

NAME: NEHA PANDA

TITLE: A WAY OF HELPING

GRADE: 2ND

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I volunteered in an organization called Greenkids. It has all kinds of projects to help the earth. My first project was to tell people how harmful the bottle caps are to animals. They are made out of plastic that can not be recycled with bottles. When they are not recycled, they float into ocean where birds might eat them and die. We collected them and send them to bottle cap recycling centers. The good thing about this project is that it makes the Earth cleaner and keeps the animals alive. We educate people through speeches. I hope that people will send the bottle caps to bottle caps recycling centers instead of regular recycling centers. I think most people will do.

We collected, cleaned and sorted the bottle caps based on their colors and sizes. Then we made different projects out of it. We made a boy, a girl and an Earth out of bottle caps. The boy and girl were actually holding that Earth. There was an art exhibit. I also made a butterfly out of my old crayons and clouds out of plastic bags for that exhibit. Many people did not know how harmful bottle caps are, including my parents, my teachers, even the Mayor of Fremont city council. That made me realize that you can never stop learning. We still learn when we are grown ups.

I am happy to collect bottle caps because I can help the Earth. Each time I get some caps I feel more encouraged. For the first few times, I was nervous to talk in front of others. But I am getting better each time. I feel warm inside because I am helping the Earth to be cleaner. The Earth gives us so much and we give nothing in return. It gives us iron, wood, and many other things. So taking care of nature is helping Earth. It gives us the things that we humans need. We can not be careless about the Earth thinking it will still help us. For example, in a garden you are growing your favorite vegetables and if you do not water, it won't grow. I realized that if you are helping the Earth, you are helping yourself as well as lots of other people. Everything that is alive is powered by mother nature. The Earth depends on all of us. If everyone does their share, Earth will be beautiful and greener. Helping the Earth is doing good deed and being helpful. It makes you feel happy. It makes you feel warm and cozy as if you are sitting by fireplace in winter with a hot cup of cocoa. It gives you satisfaction and you feel great that you have done something good for yourself and many other people too. Caring for Earth is taking care of millions of people around the world. I feel this way because for our survival we need air, water and food from nature.

Volunteering is special because being nice to things and people around you can makes things better than they used to be. Whatever you do always gives you a

good feeling. If you help others you always feel glad about it. I believe Earth is a place to be taken care of properly. While volunteering for Green kids, I had a chance to give my plans to the Mayor of Fremont for a special reason. We asked him if the government could help us with our plan. I felt proud talking to the Mayor. We were also in the newspaper and in TV. I felt special because they were different from all the things I have done before. Volunteering taught me many new things.

I have been a member of Green kids for almost two years. I work only few hour a week. I do different kinds of jobs. I do art projects, cleaning up and talking to people. I like to work with the organization because there are a variety of work. I am proud that some of my free time is utilized regularly. I feel contented that my time and effort is utilized towards keeping the Earth cleaner. Some of my friends have been helping me in collecting bottle caps. My own family and friends of mine have made a habit to take out the bottle caps out of the bottle before putting them in recycling bin. It has also taught a habit to take them to proper recycling centers. It is really a good feeling to teach people some good habit. What made me even happier is atleast because of me some bottle caps are dealt with properly and I hope to do better in future.