

Changing Lives, One Cow at a Time

volume 2
issue 10



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Who says kids can't make a difference? In Missouri, a group of students is changing lives around the world! How are they doing this? They're buying farm animals!

Millions of people live with little food and money, so the gift of an animal can actually save lives. More than 10 years ago, the second-graders at Forsyth School learned about how Heifer International helps people. They decided they wanted to help, too.

Heifer is an organization that has been “turning hunger and poverty into hope” for almost 70 years. It does this by giving farm animals to poor people and teaching them how to use the animals to improve their lives. A heifer is a young cow, and these animals have become a symbol of Heifer's work. That's because families with a cow can produce milk that they can drink and that they can trade for other things they need.

Animals save lives in other ways, too. Strong animals, such as water buffaloes, can plow land. Families

with a water buffalo can grow more food to eat and to sell. Heifer also gives such animals as goats, sheep, camels, and even bees to needy families.

Each second-grade class at the school decides which animals to buy and how much to give to special projects. The students' favorite part of working with Heifer is that they can help others. They don't want kids their age to be without shelter or food.

The students raise money by recycling cans and making jewelry. Some even ask that birthday or holiday gifts be given to Heifer! A water buffalo costs \$250: that's a lot of recycled cans!

Kids can do many things to help others. Your class might want to raise money for Heifer, too. You might also want to give your money or your time to a group in your community that helps people. Why not talk with your classmates about how your school can help others?



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