



Not so long ago, we asked kids in the US to tell us about their experiences living through a severe disaster, and we promised to tell you what we learned. We got 716 responses. This is the story of the answer to one among many questions which were asked.

This is what you told us. . .





There were all kinds of major disasters you had been through, such as hurricanes, fires, tornadoes, blizzards, floods, severe droughts, and earthquakes. Many of you had gone through more than one of these.

Some of you had gone through wars too.

We wanted everyone to have a chance to say the things they did during the disaster to help out.

If you took part in our study, what you did is part of our history. We want you and other people to know about it.

This is what we learned. . .





Just about everyone did a lot of different things to help out. Out of 716 kids, there were 326 who gave their families emotional support.

But that's no all. . .





You helped  
take care of  
your siblings





There were 251 kids who tried to help those around them to stay hopeful.

Just about the same number also shared important things like food, clothing, and water with those in need.





There were 130 people who said they helped family members who were sick or injured at the time



Nearly 200 kids said that one of the things they did was help an animal or a pet to survive





There were 168 of you who recalled helping a friend who needed a place to stay, and you opened your doors to them.







You helped move people who had disabilities and needed your help.





About 200 kids said that as a disaster was happening, they alerted people to get to safety because it was dangerous where they were, and 109 kids said they helped someone flee.





Nearly 50 kids used their language skills to help with translations and interpretation during the disaster





Some of you helped  
clean up after a major  
flood, your own home,  
and sometimes your  
neighbor's home too.





One person wrote that their town had been hit by a few tornadoes, and they helped notify the police of fallen trees that were a hazard to drivers. Someone else helped their dad put hurricane shutters onto the house.





You not only helped your friends, but there were also 138 kids who told us that they helped people they didn't even know



There were 112 kids who  
said they didn't help  
much. . .





We think you cared







You should know that just your being alive and making it through is important.

Just your smile can mean a world of difference to the people around you. In the eyes of others, they saw hope.

Your care & friendship might have made a huge difference to someone, and maybe they just couldn't tell you how much it meant to them.

Maybe they thought it was obvious.





The world is huge, and maybe next time we'll learn from kids in other countries. We know there are millions impacted by disasters, perhaps we'll hear your story next.

We hope so!



The information from these slides comes from a national study of kids between the ages of 13 and 17 years old who recollected their disaster experiences.

The lead researcher on this study is Emily Diamond. She's a professor at the Wright Institute in Berkeley, California. She's also the Director of the Health Inequalities Studies Group.

You can contact her at [ediamond@wi.edu](mailto:ediamond@wi.edu)



Thank you to these artists and photographers from UnSplash for giving their artwork so that we could illustrate this presentation while protecting the privacy of our participants. You helped us do something important.

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Big Green Leaf, by Marcus Spiske

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Fox illustration, by Fuu J

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Rough Water, by John Towner

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Kids on the Stairs, by Rachel

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Eating a Sandwich, by Gardie Design

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Heart & Person Graffiti, Nick Fewings

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Saving the Injured Bird, by Maxime Vandenberg

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Come as You Are, by Jon Tyson

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Two People, One in a Wheelchair, by Josh Appel

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Black & White Photo, Person Holding Baby, by Joann Walter Bantz

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Portrait of Girl with Glasses, by Alexandre Debieve

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Love Your Neighbor, by Nina Strehl

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Fallen Tree, by Marek Studzinski

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Lots of Hands, by Marlis Trio Akbar

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A Hug in the Classroom, by Adrianna Geo

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Boy with Glasses of Grasses, by Ato Aikens

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Woman Photographing a Man in Front of Flowers, by Toa Heftiba

