



Possumus International
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2012 Grants

- Special Needs Students in Massachusetts
- Teacher Education in Belfast, Ireland
- Family, Friends and Forgiveness Awards
- Central City, Milwaukee
- Empowering Women in El Salvador

Joining is Easy!

Yes, I want to become a friend of forgiveness education.

Membership Levels:

Supporter \$25—\$99

Friend \$100—\$499

Good Friend \$500—\$999

Best Friend > \$1,000

I prefer to contribute:

____ monthly

____ quarterly

____ yearly

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Special Needs Kids Learn (And Teach) About Forgiveness



Thanks to a grant from Possumus International, a school in Massachusetts for students with brain injuries was able to follow a 14 -lesson curriculum of forgiveness using books like Thidwick the Big-

Hearted Moose, and Stone Soup. The activity was making “Goodness Soup” (an art project). The students were given a vegetable and asked to rename it with a word dealing with goodness. Some examples were: caring, optimistic and compassionate: all virtues that pave the way for forgiveness. So the pot of goodness soup reminded the students to continue working toward forgiveness. The students also read “A pig named Shrimp”

Reducing Anger in Central-City

Milwaukee is one of the most segregated cities in the United States and the average first-grade child in the central-city comes to school with levels of anger that are considered well above what is healthy. This year, Possumus International funded a program designed by Dr. Robert Enright at the International Forgiveness Institute to improve the children's emotional well-being and academic achievement by reducing anger and increasing classroom cooperation. Milwaukee's central-city and surrounding regions represent one of the most ethnically segregated areas of the United States. The region is characterized by poverty, gangs and violence.

Empowering Women

Our forgiveness education grant in El Salvador will be managed completely by Sirama, a non-governmental organization specializing in educating women since 1990 in its "Prusia Training Center." Our grant establishes a partnership with the European NGO, Fundación del Valle, Spain, which provides the guidance and coaching for the technical professional education of women and promotion of micro business programs. It is about "creating a way" which would empower women to enter into the qualified job or improve their job situation.

Education, Path to Peace...Peace through Pardon

With a Possumus International grant in El Salvador, we are helping solve gender inequality and unemployment for vulnerable women and girls who are disenfranchised due to social conflict and the extreme poverty it engenders.

Continuing a Legacy in Northern Ireland

The current situation is stable in Belfast, although it has a long history of conflict between Irish Catholic and British Protestant groups going back at least 400 years. Irish Catholic children (who tend to go to Catholic schools) and British Protestant children (who tend to go to state schools) continue in need of forgiveness education if they are to end the cycle of violence there.

In this new round of educator workshops, we will target teachers in the elementary school grades, from pre-kindergarten through grade 5. At Possumus International we firmly believe that **"The Gospel contains a profound wisdom about the role a "forgiving life" plays at the heart of human healing and flourishing."**

Through the International Forgiveness Institute website, (www.internationalforgiveness.com) teachers will have immediate access to the educational resources they need.

QUOTABLE QUOTES!

HEARD FROM YOUNG
WOMEN ACROSS
THE COUNTRY WHO APPLIED
FOR THE FAMILY, FRIENDS
AND FORGIVENESS AWARD.

After one girl read: Left to Tell, she says: "I do not know how she does it, but her example inspires me tomove past hatred...her story is amazing....If everyone in the world would forgive to her extent, then there would be no war."

After reading "The year the Swallows Came Early" one girl was able to write about how a sixth grader experiences real forgiveness and how it sets her life free.

"Forgiveness is a virtue that is very hard to master."

"Girls, especially, hold grudges."