

THE GOOD DEEDS CLUB: WHERE KINDNESS MATTERS AND GOODNESS COUNTS

Henry James, the great author, was once asked by his equally famous brother William what the three greatest lessons in life were. The first he said was: to be kind. The second he said was: to be kind. And the third he said was: to be kind.

The premise for this program is to encourage teachers to promote kindness towards others in every conceivable place possible: at school, at home, in the community and especially when in the company of strangers. While we hope that whenever possible students are included in the good deeds chosen, we also realize that may not always be feasible. Many of the good deeds you engage in will be done alone or with assistance from fellow adults. That is fine. It is important that you share the experience of what you did with students. Then they may be motivated to follow suit on their own.

There are no limitations on what good deeds you choose to do or on how you choose to go about doing them. The only rule of thumb that we ask you to follow is the one which states that goodness is its own reward. Choose deeds that make you feel good about yourself at the same time that you are doing good for others and you will be on the right track.

There are several sources we can recommend which may help guide your selections. Several years ago a book was published titled, *RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS AND SENSELESS ACTS OF BEAUTY*. It contains many examples of the kind of behaviors you are being asked to do. In addition many random acts of kindness programs have blossomed around the country as a result of the book. You can go online and google information about them. There is also the *PENNIES FOR PEACE* program started by Greg Mortenson, the author of the book *THREE CUPS OF TEA*, which was created to raise money to build schools in Afghanistan as a counter to the terrorism inflicted on that country by the Taliban. You can go online to learn more about Mortenson, his book and the *PENNIES FOR PEACE* program. Finally, there is the movie which came out more than a decade ago titled *PAY IT FORWARD*. It stars Kevin Spacey and Helen Hunt. The movie demonstrates the power of the old aphorism “ one good deed deserves another. “ Renting it may help you understand how it is possible to turn good deeds doing into a social contagion.

It is possible for you to earn up to FIVE hours of Continuing Education Unit credits by participating in this program. Two hour course and three hour course options are available for you. Specifics regarding the titles for each option, as well as the course requirements, are explained below.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE JOINING THE GOOD DEEDS CLUB

1. Determine the good deeds you plan on doing in order to earn course credit. A good deed may be singular. Example: make a commitment over a period of time to visiting a nursing home and developing relationships with residents. Or good deeds may be multiple. Example: commit yourself over a period of time to doing the following: 1. walking a friend's dog; 2. putting money in the parking meters of strangers; 3. giving blood at a blood bank; 4. picking up rubbish on your street or in your neighborhood; 5. talking to homeless people; 6. volunteering to serve at a food bank; 7. tutoring a student you don't have in your class; 8. writing weekly notes of appreciation to deserving friends and family members; 9. complimenting strangers; 10. reading to a bed ridden person.

2. Decide on how many credits you wish to earn. For each level of CEU credit you wish to earn the following will be required: 1. A paper detailing the good deeds chosen by you and your responses to three standard questions explaining the value of the experience for you and its potential value for students. The three standard questions are listed below. 2. A completed time log which documents the number of hours you spent in performing your good deeds. For every one credit of graduate credit sought by you at least fifteen hours of time needs to be expended in performing good deeds. One hour of credit requires fifteen hours of expended time; two hours of credit requires thirty hours of expended time; three hours of credit requires forty-five hours of expended time, and so on.

THREE STANDARD QUESTIONS:

1. What did you gain from your good deed [s] experience that was especially rewarding and gratifying to you ?
2. What did you learn from the experience that might help you to become a better teacher and/or parent ?
3. How might you utilize your good deed experience to create lessons or activities in your classroom which might benefit students ?

PROCEDURES FOR COMPLETING REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT PROCESS

Once you have completed your required work assignments, please do the following:

1. Go to the CCS website, www.abouteachers.com, and navigate to the Our Classes page. Click on the Brandman University button to view all BU classes.
 - a. If you are taking just one 2 credit class, select ANY class title from the list of two semester hour classes. Click on the class title you have selected to obtain a course registration form to download and print. Complete the registration form for that class.
 - b. If you are taking just one 3 credit class, select ANY class title from the list of three semester hour classes. Click on the class title you have selected to obtain a course registration form for that class. Complete the registration form for that class.
 - c. If you are taking both a 2 credit and a 3 credit class (for a total of 5 credits), select a 2 semester hour class title and a 3 semester hour class title. Click on each of the class titles you have selected to obtain registration forms for each class. Complete both registration forms.

FAX registration forms to 13038456989. **Please remember that class titles can be taken ONLY ONCE and that a maximum of FIVE semester hours of graduate level credit can be earned in the Gook Deeds Club program.**

2. Next, navigate to the PAYMENT FORM page of the CCS website and download, print out, and complete the payment form for Brandman classes. If paying by personal check, please make checks payable to Colorado Consulting Services. Mail form and check to Jay Wissot, 5230 E. Dakota Ave., Denver CO 80246. If paying by credit card, fill out the credit card coupon portion of the payment form, as well as the upper portion of the form, and fax the payment form to 13038456989. Mail or fax your completed assignments to Jay Wissot.

Questions??? -Please contact Jay Wissot 303-819-8012 or jayhwissot@mac.com

TO COMPLETE THE COURSE(S) YOU HAVE REGISTERED AND PAID FOR,
YOU WILL:

1. Submit your reflection paper(s) and work logs directly to Jay Wissot. Send completed work by mail or fax or as email attachments. Email to jayhwissot@mac.com, mail to CCS, Inc., 5320 E. Dakota Ave., Denver CO 80246, or fax to 13038456989. Once received and evaluated, coursework will be processed and Brandman University will be notified that you have passed the course. Issuing of credit will be subject to Brandman timetables and procedures.
2. Order a transcript by following the transcript procedures provided at the Brandman University website, www.brandman.edu

3. Any questions regarding coursework should be directed to Colorado Consulting Services, Inc., by telephone at 303-819-8012 or by email to jayhwissot@mac.com

GRADING IN THIS PROGRAM IS:

1. PASS/FAIL
2. Evaluations based on reflection content and writing quality.

Note: Students who wish to have their papers returned to them with instructor comments should provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope with their original course work.

QUESTIONS ??? - Please contact Jay Wissot at: 303-393-1622 or jayhwissot@mac.com