

# Other-people mindset spurs generosity in our students and our community

By Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



URING this time of year, there are abundant opportunities to do good for others in our community. It is our students' involvement in these opportunities that develops the human spirit and models the value of thinking of others first.

Coretta Scott King said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members," and her words ring true of our Clovis Unified community. Our students and staff model compassion and care for our community during a season filled with gratitude.

From the massive collection of coats every winter to record-setting canned food drives, giving in many different forms to our community is in action across the district.

Within these efforts, our students are learning the valuable life lesson of taking care of others. We believe these lessons are as equally valuable as the academic ones, because the future of our community depends on both the knowledge and character developed in our students.

To that end, we work intentionally on our campuses to develop qualities that create a well-rounded person whose intellect is paired with a healthy body and a

strong character. This sentiment is our district's mission: "To be a quality educational system providing the resources for ALL students to reach their potential in mind, body and spirit."

One example of how some of our team is striving to build community and model our mission is the Positivity Project. This supplemental curriculum is used to teach our students about an "other

- people mindset." This mindset is characterized by five qualities:

- Supporting others when they struggle
- Identifying and appreciating the good in others

- Knowing that words and actions affect others
- Cheering others' successes
- Giving others our attention

These qualities are the basis of great discussion at school and home. At the same time, the community service projects on our campuses year-round are a way that we can create opportunities for students to live out what "supporting others when they struggle" or "giving others our attention" can look like in action.

Another reminder of community and caring for others is carried out through the slogans and mottos developed by our schools. Slogans such as "Cougar Country," "Stay Golden," "Bear Nation," "Wolfpack Means Family," "The Code of the North," "Be the Change" and "Believe, Achieve, Succeed" remind our students that they belong to something larger than themselves.

In our work with other municipalities we often say, "Great communities build great schools, and great schools build great communities."

I am humbled by the generosity of our students and staff and the care they take of each other and the greater community. And I am equally humbled by how generous the community is to our Clovis Unified family, donating clothing, toys, food, full Thanksgiving meals and much more to our students and families.

Recognizing our interconnectivity and responsibility toward each other is what makes us the unique and very special place that we are, and in this season of gratitude I am most grateful for that!



Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.

## LESSONS

Inspirations by, for and from our CUSD students



Photo by Kenny Gilman/Special to CUSD Today

*PERFECT NOTE: In a rare performance, all Clovis Unified's 10 high school and intermediate school marching bands played the National Anthem together at Veterans Memorial Stadium for CUSD Band Day. The nearly 1,000 musicians then took turns on the field doing their individual shows and cheering for one another.*

*"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything."*

PLATO, ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHER