

Melinda Forward, NBCT Mural Portfolio

KINDNESS CLUB
♥ International



Where Everyone belongs
and we All have a voice

**Building StressLess Schools that are
connected, healthy, and inspiring
so everyone can thrive.**



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Meet Melinda Forward

Founder and Creative Director
Kindness Club International

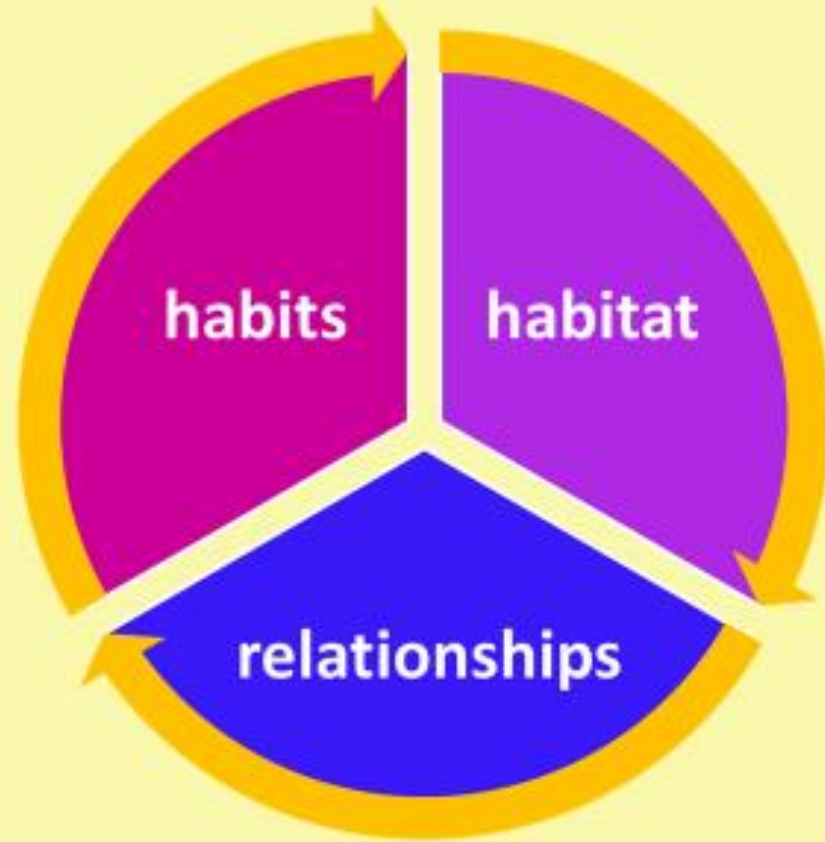
Melinda Forward is a National Board Certified Teacher with 27 years of experience in education. She founded Kindness Club International in response to the growing negativity and stress in schools. Her program is dedicated to teaching students how they can make a positive difference in their learning environments.

Melinda uses muraling as a mentorship tool to build stronger relationships with students because students are the artists who bring the murals to life. Melinda gets them started. They do the rest.



Environment ↔ Relationship

Interactive environments build relationships.



Making a mark!
Bringing people together, one mural at a time.



Media and Features

ASCD – DREAM Walls - Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind Eric Jensen, Building Student Voice - [WATCH HERE](#)

KRQE - Whittier Elementary Kicks Off Mural Festival -- [WATCH HERE](#)

KRQE - Kennedy Middle School Kicks Off Spring Kindness Campaign - [WATCH HERE](#)

Albuquerque ALIBI - *The Art of Kindnesses* Clark Conde : [READ HERE](#)

TEDxABQ Education 2017 - Melinda Forward - *Revolution through 1,000 Thank Yous* - [WATCH HERE](#)



Current Kindness Club Murals Include:

- Albuquerque Aquarium – Otter Riverbed Mural
- Three Little Birds Café & Co. – “Be the Change” Tree (Mural Fest 2018)
- Highland High School – DREAM Wall & Sidewalk Talk
- Van Buren Middle School – Sidewalk Talk, Kindness Tree, Happy Hearts, Be the Change Tree, DREAM Wall, Pony Wall Project, Your VOICE Matters
- Emerson Elementary School – Be the Change & Kindness Tree
- McKinley Middle School – Kindness Tree & Dream Wall
- Alameda Elementary School – Kindness Tree
- Kennedy Middle School - Be the Change Tree – Cougars Rise
- Whittier Elementary School – Community Savanna, Be the Change Tree, Kindness Tree, Community Garden, DREAM Wall (1-week Mural Festival)
- McCollum Elementary School – “Be the RAINBOW”
- Garfield Middle School – Kindness Tree & Dream Wall
- Wilson Middle School – Kindness Tree

Van Buren Middle School

where Kindness Club International murals began with the first Kindness Tree and Happy Hearts & Hands Murals



Community Murals
build collaboration
skills, ownership,
and pride.

Students work
together to add hills to
the Kindness Tree
Mural.



The First Kindness Tree

Van Buren Middle School - March 2018



Mural with a Message



Symbols in the Kindness Tree Mural

The Kindness Tree promotes Amelia Earhart's message about the power of a single act of kindness. Different elements of the mural are symbols for life.

- Chameleon – Change with environment that is temporary
- Butterflies – Transformation that is permanent
- Leaves – Growth
- Flowers – Beauty
- Roots – The power kindness has to spread in the world
- Hills – Life has ups and downs and kindness can make the downs easier
- Handprints – We are all in this together

Students learn how they can spread kindness from A to Z through Whole-School Lessons.

"A single act of kindness..." Challenge Reflection

Write and/or draw a picture that represents your experience taking this challenge to spread kindness and inspire change.



NAME: _____

Kindness Club International "A single act of kindness..." Challenge

Do you know about the "Butterfly Effect", where even the flap of a butterfly's wings makes a difference in the world? You are challenged to take small actions to spread intentional kindness and inspire change. Color and label a butterfly as you do each action from A to Z.

- ASK questions.
- BELIEVE in yourself.
- CHEER someone on.
- DREAM BIG!
- ENCOURAGE someone.
- FIND a friend.
- GIVE a hug.
- HELP someone.
- INSPIRE someone.
- JUMP for joy.
- KEEP your cool.
- LISTEN actively.
- MAKE a friend.



- NOTICE nature.
- ORGANIZE an event.
- PRAISE someone.
- QUESTION obstacles.
- RESPECT, always.
- SHARE a smile.
- TRANSFORM your world.
- UNDERSTAND challenges.
- VOLUNTEER.
- WRITE a thank you note.
- X-RAY vision through obstacles
- YELL: "I got this!"
- ZERO tolerance of negativity.

Kindness Tree Mural Portfolio

Kindness Tree - Emerson Elementary

A single act of kindness throws out roots in
all directions, and the roots spring up
and make new trees.

- Amelia Earhart



Kindness Tree at Alameda Elementary School



Kindness Tree at Ernie Pyle Middle School



Kindness Tree at Garfield STEM School



Community members bring the tree to life during the Garfield Spring Fling event.



Kindness Tree – McKinley Middle School



Student engagement builds ownership and pride.



Butterflies symbolize transformation. Murals transform people and communities.



McKinley Middle School

Kindness Tree Wilson Middle School



2019 Earth Day Community Tree Van Buren Middle School



Community engagement creates ownership.



The Evolution of Kindness Club International Murals

What began as one mural with an afterschool Kindness Club at Van Buren Middle School, didn't stop there. It started inspiring new murals and then spread to other schools.

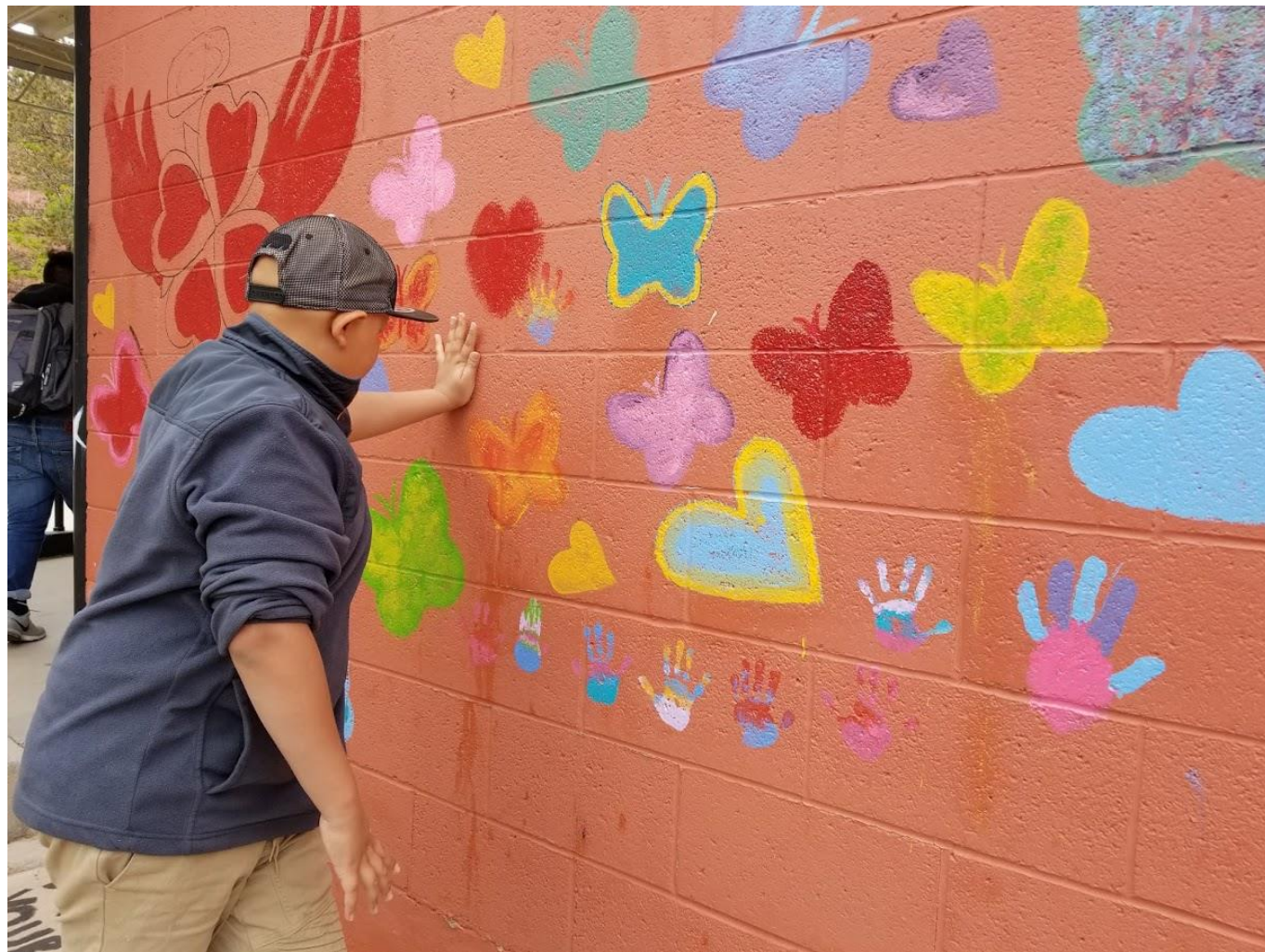
All KCI murals are a collaboration between students, staff, and community members. They all have messages to share, designed to be conversation starters that grow student voice and inspire action.

As of July 2019, Melinda Forward has installed 2 large-scale public murals in addition to 31 Kindness Club murals in 14 different schools

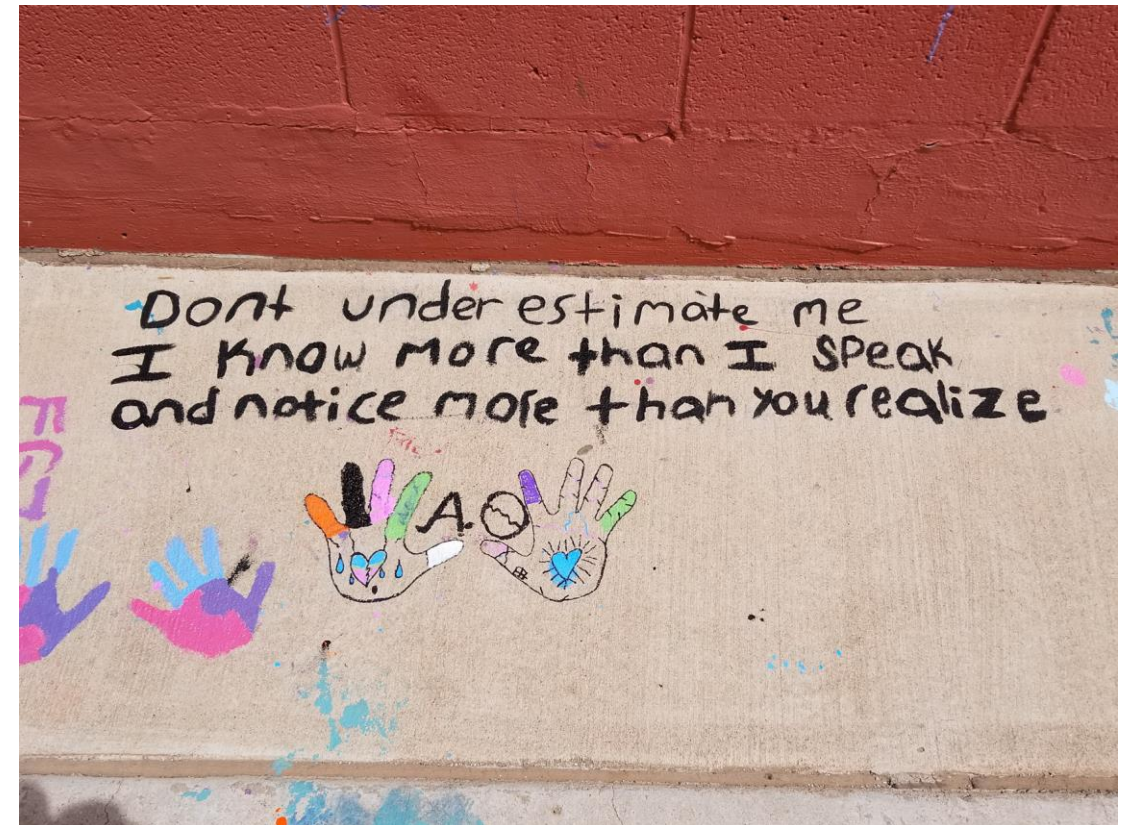
“Transforming the world, one heart at a time.”
Van Buren Middle School



Happy Hearts & Hands Mural Van Buren Middle School



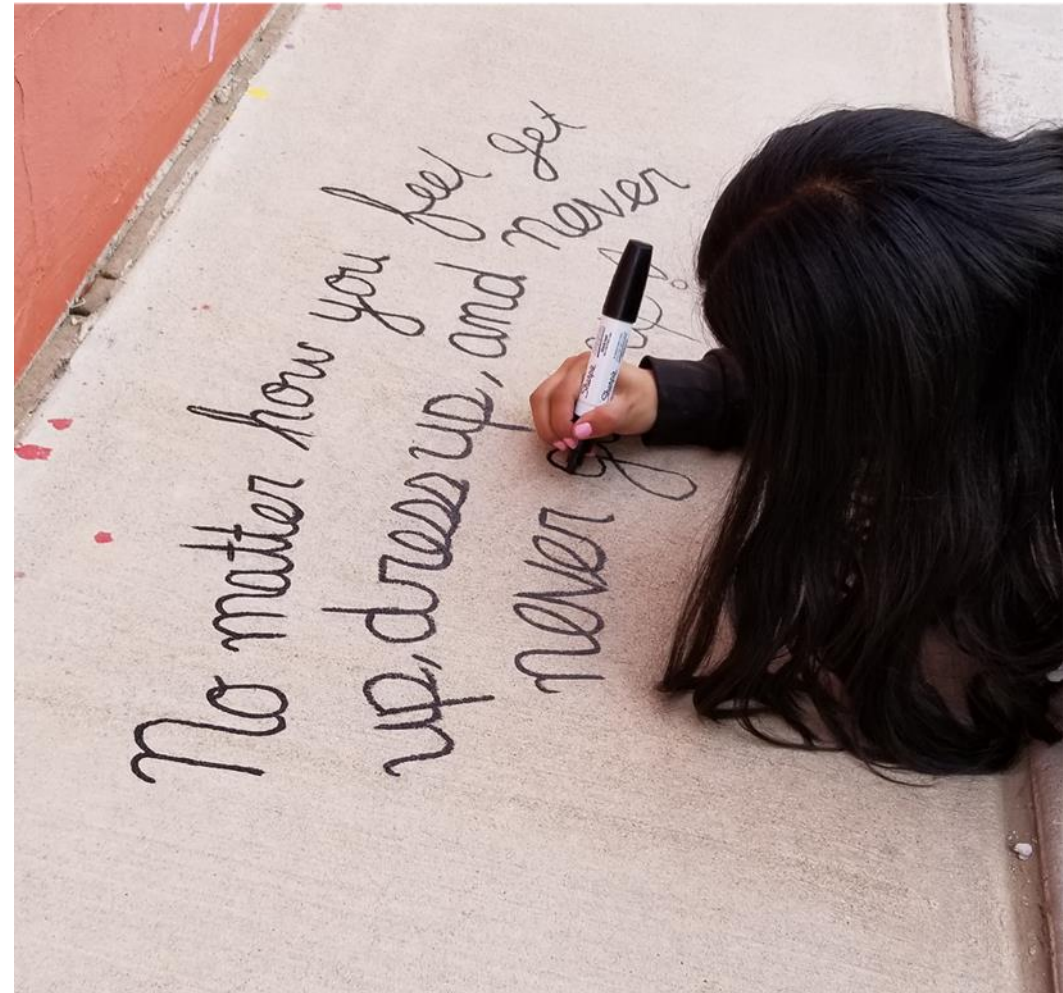
“Sidewalk Talk” Project Van Buren Middle School



Student Sidewalk Talk Reflection

Describe how you feel now after sharing your ideas through Sidewalk Talk at Van Buren.

Everyday I would walk by this wall not feeling motivated to do anything, but now I walk by this beautiful wall and it makes me super happy and motivated to do new things.
Maria Cordova



Sidewalk Talk at Highland High School

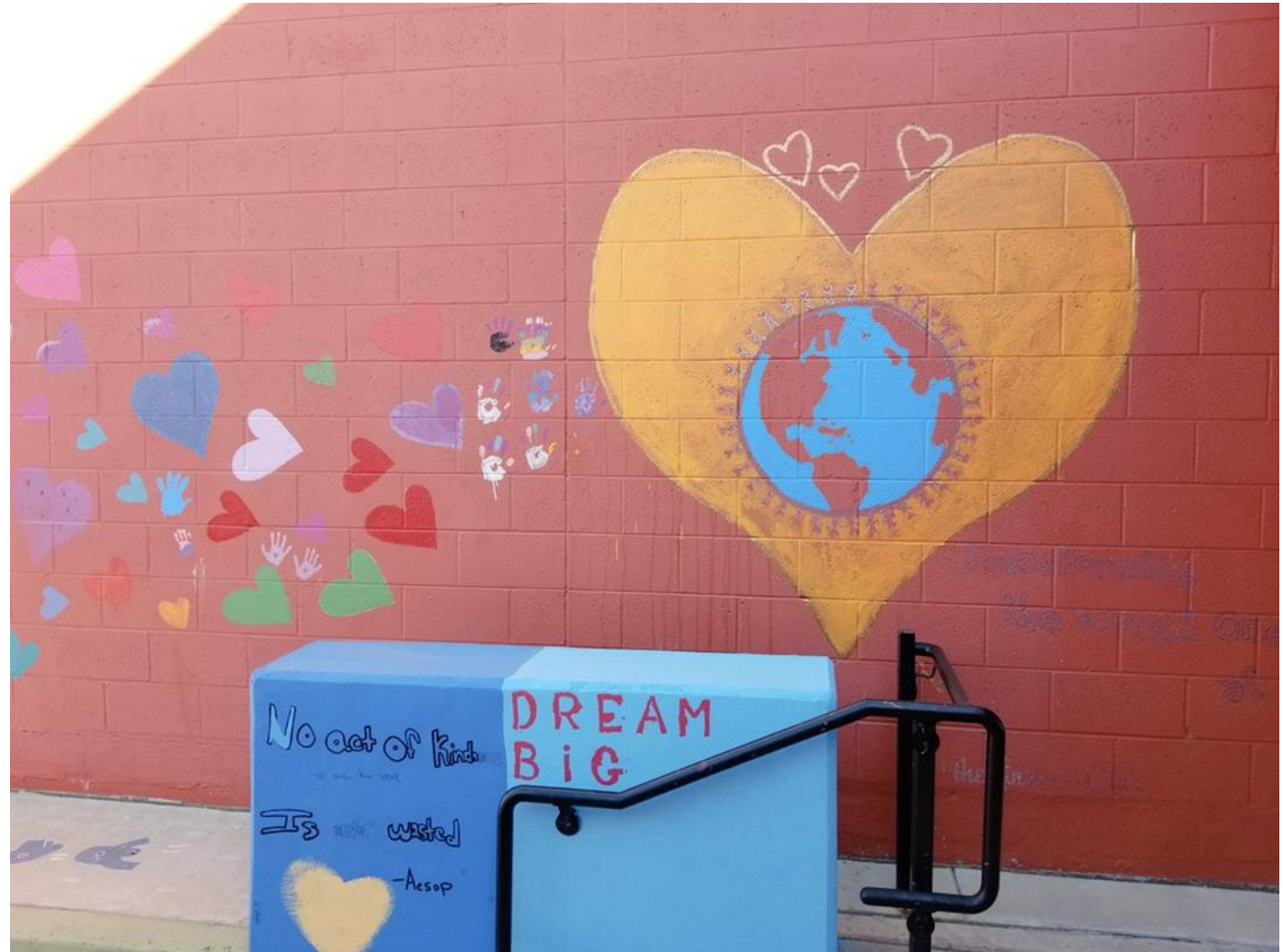


The Pony Wall Project Van Buren Middle School

From Happy Hearts to
Sidewalk Talk to walls...

Transforming pony walls
with inspiring quotes.

Literacy based and
student powered.





No act of Kindness

no matter how small

It's wasted

-Aesop

DREAM BIG!

DONT DREAM
YOU'RE DREAMS
MAKE

“BE the RAINBOW in someone else’s cloud...”
- *Maya Angelou*
McCollum Elementary School



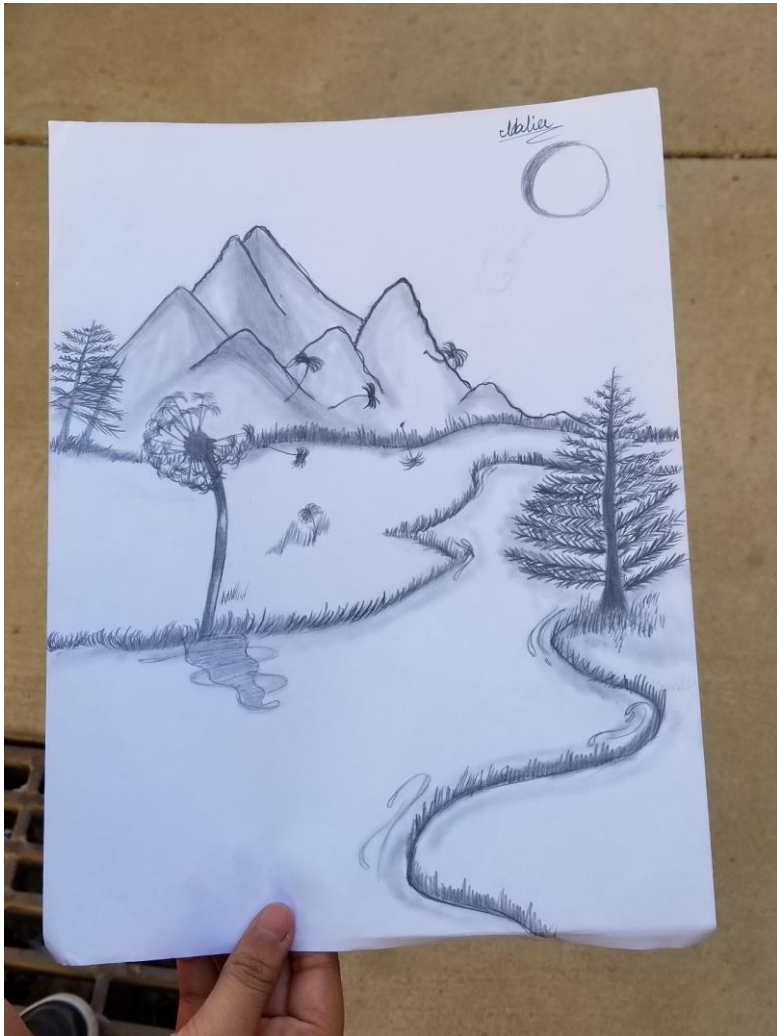


BE the **RAINBOW**
in someone else's **CLOUD**

Maya Angelou

Moving Mountains Mural – Van Buren

Based on an original student design by Idalia (standing)

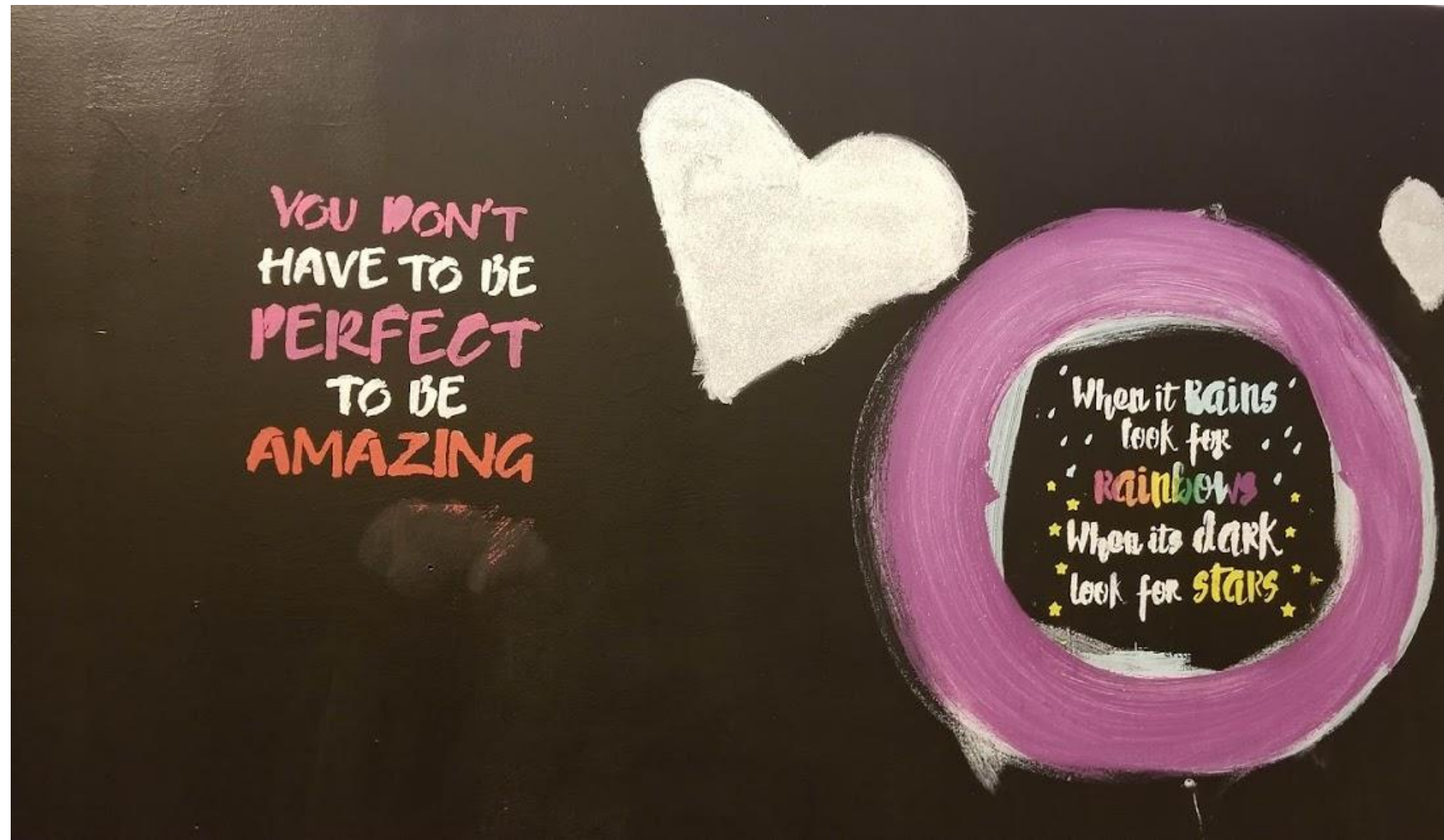


Moving Mountains - Beginning Sketch





Bathroom Stalls Project Van Buren Middle School



FOLLOW
YOUR
HEART

FAMILY
THERE IS ALWAYS
SOMETHING TO BE
GRATEFUL FOR

DON'T
QUIT
YOUR
DREAMS

TRUST
&
BELIEVE

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE
PERFECT
TO BE
AMAZING

BE
HAPPY

When it rains
look for
rainbows
When it's dark
look for stars

GOOD
THINGS
TAKE
TIME

grow
inspire give
shine dream
believe
enjoy create

live
love
laugh

step
SUNSHINE

LET'S GO
ON AN
ADVENTURE

Public Mural Installations

by Melinda Forward

June 2018

Albuquerque Aquarium Otter Exhibit

Inspired silhouettes and integration of flora and fauna into KCI murals. The roadrunner can be found on murals around Albuquerque.

October 2018

Three Little Birds Café & Co – “Be the Change” Tree

Inspired large-scale murals and the spread of the Be the Change Tree murals in local schools. Through the course of a year, the tree evolved to include silhouettes reflecting the school students, mascots and mottos.

Albuquerque Aquarium Otter Exhibit



Melinda Forward worked with another artist, Christian Gallegos, to create a vibrant mural for the new otter exhibit at the Albuquerque Aquarium. More than 240 feet long the mural features 43 2-story trees.

Melinda created projections to add hundreds of creatures along with native New Mexico plants to the original design. This mural brings a new sense of wonder and life to this space featuring two beautiful otters.

This 2-story mural features more than 40 trees.



Trees are the habitat for animals of all sorts and sizes.



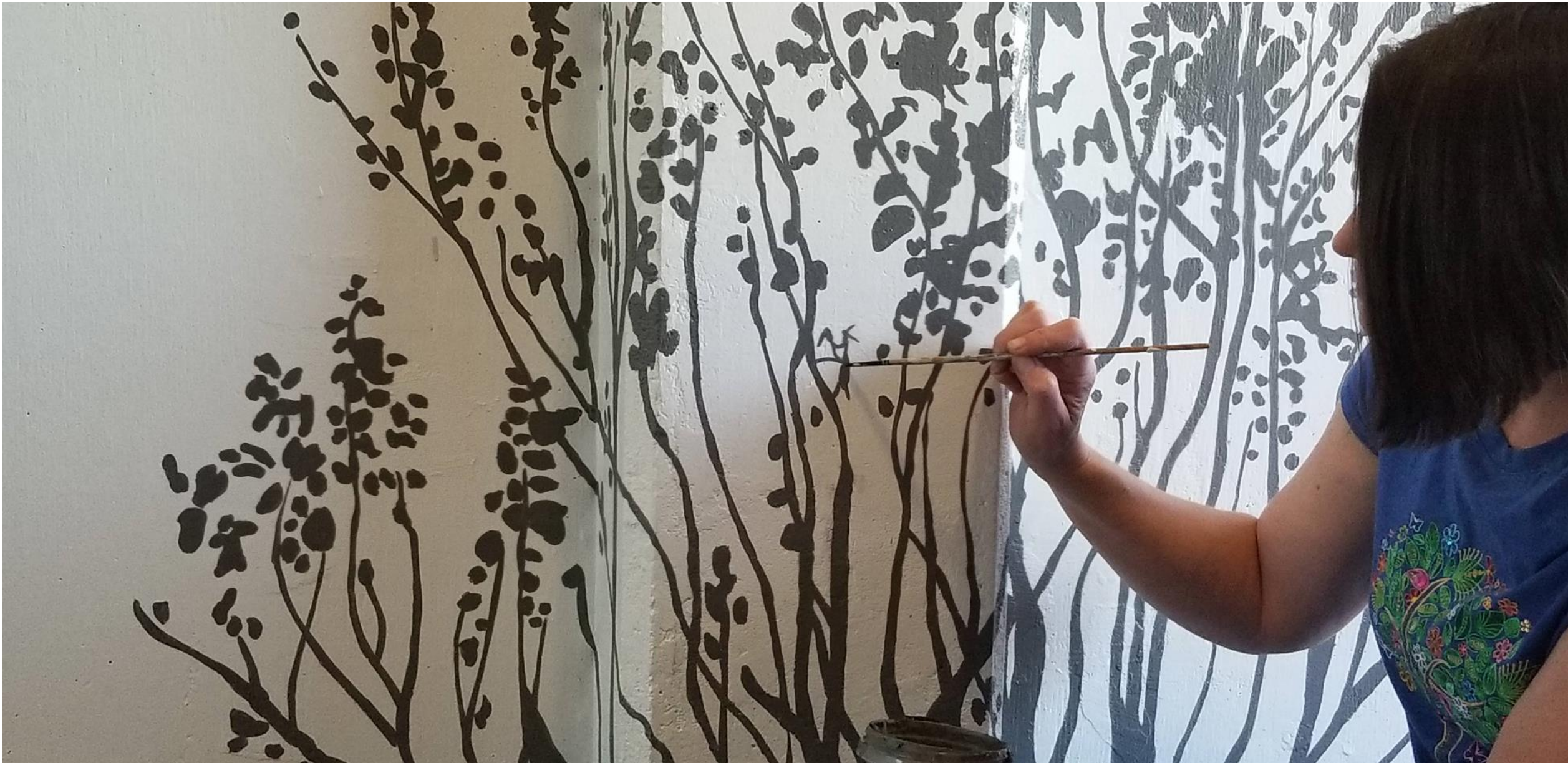
Immerse yourself in the world of the river otters.



Walk along the river bed.



Hundreds of animals await discovery.



Photos become silhouettes of NM flora and fauna.



Go to the
Albuquerque
Aquarium to
experience it
for yourself!



Mural Fest 2018 “Be the Change”

Three Little Birds Café & Co
Tulane and Silver
Nob Hill, Albuquerque

This mural was the first large-scale
“Be the Change” tree. Three Little
Birds sponsored a mural at
Whittier Elementary school.

That led to tree murals sprouting
all across the city.



Before

Tulane & Silver – Nob Hill, Albuquerque



After Mural Fest, awaiting further renovations.



The mural expanded the length of the building.



Silhouettes tell the story of how we can Be the Change.



Community murals brings people together.



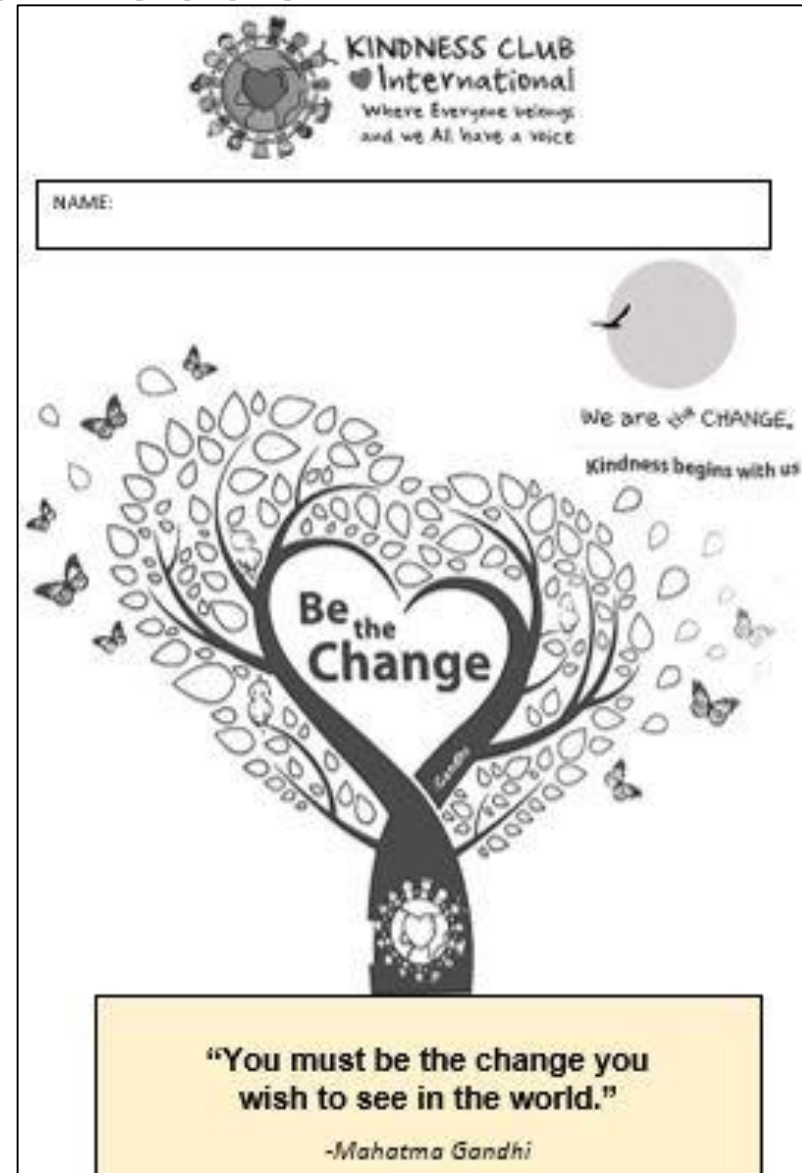
Together we
change our
communities!



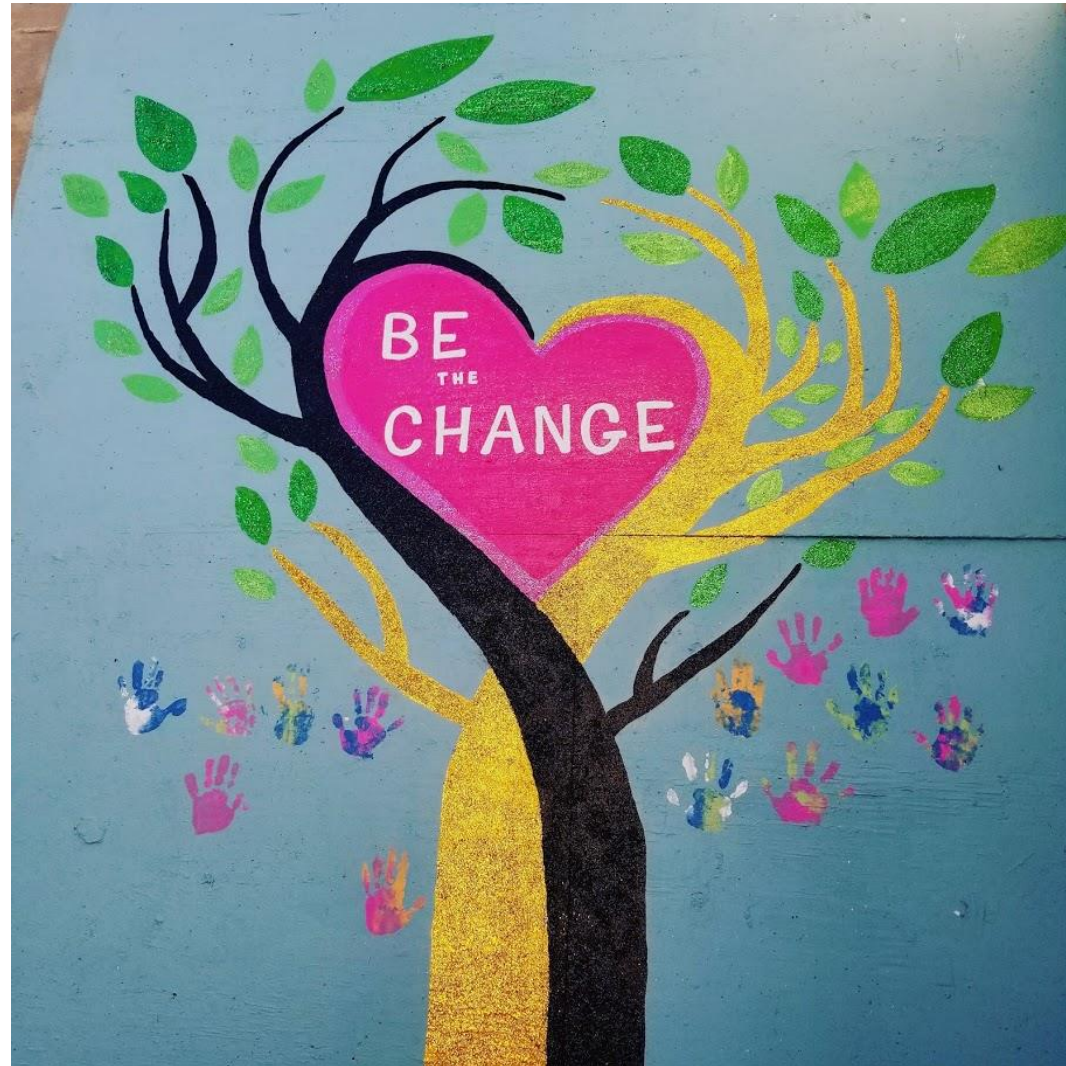
Murals with a Message & a Lesson

Each of my murals is literacy based and is designed to spark conversations that inspire action.

The “Be the Change” mural comes with a student challenge booklet and lesson plans to teach students from A to Z how they can be Change Makers.



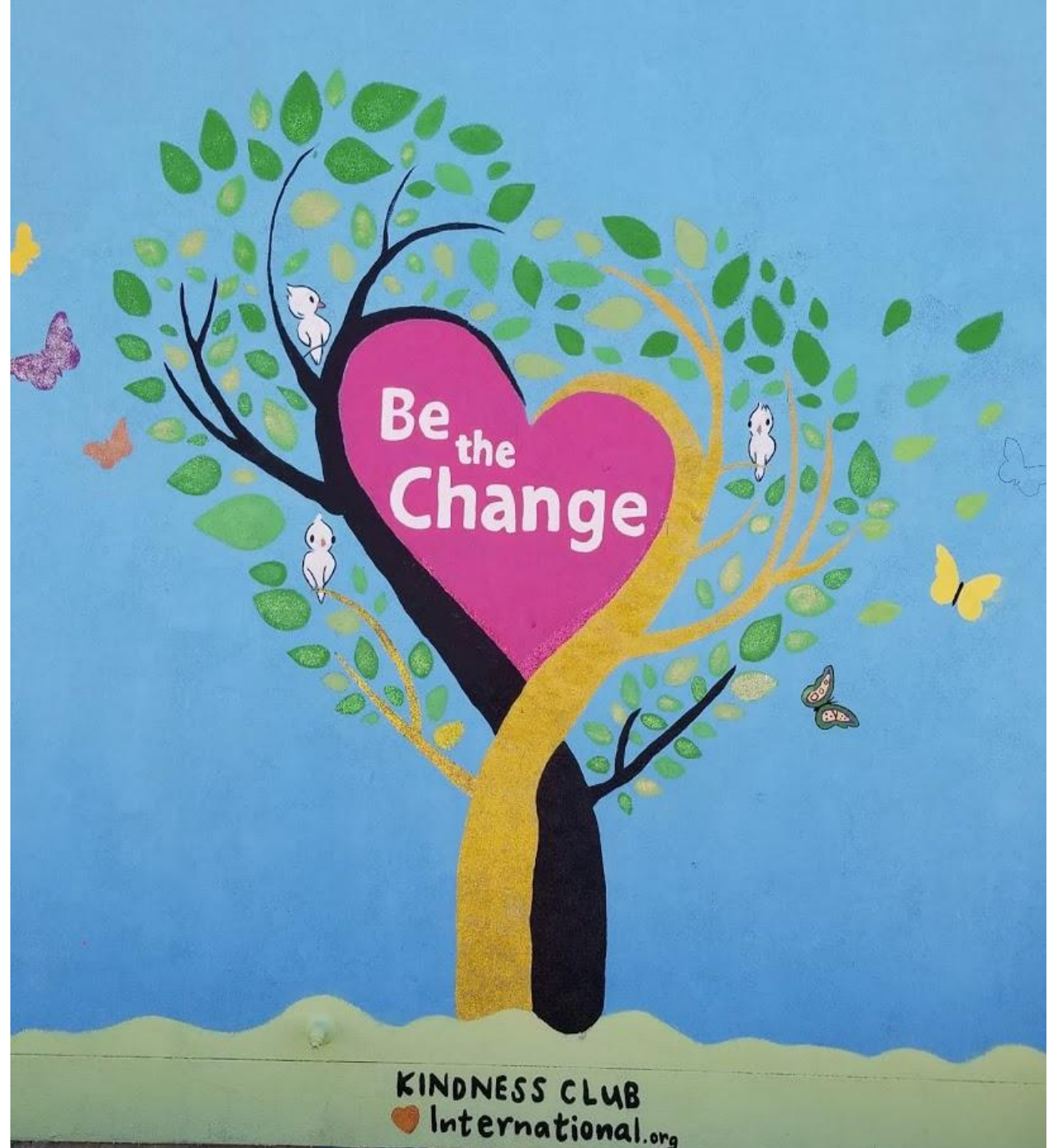
“Be the Change” Tree Emerson Elementary School



“Be the Change” Tree Whittier Elementary School



This project led to t-shirts being designed with the Be the Change Tree and Lion mascot. ALL students and staff at WES received a shirt and then colored them before taking them home.



Whittier Elementary School Community Photo – Mural Festival 2019
Murals build stronger communities through common experiences.
Murals transform more than spaces, they transform people.



"We are the Change." – Cougars Rise

KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL
721



Students Learning Muraling Techniques Kennedy Middle School



"We are the Change" – Falcon Pride Van Buren Middle School



“We are the Change” - Comet Pride

McKinley
COMETS

We are the CHANGE.

Kindness begins with us.



This mural at McKinley Middle School was designed to reflect the school mascot while connecting it with our message of being the change.

The silhouettes in the mural were created using photos of actually students.

The silhouette on the far right is of the custodian who was so helpful and kind to me as I worked on the murals.



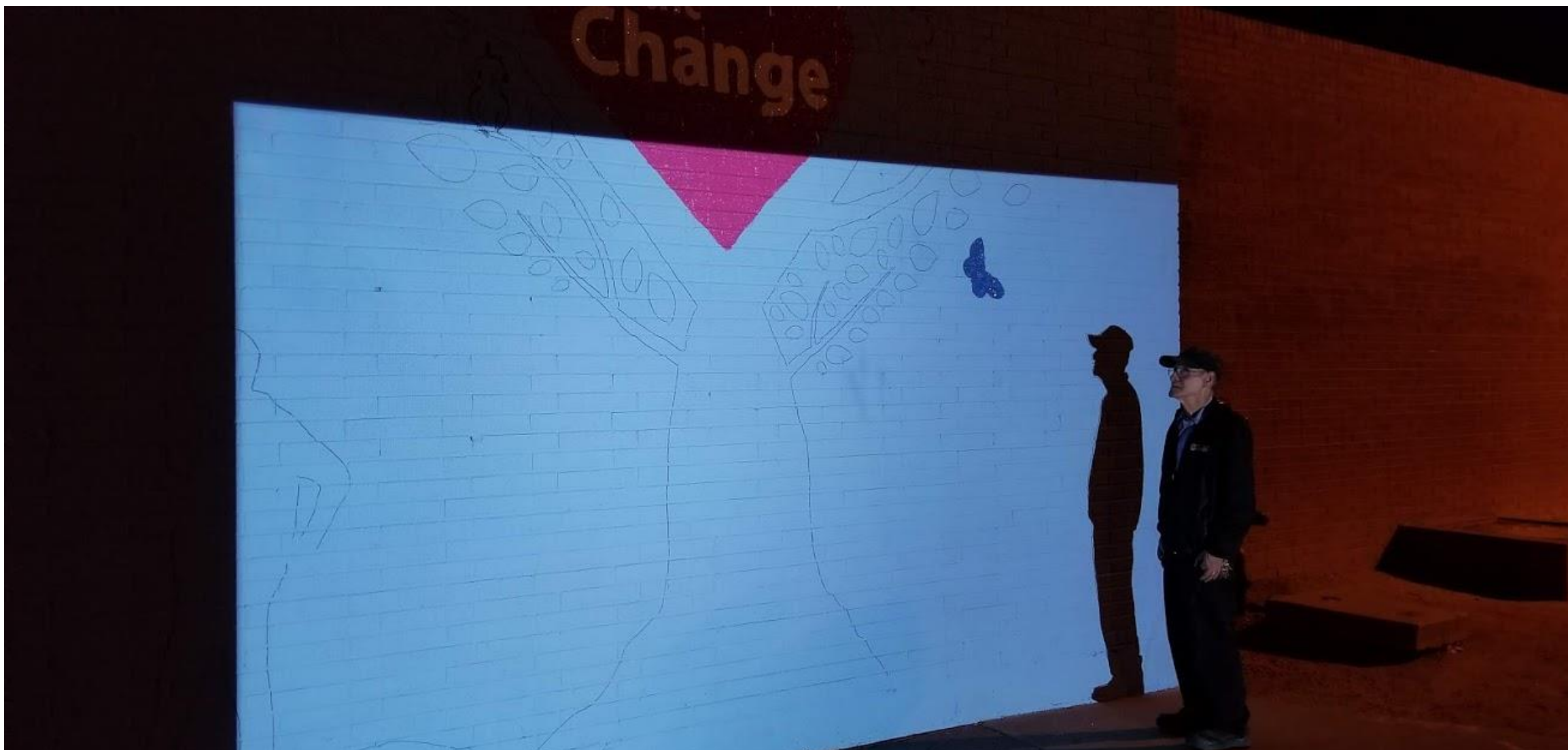
Student Silhouettes



Students painted their own silhouettes to show how they are the change.



The mural celebrates people for their kindness. Vidal, the custodian, was so kind to me everyday I worked on the murals.
Kindness does being with us.



"We are the Change" Cougar Pride
Governor Bent Elementary School



Governor Bent Elementary School 5th graders each painted a hearts blue to make their mark before they move to middle school. The rest of the school will paint hearts in other colors.



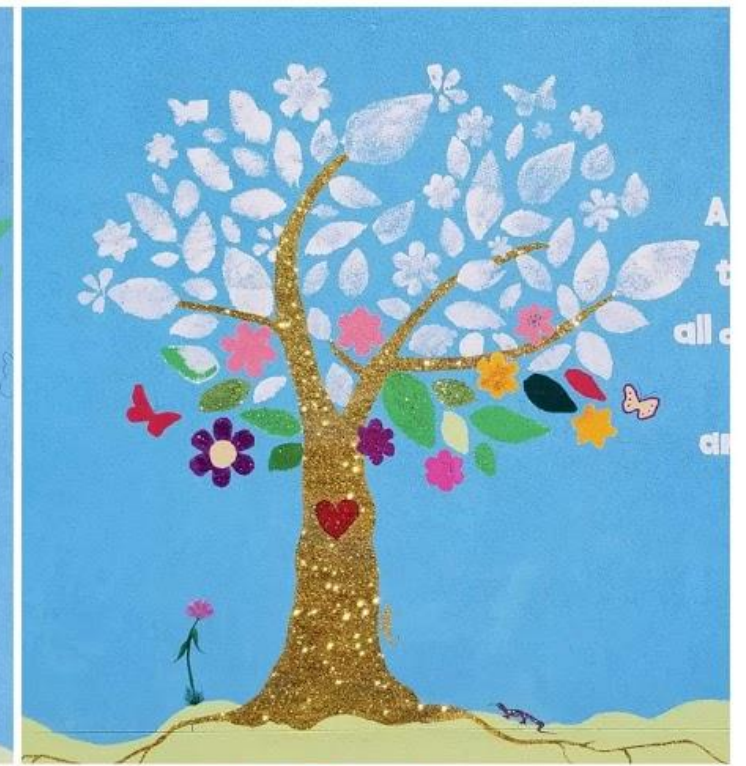
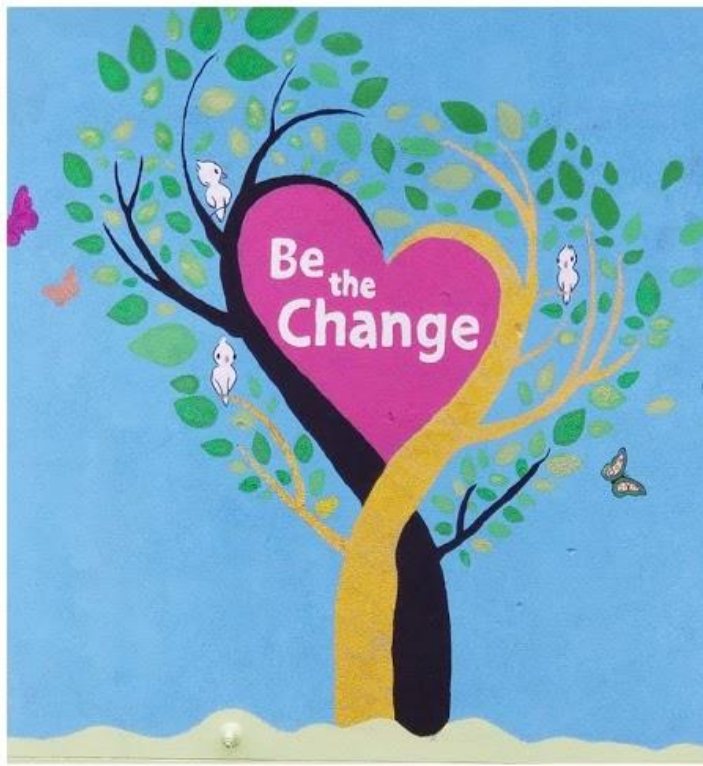
A NEW VISION

After installing one mural at a time at different schools for a year, I decided to try something new to engage even more people: bring a Mural Festival TO a School

In March of 2019 I coordinated a 7-Day Mural Festival at Whittier Elementary School to install 5 Murals. More than 700 people were engaged including students, staff, family, and community members from around the city.



Here are 3 of
the 5 murals
installed at the
Whittier Mural
Festival.



Mural #1
Be the Change

Mural #2
Kindness Tree



Mural #3 Community Savanna



A Mural with a Message: “Hakuna Matata”



Mural #4 Community Garden of Handprint Flowers



Mural #5 DREAM Wall Chalkboard Whittier Elementary School



DREAM Wall Community Chalkboards

These interactive murals are designed using chalkboard paint.

The prompt may be changed to reflect the conversation the school is wanting to lead.

The first Kindness Club DREAM Wall was inspired by artist Candy Chang and her TED talk. The wall was installed at Highland High School in 2014 with the prompt: “Before I die I want to...”

In 2018, Kindness Club modified the prompt as murals were installed at middle and elementary schools. It is now: “During my lifetime I want to...”

Highland High School Community Chalkboard

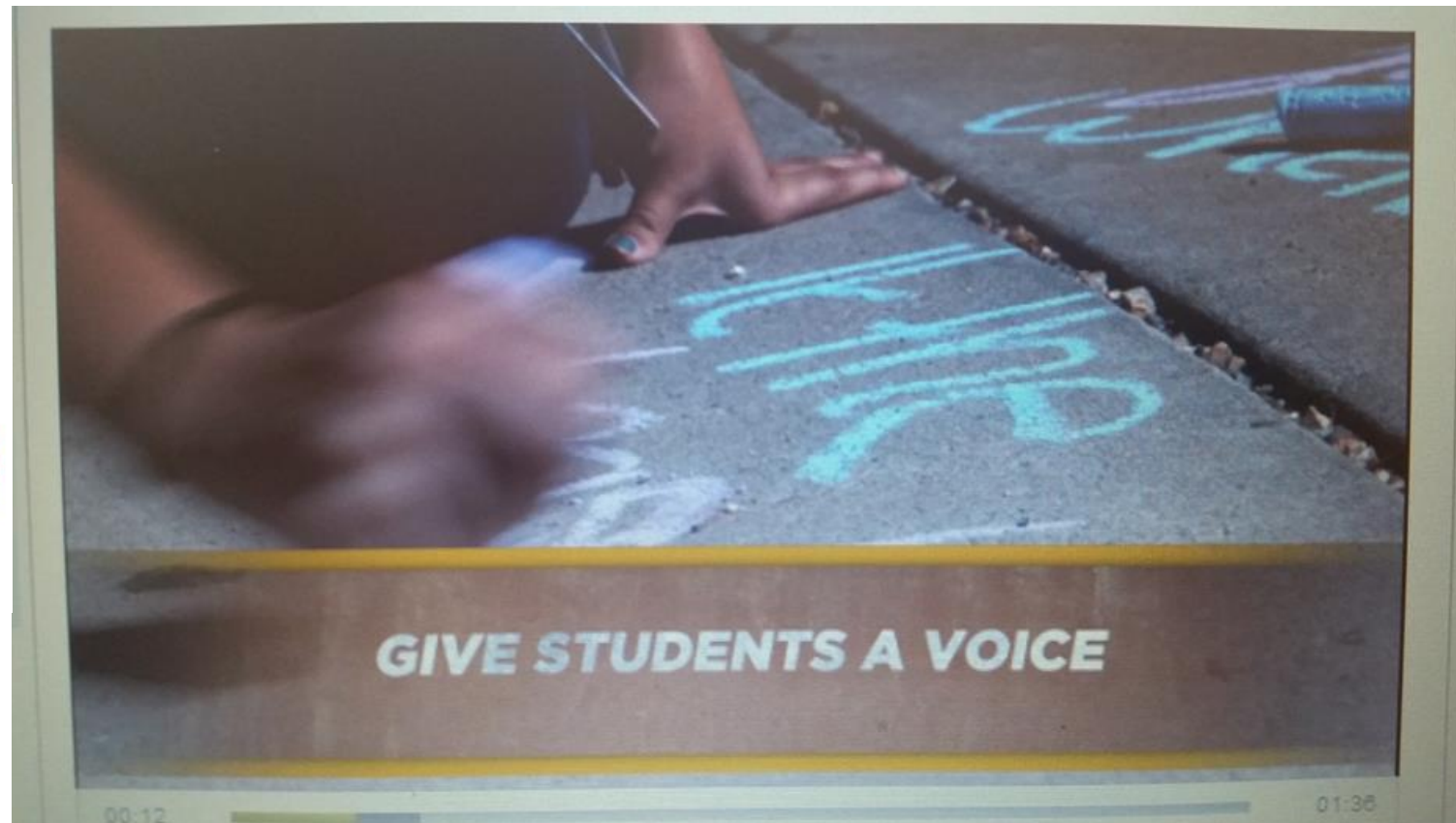
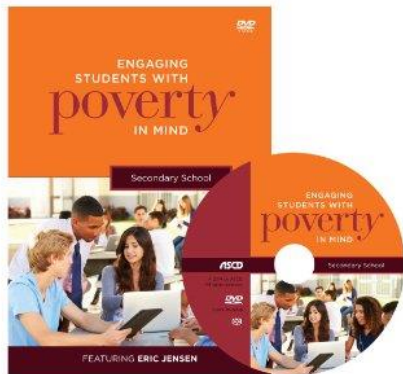


Hear from students about the impact the DREAM Wall.

ASCD Secondary School Video for Dr. Eric Jensen's book:

Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind

[Click here to watch the clip](#)



DREAM WALLS create new opportunities to engage conversations that inspire relationships while building community and ownership.



DREAM Wall Chalkboard Garfield Middle School



DREAM Wall Chalkboard McKinley Middle School



Kindness Tree Mural & DREAM Wall Chalkboard McKinley Middle School



DREAM Wall - Van Buren Middle School





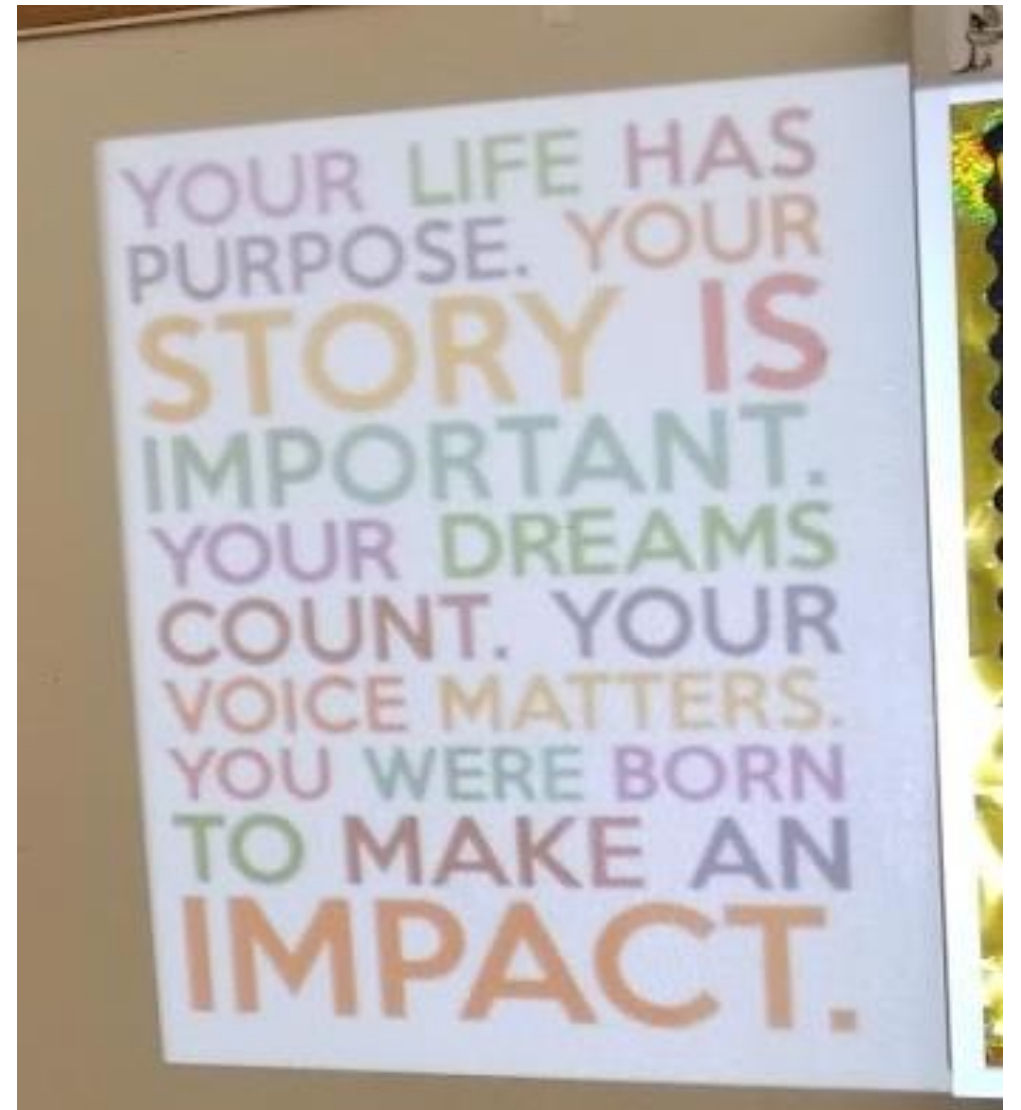
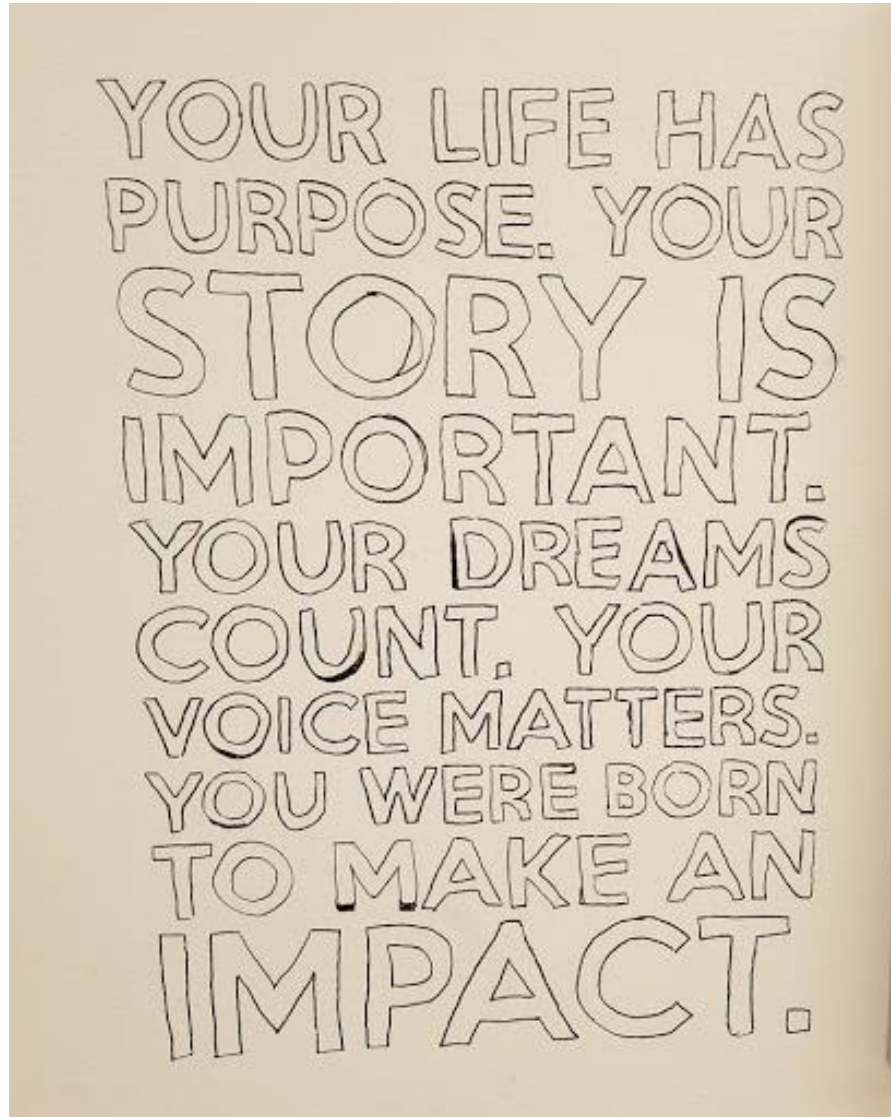
If you can dream it,
you can do it.

-Walt Disney



“YOUR VOICE MATTERS.” Van Buren Middle School

*Mural
in progress*



Making a mark!

Transforming the world, one mural at a time.



Bring Melinda to your school or business to help you create a beautiful mural sure to build a stronger community and inspire positive relationships.

Email: melindasforward@gmail.com

Phone: (505) 977-6547

Fees vary according to size and complexity of mural.

Follow Kindness Club adventures online!



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