

Young Heroes: Katie Stagliano's Dream

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How can kids become heroes? Do they have to save the world? No. To become a hero, kids just have to think about what others need and find a way to help.
Katie Stagliano

is one of those hero kids.

Katie loved to garden. When she was 9, she harvested a huge cabbage. It weighed 40 pounds! The cabbage was far bigger than her family needed, so she thought about what to do with it.

She knew that there were lots of hungry people in South Carolina, where she lived. So she decided to donate her enormous cabbage to a soup kitchen. It helped feed more than 275 people!

Then Katie thought about other gardeners who had more vegetables than they could eat. Suddenly, she saw a way to solve both problems. Katie realized that she could help end hunger by encouraging kids to plant vegetable gardens and donate their harvest to hungry people. That's how Katie's Krops was born.

Katie says, "My dream is that there are no hungry people." To make that dream real, Katie got her whole school involved. The students planted a huge garden, but Katie knew she could do more. She contacted an organization called Fields to Families, which sent a master gardener to help.

"It's so great to help people," Katie adds, but kids don't have to grow huge cabbages. If they could grow "even one vegetable plant and donate the harvest to a local soup kitchen, we could make a huge difference in the fight against hunger."

It's been five years since Katie Stagliano started work on her dream. Today, more than 60 gardens around the United States are being grown by kids. Young gardeners have donated tens of thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables to stop hunger.

Sadly, many people are still hungry. However, Katie's Krops, and hundreds of child gardeners, are planting and harvesting to change that.



Image of a soup kitchen. Taken by U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Cristina Gabaldon. Released into public domain by the United States Navy.



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