Reader

Come Together

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Chapter 1

Narrative

The Awards Ceremony

by Laura Blumenthal

Social practice:

Exchange views of a community service.

Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

1 What kind of services do you think senior citizens needs?

2 How could you help small, rural schools?

3 What difficult situations do you think small, rural towns have?

4

David King was very excited. He was nominated for the 2018 Youth Community Service Award, and the ceremony was today. He was eager to meet the other nominees and learn about their projects. So, when he arrived at the ceremony, the first thing he did was introduce himself to another nominee. The boy seemed to be about his age, 13.

"Hi, I'm David King," he said to the other boy. "Nice to meet you."

"I'm Wayne Le," the other boy replied. "It's nice to meet you too. What's your project?"

"I founded Seniors Connect," answered David. "It helps senior citizens set up social media profiles so they can be in touch with their families. It all started one day when I was visiting my granddad in the Seniors Home. I saw he was lonely, so I created a social media profile for him and connected him to all his relatives.

eager (adj) – very enthusiastic about doing something or enthusiastic about something that will happen

This way he could keep busy during the week and stay in contact with everyone. He loved it! He felt connected. Soon, other seniors wanted to learn. I couldn't do it alone, so I posted for help on social media. An army of volunteers responded, not only in my home town, but in different states. That's how Senior Connect was born. What do you do, Wayne?" he asked.

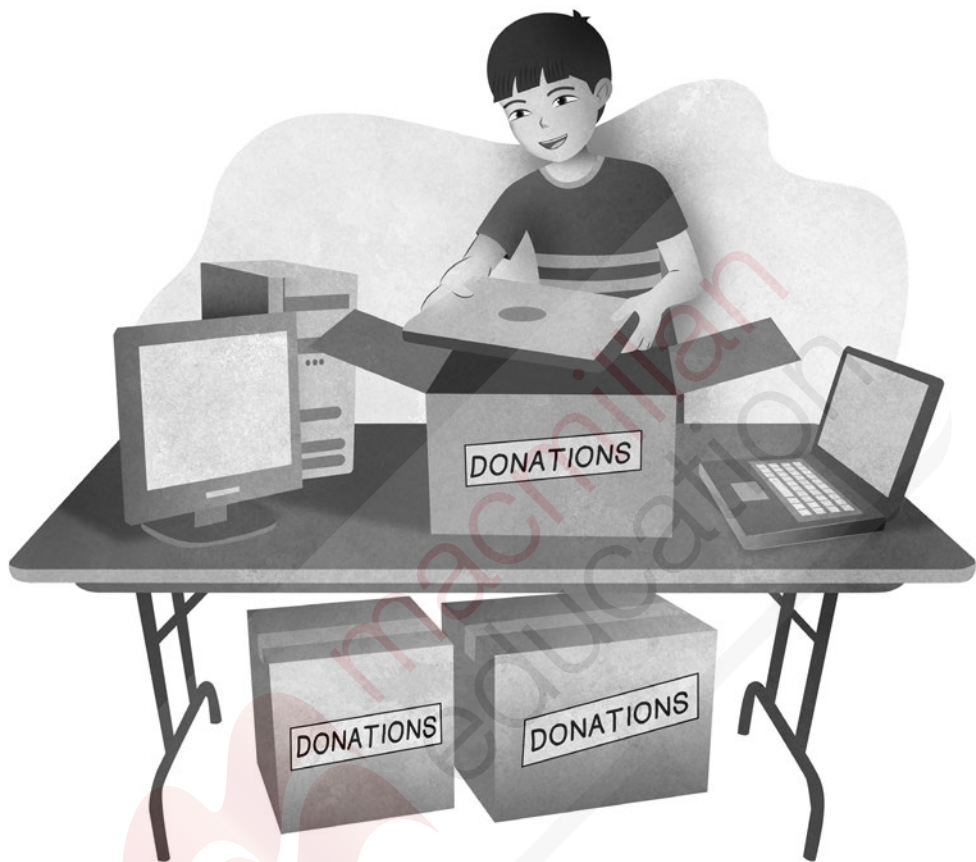**senior (n)** – someone who is at or past the age of retirement

"Well, I'm American, but my parents are from Vietnam," Wayne said. "In my home town in the US, people changed computers as often as their socks!" he exclaimed. "But my cousins in Vietnam didn't even have old computers. That's when I thought: Hey! What if we could get all these used PCs and laptops to schools in Vietnam? So I started e-Quality. We take used computers that people from the US discarded and give them to schools in Vietnam. This helps people in Vietnam access technology, and it reduces e-waste in the US. Did you know that 20-50 million metric tons of e-waste is generated every year?"

"Wow! I didn't know that," responded David. "Your project sounds really great."

"Thanks, David, so does yours," Wayne replied. "I'm sure everyone here does something special. Let's go meet some other nominees.

discard (v) – to get rid of something that you no longer want or need

"That's a great idea," agreed David. He looked around the room and then pointed to a girl a few meters away. "Look, she's about our age. And her poster looks cool. Let's talk to her."

cool (adj) – used for emphasizing how good someone or something is

David and Wayne walked up to the girl and introduced themselves. "Hi, I'm David King, and this is Wayne Le."

"Hi, David, hi, Wayne," the girl said. "I'm Michaela Rosas."

introduce (v) – to tell someone another person's name when they meet for the first time

"Nice to meet you, Michaela," said Wayne. "Can you tell us about your project? It looks really interesting."

"Sure," replied Michaela. "I'm from Los Angeles, but I went to Latin America a few years ago. I visited several small towns that didn't have access to clean water. The people who live there had to walk for hours every day to get water for their families. I was shocked. When I got back home, I did some research. I learned that the cost of building a water well was only $8,000 US dollars. I know it sounds like a lot," Michaela added, "but one well can supply water for 2,000 people. That's only $4 US dollars per person, or the price of a cup of coffee or a large cupcake in Los Angeles. Well, I love to bake, and I wanted to use my skills to help others. That's why I started Bake & Share. We bake cupcakes and use the profits to build water wells. We've built three water wells so far."

"That's awesome!" exclaimed Wayne. "My project is called—"

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shocked (adj) – very surprised and upset by something bad that happens unexpectedly

Wayne was interrupted by the awards presenter. "Hello, everyone! The long-awaited moment has arrived: the announcement of the 2018 Youth Community Service Award winners. Hundreds of young people were nominated, and it was very difficult to choose only one winner. The winner is … Daniela Soto! Daniela founded Glasses for Kids, which helps children afford eyeglasses."

Everyone began to clap, and David, Wayne, and Michaela joined in happily. "Her project sounds wonderful," beamed Michaela. "I'm so happy for her."

"Me too," agreed David. "Her project is great."

The presenter started to speak again. "Now for the winners of our under-fifteen age category: David King of Seniors Connect; Wayne Le of e-Quality, and Michaela Rosas of Bake & Share." The clapping began again.

"Wow!" cried Michaela. "I'm so proud of us!"

clap (v) – to hit your hands together many times to show that you liked something or admire someone

"I feel the same way," said Wayne. "This has inspired me to keep doing community service and helping people in need."

"Even small projects can have a big impact," added David. "Every little bit counts."

count (v) – to be important, or to have influence

2018 Youth Community Service Awards

2018
Youth Community
Service Award—Under 15
David King

2018
Youth Community
Service Award—Under 15
Michaela Rosas

2018
Youth Community
Service Award—Under 15
Wayne Le

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◣ Comprehension Exercises

1 Choose the correct answer.

1 David founded
    a) e-Quality.   b) Seniors Connect.

2 Wayne has family in
    a) Vietnam.   b) Los Angeles.

3 Michaela loves to
    a) bake.   b) clap.

4 David, Wayne, and Michaela win
    a) the same awards.   b) different awards.

5 At the end of the story, Michaela feels
    a) shocked.   b) proud.

2 Read the sentences and answer SC (Senior Connect), EQ (e-Quality), or BS (Bake & Share).

1 It donates used PCs and laptops to schools in Vietnam.
    _____

2 It provides people in small towns with access to clean water. _____

3 It helps the elderly keep active and connected. _____

4 It raises money to build water wells. _____

5 It organizes volunteers who teach the elderly how to use social media. _____

6 It helps reduce e-waste. _____

7 It benefits school children. _____

8 It benefits people in Latin America. _____

Extension Exercises

3   **Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.**

1   What services do you think your community needs?

2   How can you help people in your community?

4   **Work in pairs. Discuss community service projects you know about in your community or country. Then complete the table with information about the projects.**

Project Name	People it Benefits	Service Provided	Purpose

Further Practice Resources

You can use the following links to find out about community service projects in Mexico:

http://www.ymca.org.mx/prog_YMCA_projuve.html

https://www.afs.org.mx/voluntariado/

http://www.fondounido.org.mx/es/programas-0

Glossary

afford (v) – if you can afford something, you have enough money to be able to pay for it

army (n) – an organized group of people who are working together or helping someone

award (n) – a prize or other reward that is given to someone who has achieved something

awesome (adj) – extremely good

exclaim (v) – to say something suddenly and loudly

e-waste (n) – electronic equipment that has been thrown away

home town (n) – the city or town where you lived as a child

interrupt (v) – to say or do something to stop someone when they are speaking or concentrating on something

joint in (v) – to do an activity with people who are already doing it

lonely (adj) – unhappy because you are alone or because you have no friends

long-awaited (adj) – a long-awaited event has been expected for a long time

per (prep) – used for stating the rate or cost for each unit of time, quantity, distance, etc.

profit (n) – money that you make by selling something or from your business, especially the money that remains after you have paid all your business costs

proud (adj) – feeling happy about your achievements, your possessions, or people who you are connected with

relative (n) – a member of your family, especially one who does not live with you, for example a grandparent or cousin

water well (n) – a deep hole that is dug in the ground to provide a supply of water

wonderful (adj) – extremely good