

what's up

YOUR TEAM SAVE THE CHILDREN NEWS



**CAMP COVID:
BY KIDS, FOR KIDS**



Contributed Photo

High school friends turned entrepreneurs created Camp Covid – providing fun, summer learning for children during a challenging summer!

When Michigan high school seniors Adi and Anusha were faced with a very long summer and few job prospects, they put their heads together and created Camp Covid – a free online summer camp using virtual meeting technology! This not only kept the girls engaged, but provided a fun and educational experience for kids, as well as a gift of time for working parents.

In as little as one month's time, these budding entrepreneurs created a website, amassed almost 40 volunteer counselors and had about 320 students signed up for classes from all around the world, including far-flung places like Egypt and India. They divided their classes into three segments: education, fitness and creativity. Additionally, the two set up a GoFundMe page where parents could donate directly to Save the Children in lieu of camp fees. Donations were encouraged but not mandatory to attend the camp.

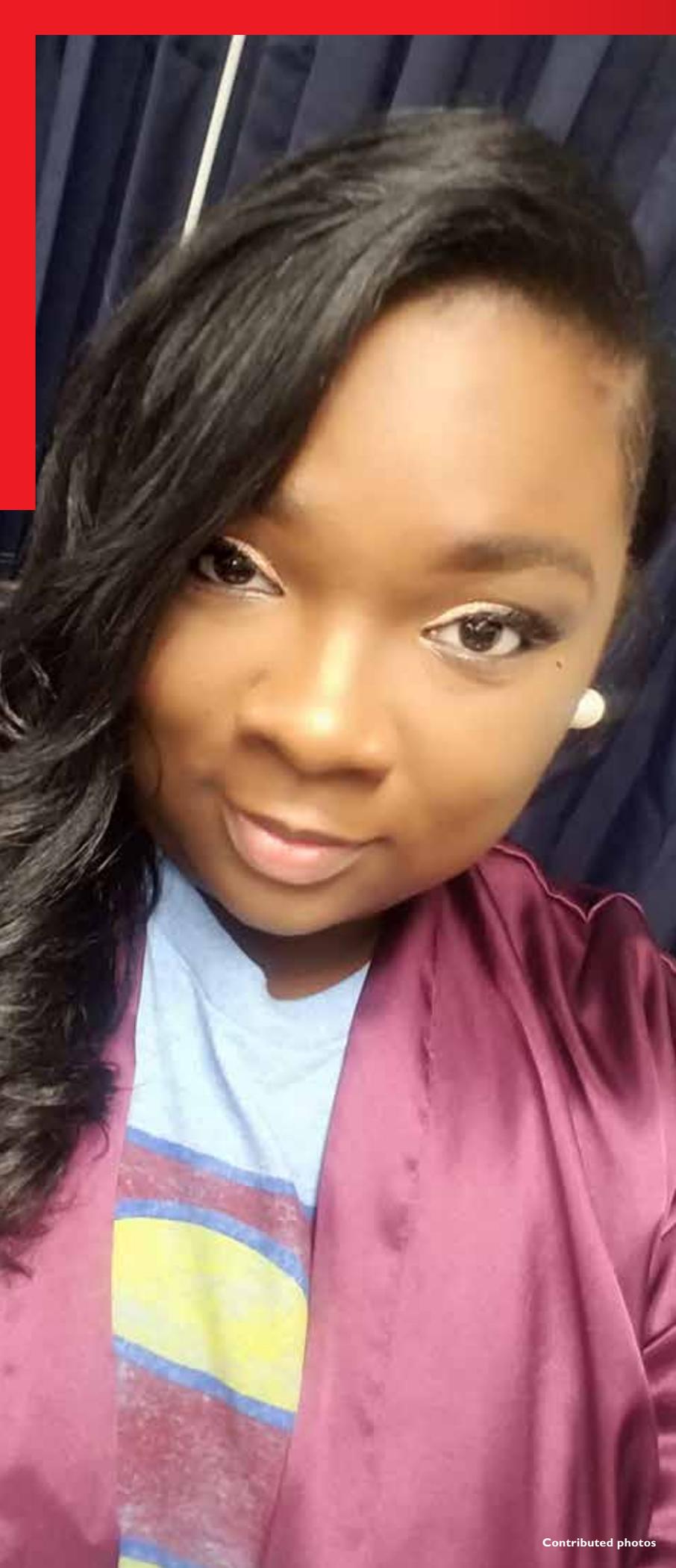
Adi and Anusha have a lot of experience working with kids. Adi currently works at Kumon and another virtual summer camp, and Anusha has taught health classes. Most of their camp counselors were high school kids, with a few of middle school students helping as well.

The girls realized when the opportunity presented itself, that it was the perfect chance to create something that could really help kids, without the complexity of starting a traditional summer camp.

“Our model was kind of ‘by kids, for kids,’” says Adi. The camp was divided into 45-minute sessions from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Adi and Anusha recommended no more than 5 sessions per day. They offered 30 programs in subjects like math, literature, dance, physical education, painting and cooking.

Adi feels that when children are able to interact with each other, their social energy is released. So they tried to keep the sessions relatively unstructured, making sure to allow time for fun and interaction.

Will the girls' future include working with children in some way? The two aren't sure. Regardless, Adi and Anusha have shown that through a little creativity and hard work, anything is possible!



IN HER OWN WORDS:

Now a graduate student at the University of Southern New Hampshire, Ma'neka Culbreath shares her deeply moving experience as a sponsored child.



My name is Ma'Nekia Culbreath-Sterling and I am a previously sponsored child through Save the Children.

I am from Dermott, a small rural town in Arkansas. When I was in 5th grade I was sponsored by Save the Children through a counselor in an afterschool program. She

explained to me and my mom that it was an organization geared towards helping children in need. I was a little hesitant at first because the counselor explained to me that not everybody gets a sponsor, but I was one of the lucky ones. I not only got a sponsor, but I got a sponsor who wanted to *truly* get to know me and my family and genuinely wanted to help and be involved with us.

Being a part of Save the Children not only helped change my future, but it also contributed to the woman I am today and is a huge part of why I have chosen to become a sponsor myself to a child in need. Just like the organization, I too believe that children have rights and are an essential part of the future, but in order for them to live out their fullest potential, some assistance is required.

I can't express in words how happy and grateful I was when I found out I had a sponsor. Nor can I put into words the gratitude and overwhelming joy I felt when I received letters and packages, at least once a month. The generosity my sponsor displayed towards my family and me was heartfelt and my mom, being a single mom, really appreciated the extra help, especially when it came to getting the essentials my younger brother and I needed for the school year. My sponsor was with me through middle school, high school, and my first 2 years of college. Sadly she passed the summer after my sophomore year. Although she left my life, she never left my heart.

Today I am 30 years old with 3 degrees, a small business, and a family of my own. My sponsorship meant the world to me because it proved to me, at such a young age, that people care and my future matters. Save the Children connected me with such a beautiful light and giving soul, and honestly I just want to say the work you do is phenomenal and THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for everything you did for me. I am beyond grateful!



Contributed photo

MADDY AND MAYA'S SUMMER DANCE CAMP

Read Maddy and Maya's uplifting story – we promise, you'll be wowed! In addition to organizing and running a dance camp this summer, Maddy is a new member of the Fairfield County Youth Council. She and her sister are great examples of young people making a difference!

"Maddy & Maya's Summer Dance Camp 2020" was the basis of this wonderful fundraiser for Save the Children's COVID-19 Relief Fund. In their words, "Raising money for children who don't have the opportunity to buy their own food is something my sister and I felt the need to be apart of."

This past summer, when school was over and free lunch was no longer being served for students in need, the two sisters knew that they could help in some way. Their idea of raising money to support children affected by COVID-19 was to start a summer dance camp. This way, Maddy and Maya knew they could share their love of dance with children, while raising money for Save the Children. They set to work organizing and hosting a dance camp in their neighborhood in Connecticut. They spent several hours a week with the campers over a two-week period. Additionally, they designed all of the costumes, created the choreography and helped to build confidence and nurture friendships among the girls!

They decided to use their downtime as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic to create a dance camp because they wanted to make the unsettling time a little bit more fun for others.

Maddy and Maya loved working with all the kids and creating fun dances. Says Maddy, "This opportunity allowed us to make a few kids' days a little brighter and raise money to help children who need it get the food and supplies they deserve." From the looks of the photo above, it looks like they surpassed their goal!



CREATING ART— AND CHANGE

Commissioned to Care is a group of 25+ high school student-artists aiming to fight the impact of COVID-19. Initially organized through Instagram, the group aimed to raise funds for an organization working to help those suffering from the crisis. But which one?

Their guidelines were that the organization should be international, and should benefit kids during one of the most significant international health crises in our lifetime. Once Shriya, pictured top left, found Save the Children, she immediately connected with our mission.

“We unanimously agreed that it was the perfect organization to support,” says Shriya.

“Many of us are in states that have been locked down, and have also experienced school closures. Our situations are fortunate, but we were inspired to help children that are facing challenges due to COVID-19. We cannot imagine the difficulties that many children may be facing, but as students, we felt an immediate connection to help other children in need.”

They employed their talents of creating art and writing to raise nearly \$1,000 for Save the Children. Many thanks to this talented and inspirational group of artists!



Contributed photo

START HERE START NOW

START A SAVE THE CHILDREN CLUB – AND START CHANGING LIVES!

Believe it or not, there are kids right here in the U.S. and all around the world without enough food or clean water to drink. Kids who want to go to school, but can't – because they need to work. Sadly, there are kids living in war zones. Some who've been forced to leave their homes, their schools, their friends and everything they once knew behind and now live as refugees. These are kids just like you who just need someone to care.

Whether you're distance learning or in school, you can help. School definitely looks different this year – but you can still make a difference for kids around the world. Start a Save the Children club today!

WHAT'S A SAVE THE CHILDREN CLUB?

Save the Children clubs are fun-filled leadership opportunities that change lives. These student-led groups meet regularly to create change for kids in need – through fundraising, awareness-building and advocacy events. The goal: Giving children in the U.S. and around the world the chance to grow up healthy, educated and safe – so they can have the futures they deserve.

READY TO GET STARTED? NEXT STEPS...

To start your own school's **Save the Children club**:

- 1. Start it up**
Find other club members – friends and fellow students like you who are passionate about changing lives.
- 2. Get sponsored**
Who's your favorite teacher or coach? Get approval from your school and find a faculty advisor. Check with your principal or your guidance counselor about your school's requirements for starting a club.
- 3. Sign and go!**
Register your club with Save the Children. It's easy... there's a simple online form to complete and then email. Clubs will have access to an exclusive club portal where they can find engaging ways to support Save the Children and interact with other Save the Children clubs from across the country.

Contact schoolclub@savechildren.org with questions. Start your life-changing club today: [savethechildren.org/clubs](https://www.savethechildren.org/clubs).



Save the Children®

BRIDGE CHALLENGE



Photo:
Tamar Lavine, 2017

BRIDGE THE GAP FOR AMERICA'S KIDS

Choose your favorite activity and start fundraising!

You may be shocked to learn that 1 in 4 children in rural America is living in poverty. Many are unsure where their next meal will come from. Many more face racial inequity. Still more don't own a single book, much less internet access. And while the coronavirus pandemic hasn't caused these issues, it's very likely making them worse.

These gaps threaten the future of our next generation. We need your help to close these gaps.

Join us on September 26th to bridge the gap for kids in America.

How to get started:

1. Choose your activity below or create your own
2. Register for a fundraising page
3. Customize your page to reflect your activity
4. Share and stories, tagging #BridgetheGap on social!



Virtual Cooking Class

Stream a virtual cooking show with your favorite recipe. Challenge a friend to a cook off and the recipe with the most donations wins!



Game Night

Invite family, friends and colleagues to a virtual game night! From puzzle competitions to video games – everyone that joins should donate.



Get Active

Through yoga, cycling, Zumba or even a walk in your neighborhood, get active and raise funds!

To learn more, please contact bridge@savechildren.org or go to savethechildren.org/bridge