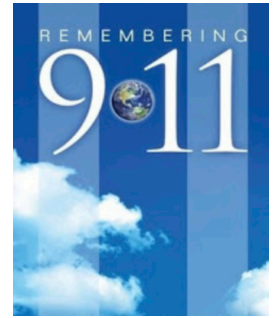


After 9/11: How Strangers Made a Better World

Let's Talk About It – High School



You weren't born yet when the 9/11 attack happened. What you know of that terrible day is likely to be what you have heard over the years from the adults in your world, from movies and television, and from the media. Especially right around the anniversary of 9/11 every year, people pause to remember how that one day changed our world forever. You have probably heard the stories of bravery and heroism, set against the backdrop of the loss of so many innocent lives.

But chances are you had not heard much about the amazing response of so many people, around the world, reaching out to help those who were caught up in that tragedy. The presentation on October 6th was created to show you one of the most important truths of our time – *when things are at their worst, people are at their best*. Here are a few questions to think about, or to talk through with friends who attended the presentation:

1. What surprised you or intrigued you most about the stories you heard at the event? Why?
2. Have you ever heard your parents or other adults tell stories about what they remember from 9/11 (where they were, what they were doing)? Has there been any world event, so far, in your life that you think you'll remember, in that same way, years from now? How about something closer to home:
 - Do you remember the gas explosion that leveled some houses in Upper Arlington, and rattled windows for blocks around?
 - About 10 years ago, there was a big snowstorm that hit Columbus and dumped 22 inches of snow in less than 24 hours?

If you remember those events, do you remember what your parents or others did to help others when those things happened. Now that you are older, what COULD you do if those things happened today?

3. Have you ever had someone do something nice for you that you weren't expecting? What did they do? How did that make you feel?
4. Have you ever done something for someone else, just because you could? Have you ever done something kind for someone else? How did it make you feel? How do you think it made that person feel?
5. Here are five quotes from famous people about kindness. Pick the one that you like best, and explain why:

"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have." – Margaret Mead

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." – Aesop

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." – Desmond Tutu

"When you are kind to others, it not only changes you, it changes the world." – Harold Kushner

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible." – Dalai Lama