Mutual Aid: Community Spirit is Contagious

In Our Hearts NYC, an Anarchist network of activists whose mission is to build a culture of resistance, holds a ‘Food Not Bombs’ mutual aid pantry in BedStuy, New York.

AMDEO MAX BETTAUER • age 10 and INDYKIDS STAFF

Tod Robbins, the founder of Utah Valley Mutual Aid, received a call from a woman speaking Spanish, a language he was rusty in and hadn’t practiced since college. But he knew from her voice that she was desperate. So he called Cesar, a Spanish-speaking volunteer within his mutual aid network, who was able to help the woman and provide her and her family with the assistance they needed.

Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in the United States, mutual aid groups like the one Robbins is part of have sprung up across the country. Mutual aid organizations are community-driven efforts to help people, in this case, people most vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic: the elderly, those who are facing catastrophic preexisting medical conditions and the immunocompromised, those with COVID-19, the elderly, and undocumented people.

Robbins is part of have sprung up across the country. Mutual aid groups like the one Robbins is part of have sprung up across the country. Mutual aid was a lesser-known concept. It was developed by Peter Kropotkin, a Russian geographer and writer, in his 1902 book Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolution, which stated that “sociability is the greatest advantage in the struggle for life.”

Dean Spade, professor of the Seattle University School of Law and founder of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, said in an interview with Democracy Now! that mutual aid, as opposed to charity, asserts that the reason people are in need of something is not because the individual has done something wrong, but because there is something wrong with the system.

Mutual aid is not about “saviorism” or determining who has the right to receive aid, but about communities coming together and forming grassroots organizations to solve problems immediately in a bottom-up direction, instead of a top-down one. The sudden rise in mutual aid efforts across the country may be due in part to a distrust in the government, which some say is not doing enough to help people impacted by coronavirus. “Mutual aid is when people band together to meet immediate survival needs,” said Spade, “usually because of a shared understanding that the systems in place aren’t coming to meet them.”

Thus, communities are taking matters into their own hands by trying to help vulnerable people and keep them safe.

Invisible Hands is a mutual aid organization based in New York City, the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States. They deliver groceries, prescriptions and other necessities to people in New York and parts of Jersey City who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. According to their website, it was founded by Simone Blicano, Liam Elkind and Healy Chait to help support and protect the New Yorkers whom this crisis is threatening the most.

In the West, Robbins’ Utah Valley Mutual Aid provides groceries and medicine, as well as connecting people with resource-sharing networks. “No one in my community asked for this hardship or deserves to be threatened,” Robbins said in an interview with IndyKids. His motivation is his belief in the goodness of people and that every life matters.

These community efforts show that not all aspects of this time are doom and gloom. Longtime mutual aid organizer Mariame Kaba said in an interview with Democracy Now!, “One of the most important parts about mutual aid has to do with changing the social relationships that we have amongst each other, in order to be able to fight beyond this current moment, beyond the current crisis, beyond the current form of a disaster that we’re trying to overcome.”

As these efforts are predominantly hyperlocal, people are building new connections with those in their immediate communities, which is creating a foundation for future political action. In a time when we hear and see ever-rising graphs and real-time case counters, this is proof that when the world is at its worst, humanity can be at its best.
The Evolution of LGBTQ+ Rights

While the world has been preoccupied with a global pandemic, LGBTQ+ rights have continued to develop. Some important updates have happened at the federal level. The Supreme Court decided that LGBTQ+ individuals cannot be discriminated against in workplace, housing, and public accommodations. This was a landmark decision for LGBTQ+ rights and was a major victory for the trans rights movement.

DACA Status Update

In March, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of cable giant Comcast in a case regarding the National Association of Access & Opportunity (NAAOO), weakening a key provision of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 prohibiting racial discrimination in contracts.

The Dreamers’ fate rides on the Supreme Court decision, which could take place in 2030, and that all stolen Indigenous and sacred lands must be returned to their rightful owners. This is a major victory for the Native American communities and is a step towards justice.

Dakota Access Pipeline Given a Glimmer of Hope

The Dakota Access Pipeline has been operational since May 2017, but a federal court has ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to do a full environmental review. The pipeline was built without these reviews, and the court ruled that the Army Corps failed to follow the National Environmental Policy Act in 2016 when it approved the project without considering the full environmental impact. The U.S. District Judge James Austin Boasberg has now ordered the Army Corps to conduct an environmental review.

This comes as the U.S. Treasury Department continues to withhold funding payments to Native American tribes. The Navajo Nation, a Native American territory in the midst of medical crises, is still an increase in new legislation that targets religious states, outlawed health insurance, and the right to a safe and healthy workplace.

The Dreamers’ fate rides on the Supreme Court decision, which could take place in 2030, and that all stolen Indigenous and sacred lands must be returned to their rightful owners. This is a major victory for the Native American communities and is a step towards justice.

Email: info@indykids.org
Website: www.indykids.org

1,850 unaccompanied minors were allowed to safeguard children from deportation to Mexico. This protocol, used for decades, was sidestepped by the Trump administration, used to deport children to Mexico without a hearing or an attorney.

Trump Administration Quietly Deports Hundreds of Child Migrants Amid Pandemic Chaos

While the world has been distracted by a global pandemic, the Trump administration quietly deported hundreds of child migrants. These children, many of whom are refugees or asylum seekers, were detained in immigrant detention centers and forced to return to dangerous countries.

“Would it truly be human, despite being gay?” was a question that James Guay asked himself as a young child. While the world has been preoccupied with a global pandemic, LGBTQ+ rights have continued to develop.

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Defended Action for Childhood Arrows (DACA) programs are receiving a decision by the Supreme Court that will change the course of their history. The close to 70,000 recipients of DACA may see their status under threat. The court’s decision will have a significant impact on the lives of these young people, who are the future of our country.

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HATE SPREADS LIKE A VIRUS

C OVID-19 is a disease caused by the novel coronavirus which causes respiratory illness in its hosts. There are many types of coronaviruses, some of which cause mild diseases in humans. The first reported case of this coronavirus was in Wuhan, China, in December 2019; since then, it has spread to many parts of the world. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic because it was detected in people all over the world. The virus is known to spread through droplets that take over the area and make copies of itself. Virus can only live in a living host, so there are no vaccines against COVID-19 yet, but there are ways we can all stop it from spreading.

The novel coronavirus can spread from person to person through respiratory droplets. This can happen when someone is within six feet of another person. You can also get the virus from touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching your nose, mouth, or eyes. COVID-19 is the first pandemic that humans have experienced. In 1918, the Spanish flu killed half the population of Europe. Venetians stood in lines for 40 days when they figured out that it was spread when people were close together. They called it the “flu pandemic,” which is where the word “pandemic” comes from. The H1N1 influenza, an influenza pandemic which first appeared in 1918, is the most similar to COVID-19 because it spread quickly from person to person with no restrictions.

We can learn from how these pandemics spread in the past to help us stop the spread of the coronavirus now. For example, the Black Death taught us that quarantine is one solution. We can practice social distancing, like avoiding crowds and staying home if you can, because we know from past pandemics that the faster this virus spreads, the more people will get sick and the more lives it will claim.

Respiratory (Illness): A type of disease that affects the lungs.

Enzyme: Enzymes are biological molecules that speed up the rate of chemical reactions that take place within cells. They are vital for life and serve a wide range of important functions in the body.

School’s Out: How Coronavirus Is Changing Education

C OVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China, late in 2019. The subsequent worldwide spread of the novel coronavirus has had a profound impact on people’s lives in America. President Donald Trump and Republican allies feared the novel coronavirus could cause society to break down and led to the United States entering a global pandemic. In May 2020, Trump administration officials acknowledged that the president’s response to the pandemic was inadequate, but he continued to downplay the crisis.

Remote learning has become the norm for students across the country. This has been a challenge for many families who do not have internet access or a stable internet connection.

Learning losses are widespread, according to a new analysis by McKinsey & Company. The study found that students in low-income families are “at risk of learning loss.”

The National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has been protesting for more than 40 years with the goal of ending homelessness. The NCH is a non-profit organization that advocates for the rights of unhoused people and works to end homelessness in the United States. The NCH has been protesting for more than 40 years with the goal of ending homelessness. The NCH is a non-profit organization that advocates for the rights of unhoused people and works to end homelessness in the United States.

Immigrants in the U.S. Demand Release and More Protection During Coronavirus Outbreak

J E S U S H E R N E Z A N D • age 11

P resident Donald Trump has scaled back immigration by decreasing immigration in the United States at the expense of non-contraband immigrants. The new policies restrict the number of asylum seekers and refugees who can come to the United States. The new policies restrict the number of asylum seekers and refugees who can come to the United States. The new policies restrict the number of asylum seekers and refugees who can come to the United States.

All immigrants and asylum seekers in the United States are at risk, but those who are detained in immigration detention centers are at even greater risk. COVID-19 has spread at an alarming rate in detention centers.

The rapid spread of COVID-19 in detention centers has exposed the inherent flaws in the U.S. immigration system. The Trump administration has been criticized for placing insufficient resources and protective measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in detention centers. The administration has been criticized for placing insufficient resources and protective measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in detention centers.

How Do You Stay Home Without a House

R A Y A E L H A J J A R • age 12 and INDYKIDS STAFF

D uring the nine years that Andrew Cuomo has served as governor in New York state, homelessness has skyrocketed, with the number of unhoused single adults on the streets today up 139% from 10 years ago, as reported by the Coalition for the Homeless. They reported that over the city’s fiscal year of 2020, a total of 123,600 people slept in New York City shelters, 44,300 of whom were children. Dockets across the nation have been protesting the lack of access to soap and other supplies that could potentially stop the spread of COVID-19 to detention centers. Immigration activists have been protesting for detention centers to liberate people who have a high risk of contracting COVID-19.

ICE behavior in the midst of a global pandemic reflects the language they are using with no regard for human life and that reigns with total impunity,” said Mary Delgado, an immigrant rights activist with La Resistencia. “We believe there are no detention conditions that could ever take the place of providing adequate protection to people’s human rights.

The Trump administration is “taking advantage of this moment to move further to the right with a fascist agenda,” Villaplana said. “We must also use this moment to do the opposite for everyone’s safety, from those in lockups to those who have been denied the right to vote.”
A FREE PAPER FOR KIDS, BY KIDS
Issue 71 • SUMMER ISSUE 2020 www.indykids.org

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Meet IndyKids Reporter: Dayanara Hernandez
GAVIANA MALDONADO • age 13

Meet Dayanara Hernandez, a 15-year-old high school freshman. In 2019, she became an IndyKids reporter and won her first cover story in early 2020. Dayanara was introduced to IndyKids by her elementary media teacher. Her passion has always been for sports and art, but she now feels more engaged with writing since becoming a reporter.

PERSONAL REPORT
PARKER TODD, AKA THE SICKLER
CHARLES CHANGLE • age 12

Parker Todd was diagnosed with sickle cell disease (SCD) at 3 years old. At 12, he wrote The Adventures of the Sickler: A Young Man's Quest to Help Other Kids Suffering from Sickle Cell Disease (SCD). In 14 years, Parker continues to fight for those who take care of us. The pain is for the correction money to go to our health system. "I'll be a healthcare professional," he declares. "I'll be a nurse or doctor, and I'll help people get better and go home."

What inspired you to write a book? I was in the hospital one day, I called around and saw other kids like me who were alone without anyone there to help them. I want to go to the hospital and can't stay with them all the time. So I wrote this book to inspire and motivate them.

What do you hope people learn from your book? I hope people learn that kids with SCD should be treated differently.

What are you doing to help other kids with SCD? I go to hospital and read my book to them to help inspire and motivate people to get better and go home.

What is your biggest accomplishment to date? I was able to combine my profession and my passion to fight fear and motivate youngsters and adults alike.

How does it affect the way you are treated by others? I turned myself with my friends and people that don't treat me differently, and I'm grateful for it.

DAYANARA HERNANDEZ • age 15 and INDYKIDS STAFF

Why did you choose a career in healthcare? As a kid, I was always the person in my friend circle that was trying to make sure everyone was OK. (Being a nurse) was the "Key" package: a meaningful job that would utilize my intellect and my compassion. I was already active in social justice issues and could envision myself, as a nurse, fighting for a better world.

What motivated you to keep going to work every day? My coworkers, patients and the mission of the public hospital system. We work hard to get kids the comfort and support they need when they are injured or ill. Our job is to take care of everyone — regardless of how much money they have or their immigration status.

What do you think of the "clap for our heroes" and "thank you" campaign? It's really cool, I've always loved applauding our healthcare heroes and that's why I decided to join it. As a nurse, I applaud them daily, and when I see it on my phone, it makes me happy.

What do you think of the "clap for our heroes" campaign? It's really great, I've always loved applauding our healthcare heroes and that's why I decided to join it. As a nurse, I applaud them daily, and when I see it on my phone, it makes me happy.

During normal times, the great things we do are often unnoticed. So it's really nice to see people showing their thanks to the healthcare heroes around the world.

I think it's great that people are recognizing the hard work that healthcare workers have been doing. It's important to show appreciation for them because they are the ones who are risking their lives to keep us safe.

I think it's really important to recognize the hard work that healthcare workers have been doing. It's important to show appreciation for them because they are the ones who are risking their lives to keep us safe.
**Who am I?**

**NICOLLE BERROA • age 12**

1. I was born in Huntsville, Alabama, on October 6, 1922, and died, age 98, on March 27, 2020, in Atlanta.
2. When I was just 12 years old, a White police officer hit me in the stomach with his nightstick and made a racially charged comment to me as I stepped out of my father’s candy store.
3. I experienced firsthand the brutalities of the Jim Crow South and spent my life fighting for racial justice.
4. I was the co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In this position, I promoted economic empowerment for Black Americans.
5. Before Rosa Parks was arrested in 1955 for refusing to give up her seat to a White man on a Montgomery bus, I had already successfully campaigned to integrate buses in Mobile, Alabama. After her arrest, I worked with Dr. King to organize a 381-day boycott of Montgomery’s segregated buses.
6. As a result of the bus boycott, the Supreme Court ended racial segregation on buses in Montgomery and across the rest of the United States.
7. In 1962, I organized one of the longest civil rights marches in history, from Carrolton to Montgomery in Alabama, with more than 3,500 people demanding the extension of the Voting Rights Act.
8. In 2009, President Obama awarded me the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor. I was also awarded the NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award, World Peace Council Award and many more.

**Thank you for your continued support!**

Now more than ever, we need sources of media for our youth that center the stories of people of color, immigrants, women, workers and LGBTQIA+ communities. IndyKids is the nation’s only social justice-oriented newspaper written by kids for kids. Now in its 15th year in print, IndyKids is distributed to classrooms and households in 35 states, helping thousands of youth think more critically about the news of the world. Plus, it’s free and ad-free!

Subscription costs cover only the cost of mailing issues to subscribers. We rely on donations to cover all other costs of producing IndyKids and running our Kid Reporter Program, through which more than 200 youth have been trained as journalists. Can you contribute today to help us continue printing IndyKids and training the journalists of tomorrow? Thank you for your continued support!

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**Getting Wild With...**

**Black and White African Rhinos in Coronavirus Crisis**

**SOFIA MANCINI • age 8 and INDIKIDS STAFF**

Did you know that in 1995 there were 500,000 black rhinos, but now they are critically endangered, with only 5,500 of them left? There are only about 23,500 black and white rhinos in total left. With a global pandemic crippling the tourism industry, they are facing more danger than ever from poaching.

The word “rhinoceros” means “nose horn” in Greek. While tourists just want to look at them, poachers want to kill the rhinos and steal their valuable horns to sell. Rhinos can weigh up to 6,000 pounds and be up to two meters tall. They are herbivores and eat grass. There are five different species of rhinos, and the black and white rhinos live in Africa.

Rhinos have no predators in nature, none but human poachers. Rhino horns are made out of keratin, the same material that fingernails and hair are made out of. Poachers hunt rhinos so that they can sell their horns as trophies or for medicinal reasons, as some people believe that the horns can cure diseases.

African Rhinos are now facing a crisis caused by the rapid spread of COVID-19. As the lockdown measures crush wildlife tourism, areas which would normally be heavily patrolled have been left wide open for invading poachers. As the industry dries up, wildlife foundations have taken a hit and no longer have enough money to employ anti-poaching rangers to stop the illegal hunting.

Wildlife conservationists are doing everything they can to stop the poachers, but more funding is needed if they are going to win the fight to save the rhinos. “There is a perception that conservation is some form of luxury,” said Tim Davenport, director of species conservation for Africa at the Wildlife Conservation Society, in an interview with Earther. “The corona crisis shows it is not, and that we need it now more than ever.”

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**Wordsearch**

A K C Q E O D X I P Z X A F D K B V
C V G M Y D G E X N A P C T K N A O
P J M H N P U J P E D N T K I I L
R H E T O R I C D O N I D L A D L U
I A O U T B R E A K R O G E A L O N
K M E D I C A R E T W T P E M T U T
E P I C E N T E R T I Q A H N I T E
L H E A L T H C A R E O I T O O C E
X X F D A D V O C A T E N R I B U R
H E T E R O N R M A T I O V E O I S
E J Q U A R A N T I N E I G M S N A
D I W C O N T A G I O U S B D I J A

**Advocate**

**Bailout**

**Contagious**

**Deportation**

**Education**

**Epicenter**

**Healthcare**

**Heteronormative**

**Indigenous**

**Medicare**

**Quarantine**

**Rhetoric**

**Volunteer**

**Xenophobia**

**Pandemic**

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**Answer:**

Joseph Lowery

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