

## Lesson 4 – Discovering Needs

### End in Mind



- Students learn to build their own Project Heart, know the meaning of philanthropy, and feel what giving looks like in their lives. Students will work together as a group to meet a need or needs for their school site, neighborhood or greater community.
- Standards Addressed – [CASEL Core Competencies](#) sub-categories of Perspective-taking, Empathy, Communication, Social engagement, Teamwork, Recognizing strengths, Goal setting, Organizational skills, Identifying and Solving problems.

### Time Commitment



- Each lesson is designed to take about 20-30 minutes, once per week for 8-10 weeks. During Lessons 5 and 6, students will choose a service project. Depending on the scope of the project, students will likely request additional days each week to do the project.

### Timeline Overview

- Lesson 1 – Philanthropy and the 3Ts
- Lesson 2 – See it to Be it!
- Lesson 3 – Community Before Self
- **Lesson 4 – Discovering Needs**
- Lesson 5 – Design a Service Project
- Lesson 6 – Set Goals and Make a Plan
- Lesson 7 – Use Your 3Ts to Make a Difference
- Lesson 8 – Use Your 3Ts to Help Your Team Finish the Project
- Lesson 9 – Celebrate Growing to Give!

### Appendices and Resources



[Appendix A](#) – Facilitator Kit; [Appendix B](#) – Games and Activities; [Appendix C](#) – Guest Speakers; [Appendix D](#) – Brainstorming Ideas and Financial Concerns; [Appendix E](#) – Letter Home, Rubric, and Planners; [List of Project Ideas and Nonprofit List](#)



## Lesson 4: I find a need and fill it.

### Outcomes



- Students will identify needs in our community.
- Students will identify services that meet community needs.
- Students will make connections to their own personal passions.
- Students will brainstorm ways to use the collective group's passions to meet a need in our community.

### Tips



- Click [HERE](#) for a list of nonprofits so you're ready to set your students on the right path.
- Have the ideas from last session ready to display and share.
- Your class may be getting close to deciding on their service project, or it may take another week or two. Regardless, this is a great time to start thinking about any funding that may be needed. Student requests are considered at <https://ottercares.org/illumination-fund>

### Materials Needed



- Book: [One of Us](#)
- Sticky notes
- Pens or pencils
- Chart paper

## Connect



### 5-10 Minutes

- Gather students in a circle or seated group to introduce the lesson
  - Remember that we are learning about philanthropy, which is using your 3Ts to give back and make a difference in our community, so we started learning more of the words people use when they talk about philanthropy.
  - Who can tell me what the 3Ts of philanthropy are?
  - Who can remind us what a need is?
  - Today we are going to focus on the needs and services that we came up with during our last lesson.



## Engage



### 10-12 Minutes

- Prepare to read aloud the book *One of Us* (or another book from the book list)
  - Last week we read about the Berenstain Bears and they had a problem with too much stuff! Mama bear challenged Brother and Sister to figure out the needs in their community and then learn about the service organizations that might need their stuff.
  - Sometimes when we are looking for needs to fill, it helps to connect to what we are passionate about. For example, Sister Bear loves playing games. Mama helped her see that she had too many games, so she used some of the old games as treasure to donate to the Old Bears home. The Old Bears home provides services to the elderly members of the community. Then Sister used her time and talents to play the games with the older bears, which made all of them feel good!
  - Now we are going to read *One of Us*, a story about a girl who has to figure out where she fits in at a new school. As you listen, think about connections you have with the different kids in the story, especially the main character Roberta.
- Read aloud the book *One of Us*.



### 2-5 Minutes

- Show the sticky notes and/or charts from last week. Give students a minute to discuss some of the personal passions they connected to in the book and that should spark some new ideas for impact!
  - Encourage students to write additional ideas on sticky notes about needs and/or services connected to their passions. Use our [Project Ideas page](#) to spark inspiration as well!



### 10-15 Minutes

- **Display slides 1-7** – Walk students through the Design Thinking Process and the steps they will take to help make their community and world a better place – Listen and learn, Decide, Think of ideas, Plan, Try it out.
- Use group passions and identified needs to create change. Possibly make a final decision for their Project Heart!
  - Now we get to decide on a passion and need that our whole group will work on together. Of course we could just vote, but the idea is for all of us to come together in consensus so that everyone looks forward to helping. Some of us will be very passionate about the final outcome while some of us may not be as happy. That's when it will be important to remember that exploring passions and needs outside of our preferences helps us develop empathy towards other people.
- Ideally students will work together to group their ideas and an outcome will be apparent. This can be one of the most natural and easy parts of the project or it could be a tricky time with hurt feelings.
  - Remember to stay positive about all ideas and use language that honors students while helping them to deal with disappointment. This could be a great time to reference the [Mood Meter in Appendix B!](#)
- **Display slide 8 + 9** – Ask students which of these steps they've completed so far. If you have decided on a group to help, step one is complete! Today they will also focus on completing step two and three, deciding what needs the group they're helping has and how they can help meet one of those needs.
- IF A SERVICE PROJECT DECISION IS MADE, continue... fill a need in the community.



- *Now that we know which need we are going to fill in the community, let's brainstorm ideas about exactly which nonprofit we will help and what we can do to make an impact.*
- Record all ideas on chart paper so you have them for the next lesson. Display somewhere in the classroom WHO the class has chosen to help, WHAT need they have and HOW they can help them.
- **OPTIONAL Additional Activity: Display slides 12-15** – Students might remember these images from the previous lesson. Go through the pictures again and decide as a class who in the picture needs our help. Practice coming up with needs and ways to solve those needs in order to help them come up with their service project idea.

## Leave Changed



### 3-5 Minutes

- Ask the students who is excited about the service project that they are planning.
- Ask them if they can tell you which of the 3Ts they will be using for their service project – will they be using their time, talent, or treasure?

