



LifeLine News

EMPOWERING IMPOVERISHED
NEIGHBORHOODS TO THRIVE



SITUATIONAL ETHICS OR A MORAL COMPASS?

BY MONIKA GRASLEY

We need a moral compass to function. We live in a world where "anything goes". Where people make decisions based not on right and wrong, but on current circumstances. While at times that might be the right thing to do, it is detrimental to a society. We have to have a just justice system. We have to have values that apply to everyone. Otherwise we have anarchy.

We have just spent the summer with 40+ kids and realized again how important morals are, how necessary clear guidelines are, and how our young people search for boundaries. From the youngest to the oldest, they wanted guidelines that helped them maneuver in a world that is too big for them.

Our societies cannot function without some just structures in place and one of our goals is to help our kids to be strong, educated, thinking young people who can know what is right and wrong.

Our summer was filled with opportunities to develop young people:

- **Flying** - yes, our kids went flying after learning from our friends at the EAA how airplanes work, what it takes to become a pilot.
- **Swimming** - many of our children learned to swim this summer thanks to a family who opened their backyard to us.
- **Learning** - our young people did homework throughout the summer to keep their minds sharp and ready for school and as a reward they earned their own backpack.
- **Library** - a field trip to introduce them to the library and how to check out books and they played lego. Keeping minds engaged!
- **Merced Court House Museum** - helping our kids understand history.
- **Riding a bike** - great job kids!

- **Castle Airforce Museum** - what a local treasure!
- **VBS** at Yosemite Church for kids to discover their unique gifts.
- **Movies in the Park** - thank you
- **Working on the community gardens** to give back to the community.
- **Learning to cook healthy meals and eat healthy snacks**
- **Fun place** at Faith Community Bible Church with a large playground and space for the kids to have fun.
- **Water play at Meadows** - thank you Lee & Jerry.
- **Developing good mental health skills** -thank you BHRS
- **Sports** - thank you volunteers who came in.
- **Daily activities** around wellbeing in every aspect of life
- **Developing a moral compass** - learning to live with others.

WHY?

TO EMPOWER: TO MAKE SOMEONE STRONGER AND CONFIDENT

- **We empower our children to thrive.** We know that moving out of poverty takes many steps. We want our kids to have a safe and fun summer, but we also want them to move forward, learn and grow because we know that a good education is one of the best ways to get out of poverty.
- **We empower our adults to thrive.** To move out of poverty people have to see something different, meet new people and break the social isolation that often comes with poverty. We want to facilitate this through community gatherings, classes, relationships, and provide opportunities to grow. Because "loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty" (Mother Theresa)
- **We empower our neighborhoods to thrive.** We live in isolation. So many of our community members live in poverty of not being well connected. What a heartbreak, our seniors being isolated, our work people overextended, our neighborhoods neglected, our children often left alone. We are changing that.
- **We empower each other to thrive.** There is so much giftedness in our communities, so much strength, and so much resilience! All that is needed is a little spark, a little trust, a few opportunities, a ton of love, and relationships to make it all happen. We build on the strength of a community and help them set the agenda for change.



Christmas with Dignity is just around the corner. Would you consider donating a new gift for our "Christmas Store" (the gifts are being sold for 20% of the value to give dignity to the parents and children).



Facts:

- Did you know we have 8 paid staff, 3 UC Merced College Corps, 1 youth, 4 SerJobs (over 55), and many volunteers?
- Did you know it costs **\$600** to pay for one day at LifeLine? **Can I challenge you to 'adopt a day'?** We cannot do this work without your help.
- Together we can break the cycle of poverty by empowering people to rediscover their gifts, their dignity, their moral compass.

You can give to LifeLine CDC via check:
 LifeLine CDC 731 E Yosemite Ave Ste B # 165, Merced CA 95340
 or via our Aplos link: <https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/LifeLineCDC>
 Want to learn more: 209-201-2905 or lifeline@lifelinecdc.org