You Don’t Have to Be Extraordinary to Make a Difference

Author/Compiler: Jack Marlowe, Maddie Donlin

Suggested Age Group: 8th-12th

Lessons/Themes: Stephanie Woodward, Disability Rights, Activism

Topic Overview:
This lesson plan includes a short biography of Stephanie Woodward, as well as a thought provoking activity encouraging students to think critically about how accessible different buildings in their community are. There are also QR codes to link students in with how to advocate for accessibility needs in their own community.

For More Information, Please Reach out:
Eron Demercy, School and Teacher Programs Coordinator
edemercy@rmsc.org
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE EXTRAORDINARY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE"
Think about some of your favorite places to go. Do these places allow for equal access for all?

- Library
- School
- Restaurant
- Movie Theater
- Hotel
- Sports Stadiums
- Sports Facilities
- Doctors office
- Grocery Store
- House
- Sidewalk
- Parking lots
YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT SOME OF THESE LOCATIONS ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE. WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THIS?

TAKE ACTION!

AS OUR GOOD FRIEND STEPHANIE WOULD ADVISE, REACH OUT TO THE BUSINESSES DIRECTLY!

HERE IS A QR CODE TO DIRECT LINKS THAT GIVE YOU THE CORRECT FORMAT ON HOW TO REACH OUT TO BUSINESSES AND ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE!
Get to know Stephanie

Stephanie Woodward is a local Rochester activist and changemaker who advocates for those with disabilities. She spent a portion of her career as a lawyer specializing in disability rights cases. Since practicing, in 2020, she started her own organization EmpowHer which focuses on teaching women with disabilities to be confident leaders in their communities. EmpowHer started as a camp program and has since evolved into seven programs which includes a public speaking program for women with disabilities. Stephanie started EmpowHer to help provide disabled girls with role models and help them see a successful life for themselves.

EmpowHer is always looking for people who want to support. They offer volunteer and internship opportunities. The program has a social media committee as well as a development committee. Above is a QR code to the EmpowHer organization website where you can learn more about what Stephanie and her allies do for girls with disabilities.

“Nothing about us without us.” -Stephanie Woodward
What is this Activity:
This activity is meant to get students thinking about disability rights and accessibility standards in their local community. It is inspired by Stephanie Woodward, a local activist and Changemaker at the Rochester Museum and Science Center.

Why we made it:
We realized that there is a lack of curriculum/representation on disability rights in our community. Students do not recognize how much impact their voice has in the community and they cannot use it unless they are educated on the issue.

Who it is meant for:
This handout is meant for students grades 8-12.

What students should take away:
The goal of this activity is to 1) get students thinking about disability rights in a way they likely had not considered before 2) encourage students to actively make change in their community and use their voice.