Brynn’s story

Our idea began when my TAG teacher Mrs.Sandness wanted all of us to do a project. I didn’t know what I wanted to do for mine, but I wanted to do something BIG. A few days later, my friend Sacia had a really good idea -- The KidzKare project. She noticed that I didn’t have a project yet, so she invited me into hers.

After that, we met with Jan Wee who helped us make our website. Then Devin joined, and it’s really grown from then. This fall we were on the radio to help raise money for The Children’s Miracle Network which, by the way, was scary and fun at the same time. We also got our first donations! Thank you, Sacia’s grandparents!! We plan to shop for new toys soon!

I make cards for the people who donate to KidzKare. I think it really is the best job of all because I get to draw and do crafts which I love to do. I also plan to help with our upcoming toy drive. We all kind of help each other with our jobs. TEAM WORK!!

My goal in this project is not only to be a better person, but to see the smiles on the kids’ faces. What could be better than that? I really look forward to giving them the new toys, even just seeing them in person. I know that will make them (and me!) feel better.

 Visit www.evkidzkare.weebly.com !

 Sacia’s Story

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to spend your birthday hooked up to an I.V.? That is exactly what I was thinking about when I created KidzKare. I wondered what children with cancer or other long term illness would feel like not being able to spend Christmas with their grandparents, or how little toddlers would spend Easter not Easter-egg hunting, but undergoing surgery. That’s when I, along with my friends, Devin and Brynn, made our website.

 Exactly how did this website come to be? I thought you would never ask! Allow me to tell you! I came up with the idea when my teacher, Mrs. Sandness, asked us to create a project that had to do with our interests. Well, my brain wasn’t working at that exact moment, so I went home empty-headed. To fill my empty head, I turned on the television. A couple minutes later, **KABAM!!** I came up with the idea: “KidzKare”!! But I didn’t know it would be called that at first.

 The next day, I asked my friend, Brynn, what her project was. Apparently, she was empty- headed too, except for the fact that she wanted to something (art-y) artsy. So, I graciously welcomed her into my project as the art manager. You know the saying,”Two heads are better than one”. (Nobody said they had to be full heads, right?).

 We decided to meet with the district technology director, Mrs. Wee, in order to learn how to create a website. Then the designing began. Lucky for Brynn and I, we had some input and advice from our friend Devin. In fact, she came on board as our business and promotional director. After that, everything started to rocket off. We met with the Program Manager from the Children’s Miracle Network, Heather Gilles. She heard our idea and gave us more ideas to enhance the original idea (I don’t mean to be repetitive; there were just a lot of ideas flowing that day!).

 We put together a flyer, and then organized a field trip to Gundersen Lutheran in La Crosse, WI. While on our tour of the hospital, we met with two child care specialists who came up with MORE ideas for us. The three of us really wanted to help a child who is sick, but we found out there are privacy laws called HIPAA which protect the patients, and unfortunately for us, prevent us from contacting the patients directly. We found that sort of frustrating since we just wanted to help someone at a similar age as we are who is having health issues. Lucky for us people helped us figure out a way to make our dream become a reality.

 In the midst of all these meetings, our website came into creation. We named it “KidzKare” because we care and want to help others who care share as well! We are now in the middle of starting our first “toy drive.” We can’t specify the needs of one particular child so we decided to promote the needs of the children, in general, who may be staying at the hospital.

Working on the KidzKare project has really influenced each of us.

From Sacia: I have learned that I am very fortunate to have my health and to not have to endure extended hospitalization.

From Brynn: KidzKare has made me feel like a better person because I am helping other kids in need, and I get to do it with my friends.

From Devin: KidzKare has made me realize how much these kids appreciate these things.

Devin’s story

Machines beep around you. You lay in a bed. The sheets are white and warm. For a moment, they are comforting. But as soon as it comes, it passes, because you remember that you are hooked up to an IV in a hospital and may be for awhile. You remember that you will not be going to school tomorrow, but instead you will be undergoing surgery.

For a moment you think the loneliness is going to consume you, until you think about the playroom that is also in the hospital, and feel yourself brighten as you think of the toys and puzzles and movies that are abundant in the playrooms.

What you don’t know is that it takes a lot to keep the toys safe and clean and even to keep toys in the playroom. That’s where KidzKare comes in. When I became a part of this organization, I hoped that we would be able to help kids in the hospital have toys to play with while they were there.

I wanted to be a part of this organization because I think that children who are put in these situations need all their energy to be focused on getting better. I believe that to do that, they need to be able to take their mind off of what they are going through occasionally and I think that by being a part of the KidzKare organization, I am helping them do that.

As the organization has grown, I realize that I have grown along with it.

Change can come from anywhere. I had never really thought about that before. I had always wanted to do more to help, but never knew how or what. This organization taught me that change can come from anywhere, especially three elementary school girls with big plans and hearts. I used to think, I’m a kid, there’s not very much that I can do to help. I viewed being a kid as a limit to what I could do, but through this organization, I found that being a kid makes the sky the limit!

I challenge all the readers of this article to get past, “What can I do?” and start to think, “What more can I do?”

I challenge you not only to do, but to do more…

And you can start by going onto [www.evkidzkare.weebly.com](http://www.evkidzkare.weebly.com)

I mean, if you were a kid in the hospital, wouldn’t you want to know someone *kares*?

From Mrs. Sandness: This project has reminded me that with a great deal of persistence and energy big ideas can become reality!

 Since we first started KidzKare last year, a lot of good things have happened. It was very quiet over the summer, but this year things have really started to roll. Hopefully, we can actually rock this project and help some kids. Actually, helping a lot of kids would be ideal. See you on the website!

(Visit <http://evkidzkare.weebly.com/> . That’s the website!)