**Children’s Message by the Confirmation Class**

**The Heifer Project: Modern-day Good Samaritans**

**Megan: Introduction**

Last month we went on an overnight retreat to the Heifer farm. Did you all see the pictures of us in the slide show? It was a lot of fun, but we also learned a lot about helping others that are less fortunate than we are. Serving others is a big part of what it means to be a Christian. Before we tell you more about the Heifer retreat, Nathaniel is going to tell you a story.

**Nathaniel: The Starfish Story**

Once upon a time, there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work. One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, he walked faster to catch up. As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean. He came closer still and called out "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?" The young man paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean." "I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man. To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die." Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!" At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said, "It made a difference for that one."

**Charlotte: Mission statement**

And now I’m going to tell you what Heifer International’s mission is—but I’m not just going to tell you, we’re going to show you in sign language too: Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.

A Heifer is a female cow. What can you get from a cow? Heifer calls it the 7 Ms: milk, money, muscle, manure, meat, material and motivation.

People can sell the **milk** to make **money** to support themselves.

The cow uses its **muscle** to pull equipment to plow the farm.

**Manure** from the cow can fertilize the crops.

As the cows multiply some of them can be harvested for **meat** and **materials** like leather.

All of this makes people feel good, providing **motivation** to do more.

**Ness: Heifer approach**

Heifer supports communities by giving not just cows but animals of all different types. They educate people how to take care of the animals and use them in their everyday lives. This helps needy people become self-sufficient. The mission is funded by donations. **[Matt, Marissa get animals and prepare for donations]** We are passing out quarters to each of you, and you can donate to the Heifer project by slipping your quarter into the mouth of one of the animals. Or, you can keep the quarter for yourself and spend it on whatever you want. The choice is up to you!