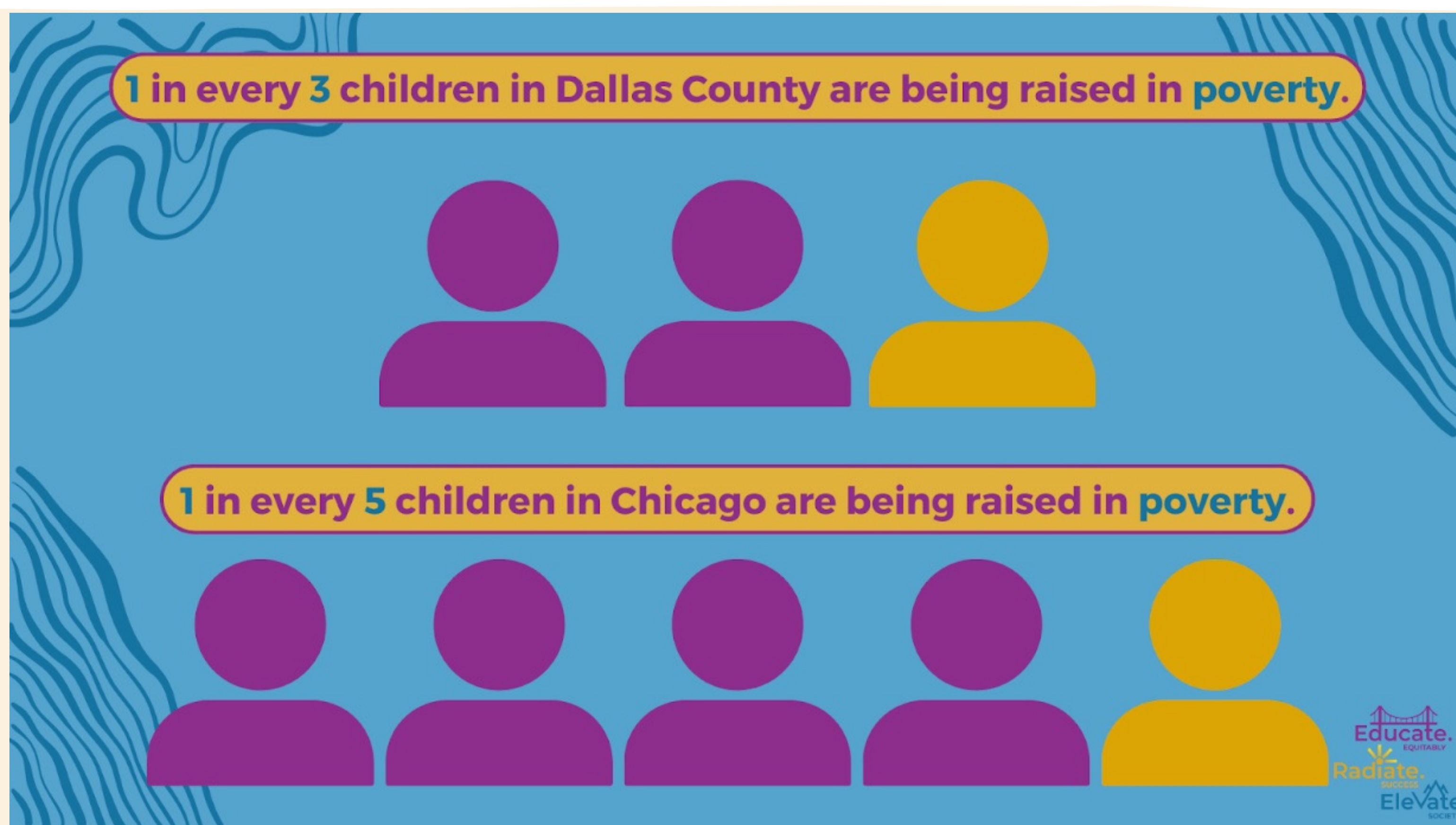
Make an Impact this Thanksgiving



What will Thanksgiving look like for you this year? A juicy turkey and a large scoop of mashed potatoes? Your extended family crowded in a kitchen laughing, eating, and sharing stories?

For many Americans, Thanksgiving is a time of food, family, and togetherness. People have fond childhood memories of playing with their cousins in the chilly November air and taking breaks inside to sneak cookies and pieces of pie before dinner. Folks would gather around the table, thanking each other for cooking certain dishes, never stopping to consider the fact that other families do not have the luxury of ten pie options for dessert.

The [Dallas News](#) reported that over 100,000 children are being raised in poverty in Dallas County. And as of 2020, almost 20% of children live in poverty in Chicago according to the [Kids Count Data Center](#). This means that 1 in 3 kids in Dallas and 1 in 5 kids in Chicago won't have a Thanksgiving filled with food and joyful memories. What seems like a given to many is an uncertainty - or even an impossibility - for others.



A household's uncertainty of where its meals will be coming from - if they come at all - creates an environment of stress, anxiety, and fear. This takes a toll on children in the household. Their grades begin to slip because they can no longer focus. Studies included in the [OECD Equity and Quality Education](#) publication indicate that "students from low socio-economic backgrounds are twice as likely to be low performers, implying that personal or social circumstances are obstacles to achieving their educational potential." [Educate. Radiate. Elevate.](#) is dedicated to providing tutoring and support to children in poverty. These highly-qualified tutors are trained to not only help improve academic results, but also to seek out what the student may be experiencing in his/her environment and to utilize a holistic approach, empathy, educational equity, and cultural responsiveness. When we attack the root of a problem, we can resolve the issue.

How can you show your gratitude this Thanksgiving? [Donating](#) to E.R.E. is a perfect way to show your support! Not only will donations help train and compensate our tutors, but each donor can also have the option of providing mobile internet service, tablets, or four months of 1-on-1 online tutoring for our students, based on the amount chosen. Helping to fund our tutors and operations is a unique and impactful way for you to give back this giving season.

Chapter 2:

5 Benefits of Giving Back



Thanksgiving might be the one day of the year we set aside for giving thanks, but is this the end of expressing gratitude? On the contrary, it could be very beneficial to perform acts of kindness every day.

Here are five ways that donating your time and money can actually improve your health.

Boosts Self-Esteem

Low self-esteem is often linked to an individual's tendency to obsessively focus on their own shortcomings, leading to an ego-driven haze. Although this isn't the only factor that contributes to poor self-esteem, it can play a role. According to [HealthyPlace](#), the best way to boost self-esteem is to temporarily forget about yourself and focus on others. Your self-esteem rises when you put into practice how your actions have a positive impact on others. When you're feeling down, recalling these memories can help lift your spirits.

Lowers Depression

Depression can make it difficult to get out of bed in the morning, and suffering from depression means you might face a sense of worthlessness. Giving back highlights your value and helps to dispel your internal notion that what you're doing is insignificant. Contributing to others' well-being not only benefits those in need, but can also be beneficial in minimizing your own low moments.

Helps with Social Connections

Whenever you contribute to others, your generosity is more than likely to be reciprocated by others in the future. When we contribute to others, we not only make them feel closer to us, but we also feel closer to them. These exchanges foster a bond of trust and solidarity that improves our ties with them. Being friendly and generous influences your perception of others, causing you to see them more positively and generously.

Lowers Stress

When you are stressed or confronted with a threat, your body releases adrenaline and cortisol into the bloodstream. These hormones cause you to fight or flee and can cause harm to practically every organ in your body over the long term. According to [8 Health Benefits Of Giving Back](#), a study on volunteers discovered a link between decreased cortisol levels and acts of kindness. The degree of stress was reduced on the days when they participated in philanthropic activities. Bottom line: If you're having a hard day at the office, do help someone else instead of yourself.

Evokes Gratitude

Giving or receiving a gift can evoke and reinforce feelings of gratitude in both the giver and the recipient. Appreciation is essential to one's happiness, health, and social relationships. According to [5 Ways Giving Is Good for You](#), University of Michigan researchers Robert Emmons and Michael McCullough discovered that educating college students to “count their blessings” and cultivate thankfulness resulted in them exercising more, being more positive, and generally feeling better about their life. One of the essential factors in boosting personal happiness is fostering thankfulness in one's daily existence.



How Can You Give Back?

One way is to donate to Educate. Radiate. Elevate.'s tutoring program. E.R.E. is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing academic and emotional support to low-income children. We are committed to assisting as many students as possible in realizing their full potential. We are giving back to help make the world a better place, and you can do the same.



Chapter 3:

E.R.E.'s Two Year Anniversary!



Educate. Radiate. Elevate. is celebrating our two-year anniversary.

With many milestones reached and more goals to aim for, we continue to reaffirm our mission and purpose to uplift those in need.

On November 16, 2022, Educate. Radiate. Elevate. turns two years old! Our first two years have been successful beyond the Founder's imagination. The organization has grown exponentially, a testimonial to how our focus on equity, education, and social-emotional learning resonates with so many people. Our students are experiencing massive growth - far greater than predicted.

E.R.E. is at a stage of such rapid growth that fundraising is a top goal so as to continue providing high-quality tutoring services to students of underserved communities. We will continue to pursue our goal of increasing student numbers by 50% each term, which will increase our program costs. In addition, we hope to obtain enough funding to begin offering in-person lessons for younger students and students with Learning Difficulties. And, as a quickly growing organization, we also need to establish paid senior staff positions to maximize efficiency. At this stage, funding is the only thing holding E.R.E. back from incredible growth.



Our “Why”

“As adults, we tend to underestimate kids, thinking we know better,” said Lindsey Wander, the Founder and President of E.R.E. “Kids are wiser than we may think. They usually just need the proper support to lead them down their own path of discovery and growth.”

Wander, a veteran educator and the founder and CEO of [WorldWise Tutoring](#) started E.R.E. to help eradicate the severe effects of pandemic school closures and overcome ongoing inequalities in education. While all students had to pivot during the pandemic, low-income students of color suffered at high rates due to a lack of access to remote learning, poor instruction, and unstable home environments.

A study published in [Teachers College Record](#) has shown that low-income students underperform when compared to their higher-income peers. And this disparity is doubled when it comes to students of color.



“There is a massive waste of human talent and opportunity that we risk if achievement gaps are not closed,” Wander said. “We are not only still leaving behind whole groups of children, but our failure to educate all our children to the highest levels means students in America overall are being left behind in a world where global competition is increasingly tough.”

Our “How”

To combat this, E.R.E. not only helps students with academics but also with learning and life skills, enabling them to become lifelong learners, conscious leaders, and agents of change. Each student gets paired with one tutor per four-month term and receives 18 hours of one-on-one instruction. Additionally, E.R.E. hires accomplished tutors who undergo extensive training and are capable of working with students of all abilities. Most importantly, though, these tutors genuinely care about the young learners they partner with.

“There is nothing more rewarding than lifting the wings of bright minds and watching them fly towards the clouds, just as I continue my flight forward,” said Tenzing, an E.R.E. tutor. “Spaces provided by E.R.E. uplift and remind us that students matter; their stories, and saliency are precious parts of our collective journey through education.”

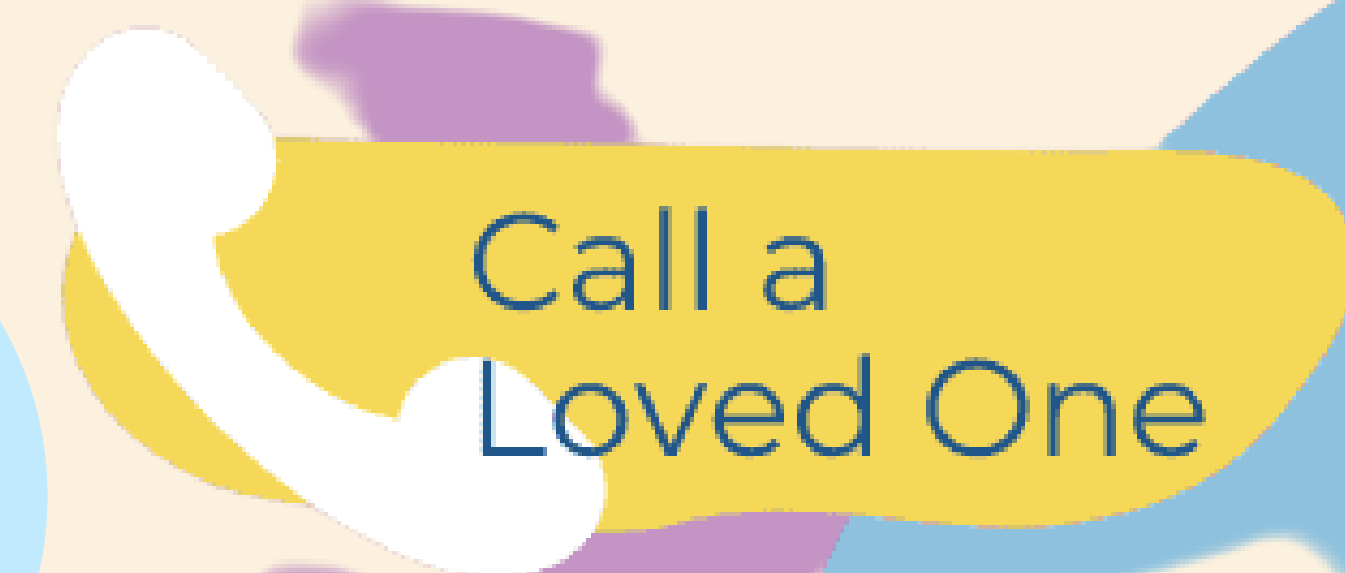
You Can Help!

Although E.R.E. already counts on many tutors, volunteers, donors, and nonprofits for support, we need your help! Please visit [E.R.E.'s Donate page](#) and make a donation to ensure our youth have the tools to succeed and become successful, productive members of society. We have done so much in just two years, but we need your help to do even more in the coming years!



Chapter 4:

5 Random Acts of Kindness Ideas



Random acts of kindness are simple gestures that are meant to brighten a person's day or assist them when they are in need of help. They can be quick and easy, and they make a big impact! Here are five that you can do.

Call a loved one

Allocating a few minutes out of the day to catch up with a loved one may seem like a small act, but it can make a huge impact in his/her life – especially if you make it a habit. So, call every few days or every week to make a real difference in the lives of those you love! You can simply say, “I just wanted to call and say I love you!” or “I wanted to hear a little bit about your day before my appointment in 20 minutes!” It is especially important to call our family members that are in their later stages in life because they do not have many opportunities to socially interact with others, and even a quick conversation on the phone can improve their mood and mental health.

Pay it Forward

An easy act of kindness like paying it forward often has a big effect! At the very least, this random act of kindness could brighten the person’s day. At the most, it could help someone that is struggling financially. While a typical paying it forward scenario involves purchases, there are also ways to creatively pay it forward with our actions. You can give up your seat on a bus, leave an uplifting note for someone to find, or allow the person in line behind you at the grocery store to check out before you. The point of paying it forward is to take time out of your day to perform a simple action that will benefit another person. The possibilities are endless!

Give a Compliment

A simple compliment can seem small and insignificant, but it has so much meaning! Simple compliments like “I love your outfit!” or “Your presentation at the meeting today was great!” do not take much effort, but they could be exactly what that person needed to hear. Not only can giving a compliment boost someone’s mood and confidence, and it’s also a way of saying to that person, “I see you.” When our lives become busy and hectic, it is easy to choose to focus only on ourselves – which can make us feel lonely. By paying a stranger, friend, coworker, or loved one a compliment, we are simultaneously taking care of others while giving ourselves a break from our own lives.

Volunteer

Choosing to volunteer is such a selfless act, and you can easily make it personal. If you care about helping underserved youth in your community, you can call a local nonprofit that provides care or resources for children. Volunteering will allow you to improve your community while doing something you feel good about!

Educate. Radiate. Elevate. is so grateful for its volunteers. They uniquely use their gifts in tutoring, lesson planning, research, marketing, management, and more! If you’re interested in volunteering for E.R.E., [click here](#). We want you to join our growing team!

Donate

Choose a nonprofit that is doing work you are passionate about and help provide the financial support it needs to continue doing its work! Nonprofits are fully funded by grants and donors, so your donation will be extremely appreciated. When you donate, you get to help a charitable organization improve your community, which will in turn improve your life. It's a win-win! This random act of kindness is arguably the easiest of the 5, and it can make the biggest impact. If you are passionate about education, the achievement gap, equity in education and your community, and underserved children Educate. Radiate. Elevate. is the perfect [nonprofit to donate to](#)! We tutor low-income BIPOC children in grades. Our tutors utilize alternative techniques and approaches that are scientifically proven to raise scores in Math, English Language Arts, and Reading. E.R.E. is more than just a tutoring organization, we want our students to complete their schooling as competent and conscious leaders who are active agents of change in their own lives and the lives of others. [E.R.E.](#) teaches students to be kind, to give to others, and to perform random acts of kindness in their day-to-day lives!

Chapter 5:

Three Meaningful Last-Minute Gift Ideas



With the holidays quickly approaching, it may be time for you to put together some last-minute gifts for friends and family.

Experience Gifts

Experience gifts, such as a trip or activity, are creative and exciting. The receiver has something to look forward to, and most experiences are partner or group activities, so you can reap the benefits as well! An experience gift can be simple - yet thoughtful. A day-pass at a spa, cooking classes, musicals, escape rooms, the possibilities are endless! Groupon is a great resource to check out; it always has a large selection of affordable options. Experiences are perfect for last-minute gifts because you can often purchase them online and simply print out the voucher. Stick the voucher in a holiday card, and you're good to go! Or you could also always take them out to brunch. Nothing says "I care about you" like waffles! Remember - your experience gift does not have to be expensive. You could even offer to bring your friend/family member to feed ducks pieces of bread at a park, explore colorful murals in your city, etc. The point of an experience gift is for the two of you to spend quality time together doing something enjoyable.

Homemade Gifts

Make your friends and loved-ones gifts! Homemade gifts are cost-effective, easy, and meaningful. You could purchase a picture frame and add a photo of you together, bake them brownies, paint them a picture - there are so many options! I love receiving homemade sugar scrubs - they're the perfect addition to my "me-time nights" - and Pinterest has a ton of easy recipes. The good thing about homemade gifts is that they can be simple. The real gift is the time you spent on it and the personal touches you add.

Examples of Homemade gifts:



Gift a Donation in Someone's Honor

The last gift idea - and our personal favorite - is to donate in your gift receiver's name! The holidays are about sharing and giving back. Donating is as simple as clicking a button, and it is so unique and impactful.

How to Gift a Donation in Someone's Honor



1

Go to

<https://www.educateradiateel-evate.org/donate/>

2

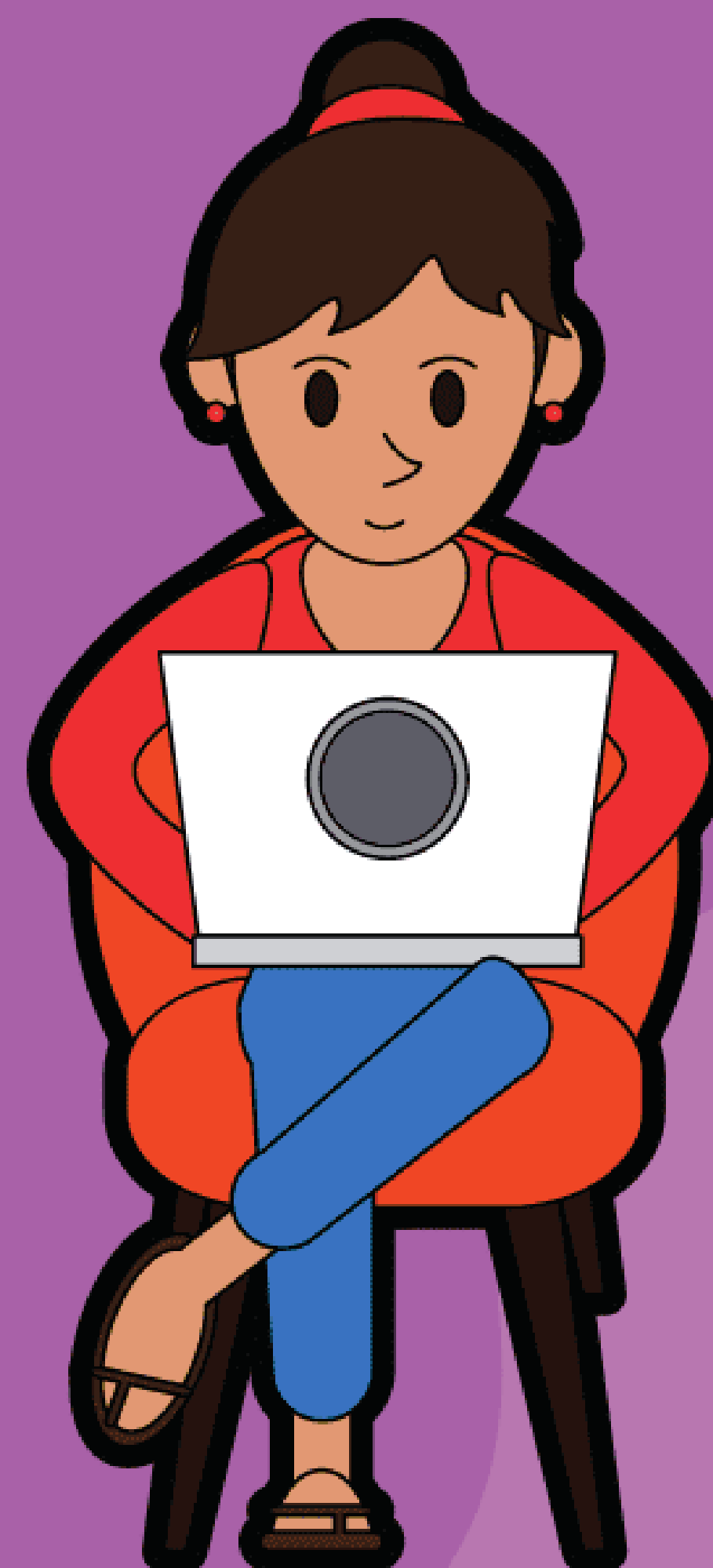
Choose your donation amount. There are many options to pick from!

3

Check the "Make your donation in honor or in memory of someone else" box, and fill in your Honoree's name!

4

Finish your donation by clicking "Next" and adding your payment info!





To make donating an individual experience, E.R.E. allows donors to choose what their money is used for, and they have the option to donate in someone's honor. So, not only can you gift a donation, but you can also tell your loved one how their gift will be used to make a real difference! For instance, you can donate wifi for our students in honor of your tech-savvy friend or 1-on-1 tutoring in honor of your relative that teaches. Imagine how exciting it would be to know that your gift is improving a student's life! Whether you choose an experience, a homemade gift, or a donation, we at E.R.E. are so excited to celebrate these holidays of gratitude and giving with you and all of our staff, volunteers, students, and generous donors!



Chapter 6:

The Human Right to a Quality Education



December is Universal Human Rights Month. [Educate. Radiate. Elevate.](#) focuses on education – specifically **equitable access to high-quality education** – as a universal human right.

On December 10th, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations declared their thirty universal human rights, including both education and equality. Unfortunately, 73 years later, our nation is still experiencing inequality in its school systems. Our nation's reality is that, statistically, low-income students of color are behind their peers academically and drop out earlier. These statistics are a direct result of the disadvantaged students lacking the support, financial and societal, that is commonly provided for moderate to high-income students from more privileged families. Additionally, as stated in Charity Navigator, many people in our nation "face discrimination and persecution because of their race, national origin, sex, gender, religion, age, language, or other status." Most low-income BIPOC students frequently face racial discrimination, which leads to disproportionate learning losses and affects the students' mental health.

E.R.E. and Equitable Education

E.R.E. is a non-for-profit that provides personalized tutoring to low-income students of color who have been nominated. We believe in culturally responsive tutoring, uplifting a student's identity, and incorporating the student's social community into their learning. We believe in surpassing general access to education in support of educational equity with the goal of bridging the achievement gap for underrepresented students. This means E.R.E. defines its attempt at achieving educational equity as going above providing equal schooling opportunities for every student to provide high-quality academic support that is rooted in enrichment and social-emotional learning.



will help



We want to go beyond celebrating **Universal Human Rights Month**, go beyond informing ourselves of the current disparities in our world, go beyond simply asking “What can be done about these issues?” - and **make actual change happen!**

We do teach our students **hard skills** in math and ELAR, as well as **soft skills**, such as planning, organization, and creative problem-solving. With these skills, we hope every student can make a significant improvement on his/her educational success.

Hard Skills vs Soft Skills

Hard Skills

Hard skills are measurable and easily defined. They are usually specifically used for one purpose.

Commonly known examples of hard skills include proficiency in reading, foreign languages, and technology.

Soft Skills

Soft skills are more universal and not as easily measurable. They are often able to be used in many aspects of one's life.

Commonly known examples of soft skills include adaptability, collaboration, and emotional intelligence

By providing our students with a variety of learning and life tools, we are helping them grow into successful, well-rounded humans.

We run mainly on [donations](#). Donors can choose to provide laptops, wifi, and/or tutors for our local students. We wanted to make donating an individual experience, so you can pick what makes sense for you financially and know exactly where your donation is going. We would greatly appreciate your support! Join the movement to create an environment that hosts an equitable, high-quality education for students in our country's school system.

Join Us!

Join E.R.E. in taking action to bridge the achievement gap for underprivileged students.



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