

what's up

YOUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NEWS



**READY, SET,
GO BETH!**

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Beth Nicely Bridges the Gap for America's Kids

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Beth Nicely is no stranger to Broadway. She has appeared in six Broadway productions during her years as a performer in New York City!

Beth learned about Save the Children when Jennifer Garner, her friend, actor and Save the Children trustee, introduced her to the organization. "I've always been passionate about every child being given the opportunity to thrive. It makes such a difference in a child's life to feel loved and taken care of," says Beth. "The endless amount of work this organization does for children all over of the world is remarkable – and honorable," she added.

When Broadway shows were suspended due to the pandemic, Beth decided to channel her determination and performance skills into starting a fitness business called The Limit. "I wanted to do what I could to help people feel joy and purpose during a time of uncertainty," she says. She devotes one of her weekly classes to fundraising for Save the Children. It's called Saturday Dance Party, where every Saturday morning, over 100 people participate in a donation-based live dance cardio class on Zoom. Her classes are also available via On Demand.

But Beth wanted to do more. She thought, "I can run!" So she and another friend decided to train for the (virtual) New York City Marathon 2020. She started a Save the Children fundraiser

to Bridge the Gap for America's Kids – between the realities many kids face and the futures they deserve. On November 1, 2020, Beth ran the marathon, although it wasn't without its challenges. Her route tracker died at the 16-mile mark, and she got lost on the streets of New York City by herself, hurting and without water, and no one cheering her on – ultimately, running 28 miles, instead of 26.2!

"It was really hard towards the end," Beth recounted, "but I kept reminding myself that I'm running for a bigger purpose. I realized that there are children around the world who are all by themselves, hurting and without water, with no one cheering them on. I kept repeating 'Run with your heart, Save the Children' as my mantra until I finished." Beth found a strength she didn't know she had, and she wants every child to feel that kind of strength within themselves. Beth sums up her experience by sharing, "Helping children by doing what I'm capable of is what I like to share with others. We can do what we can, even in the smallest way, and it all adds up to something big that can change the world." We couldn't agree more!

Beth's fundraiser raised \$7,035. "I'm so grateful to everyone that donated and cheered me on during this journey," she says. "Now let's cheer every child on!"



CLUB
CORNER

STUYVESANT HIGH TAKES ON OUR **ELECTION SHOWDOWN!**

This past fall, youth advocates from across the country participated in Save the Children Action Network's (SCAN's) Election Showdown – a friendly, school-based competition to mobilize voters and prioritize children's issues. Though many advocates were too young to vote themselves, they were able to use their voices to educate others in a variety of ways on why voting matters, including registering new voters, writing letters to the editor and hosting a texting bank.

Among these advocates were kids from Save the Children clubs! Save the Children clubs are student-led groups that meet regularly to create change for kids in need – through fundraising, awareness-building and advocacy actions. Our club members have access to an interactive portal filled with resources to set their club up for success, as well as opportunities to engage with clubs across the country.

Here, Maya, a co-lead of the newly formed Stuyvesant High School Save the Children club, shares a bit about the robust campaign her club created to participate in the 2020 Election Showdown – and why.

“At our Save the Children club, we first looked for email lists of all New York City Council Members. We reached out to them and coordinated participation in a Zoom call. Then we emailed our teachers to see if they would be willing to offer extra credit in exchange for attending the webinar – because extra credit is the most powerful currency at Stuyvesant High School! We also added two additional activities.

“For those over age 16, they learned how to pre-register to vote, while those under 16 wrote letters to voters reminding them to vote. We also set up a phone banking session and a postcard party. We reached out to our school's Key Club and Red Cross Club (two of the largest service organizations at Stuyvesant) to see if they would be interested in partnering with us to host a letter writing event. I also reached out to the Editor-in-Chief of our school newspaper, The Spectator, to write a piece about the Election Showdown.

“After the 2016 election, the first election many of us followed, it felt crippling not having a voice. So for this election, our club's executive board was determined to make a change in whatever way we could as high school students. The Election Showdown was a great opportunity for us to mobilize voters from all over the country. It felt amazing to finally make a difference – from hosting our webinar attended by over 200 students, to sending over 1,700 postcards.

“All in all, we loved participating in the Election Showdown – and we can't wait to continue working with Save the Children in the future!”

If you are interested in making a difference for children and starting a Save the Children club at your school please visit: savethechildren.org/clubs or email schoolclub@savechildren.org.



Contributed photo

IT'S PERSONAL: SAMANTHA SAVES A PLATE

The holiday season certainly looked a little different this past year – especially for those in need, whose hardships were likely significantly exacerbated by this pandemic. One of Save the Children's yearend initiatives was a fundraiser called Save a Plate, where family and friends could (virtually) team up to raise awareness and funds for kids most in need during these challenging times.

An estimated 1.5 billion children worldwide are out of school. In the U.S. alone, 30 million kids rely on school for meals. That means when they're not in school, they're hungry, including during the holidays. So it was a perfect time to remember what giving for good really means and to extend extra generosity where it's needed most.

Samantha Cervantes knew she wanted to support this initiative because it struck a personal chord. She says, "Growing up, we had to make do with less. My mother was raising two children on her own for the most part, while working a full-time job. There were many weeks we had just \$20 to spend on groceries – and that had to stretch between my mom, my sister and me. Special treats were when Monday's McDonalds ran their \$.29 hamburger days, and I could order three of them."

Samantha believes that her mother did the best she could, and she's grateful her family made it through tough times, but her life experience really instilled two things in her:

- 1. She didn't want to struggle with money, as she saw the heavy emotional cost**
- 2. Should she have the chance, she would give back and offer a helping hand to those in need.**

Samantha started working at age 12 and never looked back. Eventually, she found her way in sales, despite not earning a college degree, and she is now a Regional Vice President for Tableau, a Salesforce company. Says Samantha, "My path in life has paved the way to financial stability and driven a purpose to help those who need support in unfortunate circumstances."

When Samantha became a mother in 2016, it only amplified her calling to help serve and support children. "I have been a proud fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and, most recently, I've widened my efforts to help with the many struggles families are facing during the pandemic. When I learned that 30,000 American children were hungry because of COVID, I was propelled to rally my strong tribe of family, friends and colleagues to help drive an impact and bring food to those in need."

Samantha also appreciated that, at Save the Children, 86% of every dollar goes directly to our mission – helping children grow up healthy, educated and safe. She felt confident that that we could help her and her network make an impact this past holiday season. Thank you, Samantha!



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A VIRTUAL COOKING CLASS WITH REAL-LIFE RESULTS



The Save the Children Fairfield County Youth Council for High School Students was formed in the fall of 2017, requiring each student to help the Fairfield Leadership Council to:

- Form, continue or revive a Save the Children club at their school
- Attend 3-4 mandatory Student Ambassador meetings per year
- Participate in an annual fundraising event planned by Youth Council
- Participate in/implement one advocacy action, individually or with others, through the Save the Children Action Network.

This highly-motivated group of 26 high school students from eight different public and private schools in Fairfield County, Connecticut knew that they wanted to participate in Save the Children's Bridge the Gap for America's Kids this past fall. They were shocked to learn that 1 in 4 children in rural America is living in poverty, many unsure where their next meal will come from. Many more face racial inequity. Still more don't have access to books or the internet.

What's more, while the coronavirus pandemic hasn't caused these issues, it's very likely making them worse.

The council put their great minds together and came up with a fantastic idea: Hosting a virtual cooking class via Zoom led by their very own Chef Aaron, and fundraise around the moment.

Over the course of an hour, the class made a delicious risotto with lemon and parmesan, along with crispy chicken thighs or seared mushrooms (a vegetarian option) and a pan sauce. To access the recipe, visit yumclass.com/chicken.

"I teach cooking classes in my free time, so when we were brainstorming ideas for Bridge the Gap virtual fundraisers, the idea of a virtual cooking class was a no-brainer!" says Chef Aaron, a high school senior. "It was so nice to see everyone cooking together on one screen – it really felt as if we were together. I think we may have to do it again in the future!"

The youth council really put the fun in fundraising, and raised almost \$2,000 to help kids living in poverty in rural America. Yum and well-done, all!

FROM OUR SAVE THE CHILDREN KITCHEN: BEEF HARI KEBAB (SPICY BEEF)

Traditional Country of Origin: Bangladesh
Serves 6-8

Hari Kebab is a spicy Bangladeshi dish, similar to a thick curry, often prepared during Islamic Eid festivals.

INGREDIENTS:

1 kilogram beef, cut into small pieces
3 tablespoons yoghurt
10 sliced onions
4 whole cloves
3 one-inch cinnamon sticks
5 pieces of cardamom
1 bay leaf
1 teaspoon coriander
2 teaspoons black pepper
1/2 teaspoon grated nutmeg
1 pinch of nutmeg/mace (for the second coat)
2 teaspoons ginger paste
1 teaspoon garlic paste
2 teaspoons chili paste
2 teaspoons salt
3 cups oil

INSTRUCTIONS:

In hot oil, gradually stir fry half of the onion till it gets light brown. Set the cooked onion aside.

Add oil to the pan and heat. Add cloves, cinnamon, cardamom, bay leaf, coriander, black pepper, nutmeg and the second coat of nutmeg and sauté. Make powder/paste of the fried spices with fried onions.

Add more oil to the pan and heat. Add beef, yoghurt, the rest of the sliced onion, ginger, garlic, chili, salt and some water. Cover the pan and leave to cook over low heat, until the water dries up and the oil rises to the top. Mix in the fried spices and onion paste/powder. Cover the pan again and allow to cook for five minutes until the flavor comes out. Serve hot garnished with onion ring and coriander leaf (cilantro).



Trivia



Guess Where



Charades



Let's Draw



Emoji Decoder



Personalized
Trivia

LET'S ROAM AND SAVE THE CHILDREN

Host a Virtual Game Night and Support Kids!

Since we can't be together as much as we'd like, why not invite your friends and family to a virtual game night? Let's Roam is a virtual game platform that let's you safely play games with friends and family. With games like Trivia, Let's Draw, Guess Where and Emoji Decoder, there's something for everyone. Additionally, **30% of your subscription fee will benefit Save the Children!** It's a win-win!

Play fun and interactive games together

Every round, your group will vote on what type of category you want to play. Choose different categories every time you play to make every game night unique! PLUS, Let's Roam is adding new categories and games all the time, so you'll never have the same game night experience. It's an epic way to compete with your friends and family!

A totally unique experience. It's virtually perfect!

Vote in real time with your friends and family to create personalized games from our bank of questions!

Members can host weekly game nights with ease

With the ability to host weekly games, you can have a good time with your friends and family each week -- while doing good for children!

Use [www.letsroam.com/save the children](http://www.letsroam.com/save_the_children) to get started!

LET'S ROAM®