



*together*  
KIDS WHO SPARK CHANGE  
EDITION



# *Vivi's Jar asks us to give.* *Vivi's heart shows us how to live.*

Seven years ago, Vivi began using an empty mason jar from her parent's kitchen to **fill hearts and change lives.**

After visiting Three Square Food Bank and witnessing the needs of hungry children, Vivi decided to take action. Then four-year-old, Vivi started asking friends and family to fill her jar with donations for struggling neighbors.

Today, after helping to raise tens of thousands of dollars through Three Square's outreach, this twelve-year-old has no

intentions of stopping.

*"My goal is for other families to do the same and have lots of jars out there," Vivi shared. "I plan to keep doing this and use social media to help. I try to do a fundraiser of my own a couple of times a year."*

*"Vivi has always been very focused on her goals and very driven," her mother said. "She tends to dream up ideas, and then works towards them with incredible dedication."*

Vivi's family took a jar from their pantry seeing that it was an easy way to collect donations and they continue to use it to inspire generosity.

**"It's important to help people and pay it forward,"** Vivi said. **"Everyone in the world can use some help sometimes."**

When you give to *Vivi's Jar*, you fill our community with all the love, hope, and humanity. Please do so again today.

## **When a neighbor picks up their food, Devyn picks up their *spirits*.**

Twelve-year-old Devyn's favorite hobbies include soccer and drawing. She loves the teamwork involved in sports and the creativity infused into art.

But what excites Devyn the most are opportunities to use her talents on behalf of others. *"I just love making relationships,"* she said. *"Being on a team means we're supporting each other. We all come together to support the community."*

After visiting Three Square's facilities with her father, Dan — a dedicated volunteer — Devyn decided to put her drawing skills into action. She began crafting brightly colored greeting cards for Three Square to place in meal packages to be distributed.

*"I made these Sunshine Cards. They're all hand-drawn and have little messages that I was hoping could raise people's spirits when they picked up their food. I think it's important to lift somebody's spirit, and I hope these messages do,"* Devyn said.

Devyn's family, and entire community, couldn't be prouder.

*"There's so much wealth and resources and food,"* said Devyn's father. *"It's unacceptable that thousands of people are suffering from hunger each and every day. So, it's important for us and our family to do what we can to help support people."*

**"Enjoy your food."**  
**"I hope your day is going well."**

These are just a few of the heartfelt sentiments that Devyn shares with others in need — simple messages of hope from an extraordinarily thoughtful young woman.

**Please continue to support the efforts of children like Devyn today.**



# Hear how this boy's haircuts fed other children

## *Meet Lawson*

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lawson's local barbershop was temporarily closed. This young boy would have to get haircuts from his mother at home.

So, Lawson decided to turn a negative into a positive. Lawson began saving the money he normally spent on professional haircuts in order to donate it to Three Square Food Bank.

*"I didn't have anything else I really wanted to use the money for," Lawson explained. "So, I wound up giving meals to people who needed them more than I did!"*

After raising over one hundred dollars, Lawson now intends to raise more funds by opening a neighborhood lemonade stand — a venture sure to be a success!

**Lawson and his family continue to be a gift to us all ... a reminder that no act of kindness, or idea, is too small.**

## *Food for Thought*

**Brian Burton, President and CEO**

I'm so impressed with the young people and their families featured in this newsletter. As we begin the new year, I couldn't think of better folks for us to highlight and emulate.

**These children's approach is simple: they see, and feel, someone's needs, then they find a way to help. I am so thankful for the lessons these young people teach us! We need to follow their examples now more than ever.**

Childhood hunger continues to be a serious problem in Southern Nevada and across our country. **More than 131,000 children regularly go hungry in Southern Nevada.**

Vivi, Devyn, and Lawson remind us to take small steps towards big goals. Vivi shares a jar that fills empty stomachs. Devyn creates art that lifts hearts and spirits. And Lawson develops fundraising ideas that touch lives.

It is only through collective generosity that we can achieve our goals in the fight against childhood hunger. Remember, since **every \$1 donated provides three meals**, think of how far your dollars can go to help feed hungry children here in Southern Nevada! **Every gift counts!**

**Please allow the ingenuity of our local children to inspire you and your family to create more acts of love and kindness. Thank you for doing the incredible work that you do!**

Gratefully,



Brian Burton, President & CEO



**Together, we can feed everyone**



"I wound up giving meals  
to people who needed  
them more than I did."  
-Lawson



## Childhood Hunger by the Numbers

1 in 4 children



doesn't know where they'll  
get their next meal

Proper nutrition in childhood is critical. Lack of regular, nourishing meals can lead to chronic illness and increased hospitalizations, developmental problems, and even significant health issues in adulthood. Hunger can cause difficulty focusing in school and result in behavioral and social issues.

Thanks to caring friends like you, boys and girls can get the delicious, nutritious meals they need to thrive. Your gifts provide meals for children at school, after-school feeding programs and through summer food services.

Kids Cafe®  
serves meals to  
**102**  
after-school  
programs.



On average, Kids Cafe® provides  
**approximately 17,000**  
meals per week  
to children in Southern Nevada.

In the 2021-2022 school  
year, **more than 612,000**  
Kids Cafe® meals are  
estimated to be distributed.

The Backpack  
for Kids  
Program  
serves  
**126+**  
schools.



In a typical school year,  
**more than 196,000 meals**  
are distributed through Backpack for Kids.

For the first week of the 2021-2022 school  
year, we delivered **4,670 bags** to all sites. On  
average we deliver **2,553 bags a week**. We  
are also working with community partners  
to reach as many schools as possible.

Meet Up and  
Eat Up provides  
**free meals**  
to kids 18 and under  
during the summer.



**More than 83,800 meals**  
are served to kids in need at  
**more than 55 sites**  
across the valley.