**2014 Summer Academy**

**Teacher Presentation Summary**

**Lesson plan title:** Pay It Forward

**Your name/name of your school:** Kelli Gerhardt/ D.R. Hill Middle School

**City/country:** Spartanburg/USA

**Primary subject of lesson (History, English, etc):** History

**Grade level of students:** 7th

**Total required time to teach lesson (e.g., “two fifty minute lessons”):** Usually one 90 minute lesson with a follow up forty five minute lesson a week later

**Goal of lesson:**

The goal of this lesson is to create a community between the students and to show how one person can start a revolution. Also it is important for the students to understand how the actions of one person can save a life of another.

**Brief summer of your lesson:**

To prepare for the lesson the teacher should have some type of tree in the classroom for the students to place their hearts on. A cut out tree about 2 feet high works best. The students will watch Matilda Kalef’s story, “Three Promises” from the Centropa database. After viewing the film the students will discuss how Father Tumpej saved the girls by an act of bravery and kindness. It is important for the students to pick up on how one person can help another, even if they feel it is a small act. The students will then begin creating hearts made out of construction paper. After the students have each cut out and decorated their hearts they now have to decide what “random acts of kindness” they think they or someone in their class could complete in one week. After the students have completed their hearts with their Random Act of Kindness the students then go and place the heart of the tree. The students should then have a discussion on what Pay It Forward means and if they have ever been a part of a Pay It Forward Movement. After giving the students time to discuss in groups their answers, the students will then decide if they would be willing to take a heart off of the tree and complete the Random Act of Kindness. The twist is, once they have completed their RAOK (Random Act of Kindness) they are to pass the heart along to the person they helped. The goal for the class is to see what impact a small class full of students could have on the community around them.

**Centropa and other sources used:**

**-**“Matilda Kalef — Three Promises”

-Trailer from movie, “Pay It Forward” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_pCtXRP1edo>)