

Young People Can Lead Too

A Path to Unity children's story





Every morning before class, Maya ate breakfast in the school cafeteria. Most days looked about the same.



Then Maya began noticing one classmate. She never seemed to have breakfast of her own. Instead, she waited until other students were finished and asked if they had anything left.



At first, Maya thought it might have happened just once. But the next morning, she saw it again.



And the morning after that. Maya wondered if her classmate was coming to school hungry. She wanted to help, but she didn't know what to do.



Maya spoke privately with her school counselor and explained what she had been seeing at breakfast.



The counselor listened carefully. Caring was good, she said, but it was important not to make assumptions or embarrass anyone.



She suggested that Maya bring the problem to the student council - not the student's name or anyone's private business. Just the problem.



Some students might need more food than they were getting. Maya realized she did not have to solve everything herself. They could think of an answer together.



At the next student council meeting, Maya explained what she had noticed. The students shared ideas about snacks, breakfasts, and food for weekends.



They agreed on one thing: no student should have to ask classmates for leftover food. 'What if we made food bags people could take home?' one student asked.



The students made a simple plan: collect easy-to-prepare food, pack it in plain bags, and let families request help privately. No names. No one singled out.



Maya and the council presented their plan to the counselor, teachers, and school leaders. The adults asked about food safety, storage, and privacy. The students listened and improved the plan.



The school approved the idea. A local food pantry provided food, teachers found safe storage, and parents and neighbors donated extra items.



On the first packing day, students filled bag after bag with cereal, fruit cups, soup, crackers, and simple meals. Their idea was becoming real.



The food bags became available through the counselor. Students could pick them up privately - without announcements, questions, or anyone being made to feel different.



A few days later, Maya saw the same classmate eating breakfast of her own. Maya had noticed, asked questions, and brought people together. That is how young people can lead too.

Leadership can begin when someone notices a problem, asks questions, and brings people together.

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