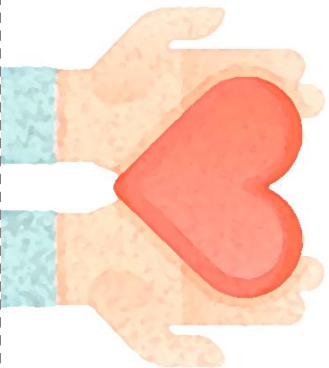




WORD OF LIFE



The Joy of Sharing

Read the Gospel of Matthew 10:8

“You have received without payment; give without payment”

Jesus and the Gospel have a logic of their own. We **receive in order to share**, never so as to accumulate things for ourselves.

He invites all of us to recognize all we have received – **energy, talents, skills, material goods** – and then use them to serve others.



«Throughout the whole Gospel, Jesus asks us to give to others. He tells us to give to the poor, give to anyone who asks us for something, give food to those who are hungry or a coat to those who don't have one.

He was the first to give everything to others. He healed the sick, forgave sinners and gave up his own life for all of us.

GIVE WITHOUT PAYMENT...

SUBSTITUTE GENEROSITY FOR THE SELFISH DESIRE TO HOARD THINGS. INSTEAD OF CONCENTRATING ON OUR OWN NEEDS, FOCUS ON THE NEEDS OF OTHERS. REPLACE THE CULTURE OF HAVING WITH THE CULTURE OF GIVING.



CUT AND FOLD

Love gives us new eyes to understand what others need and to find creative ways to generously help them.

What will be the result? Good will circulate because love attracts love in return. Joy will multiply because *“there is more joy in giving than in receiving”*» (Acts 20:35)¹.

Chiara Lubich / Word of Life 10/2006

Prepared by the Teens4Unity Center, Rome, Italy

In Action

A money box that gives

This is how it works:

On a small card each person writes or draws what they will give or what they will do for others during the next few days (*giving a pen, a smile, a snack, etc.*) Then they put each card into the “money box that gives” (*the box needs to be prepared beforehand*). In this way the money box will be filled up with the generous deeds of each of the participants. At the next meeting each one will open their own “money box” and share their experiences with the others.

Material:

Each person takes home the money box they have prepared and a bag to collect the cardboard pieces.



Experiences around the World:



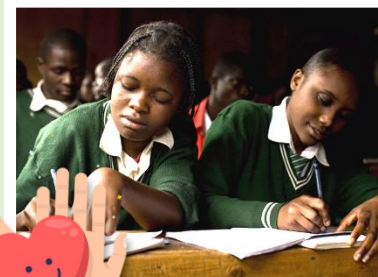
Vergence from Congo:



«On my way to school, I was really very hungry. Then I met my uncle who gave me money to buy a sandwich. A little further along the road, I saw a poor man.



I thought of giving him my money, but my friend who was with me said that I shouldn't. She said I should think of myself! But I told myself that tomorrow I would find something to eat, but would he?



So I gave him the money I had for the sandwich and **I felt my heart fill up with joy.”**