

Peyton's Pages of Purr-fect Possibility

Book 6

Giving
Families a
Second
Chance



A story about teamwork, kindness,
and second chances that change lives.

JENNIFER LEE QUATTRUCCI

Peyton's Pages of Purr-fect Possibility

Book 6: Giving Families a Second Chance

Jennifer Lee Quattrucci

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Dedication

**For every child who has ever needed a little help,
a little hope, or a second chance.**

May you always remember that asking for help is a sign of
courage,
giving to others is a gift,
and one small act of kindness can create a world of
possibilities.

And for all the children who are learning that sometimes
the biggest way to make a difference
is simply to care.

**With love,
Jennifer Lee Quattrucci**

A Message from Peyton

Hi, Friends!

I have something important to tell you.

When our class started the Autumn Charity Drive, I really, REALLY wanted us to win the trophy.

I thought if I reminded everyone enough times, we would collect the most food.

Guess what?

That didn't work!

So I had to stop, take a breath, and think about what Chance taught me.

Chance needed a second chance when my family found him. We couldn't make him trust us. We had to be patient, show him we cared, and give him time.

That's when I realized something.

Helping people is a lot like helping Chance.

Sometimes people need someone to listen.

Sometimes they need someone to believe in them.

And sometimes they just need a little help to get through a difficult time.

I also learned that when we work together, our small acts can become something BIG.

One can of soup might not seem like much.

But hundreds of cans can help hundreds of families.

One kind idea can inspire another.

And one person who decides to help can inspire a whole school!

So as you read my story, I hope you think about this:

What possibility could your kindness create?

Now turn the page...

There are lots of possibilities waiting!

Love,

Peyton 

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Chapter 1

The Autumn Announcement



The first cool breeze of September slipped through the open classroom window and fluttered the papers on Mrs. Kennedy's desk.

Peyton Carter loved September.

She loved the way the leaves were beginning to change.

She loved sharpened pencils and brand-new notebooks.

She even loved the little squeak her sneakers made against the classroom floor after recess.

But most of all, Peyton loved new possibilities.

She sat at her desk in Room 3B, tapping her pencil against her notebook.

Mrs. Kennedy stood at the front of the room.

“Boys and girls,” she announced, “I have some exciting news.”

Everyone looked up.

“The annual Autumn Charity Drive begins tomorrow.”

A few students cheered.

Peyton sat up straighter.

The charity drive was one of her favorite school traditions.

Every class collected donations for a community organization.

At the end of the drive, the class that collected the most earned a special trophy.

“What are we collecting?” Mateo asked.

“This year,” Mrs. Kennedy said, “our school is partnering with the local food bank.”

Peyton's pencil stopped tapping.

“A food bank?” she asked.

Mrs. Kennedy nodded.

“We will be collecting nonperishable foods such as canned vegetables, cereal, pasta, peanut butter, and soup. We will also be collecting some monetary donations.”

She held up a colorful poster.

At the bottom were four important words.

GIVING FAMILIES A SECOND CHANCE.

Peyton stared at them.

Second chance.

Those words made her think of one very special orange-and-white cat.

Chance.

That evening, Peyton found Chance curled up in the sunny spot beside the living-room window.

His orange tail was wrapped around his paws.

“Hey, Chance,” Peyton whispered.

Chance opened one eye.

Peyton smiled.

“You got a second chance.”

Chance blinked.

Peyton opened her journal.

She carefully wrote:

Peyton's Journal

September 15

Big idea: SECOND CHANCES

Our school is helping the food bank.

Their motto is "Giving Families a Second Chance."

That made me think of Chance.

Chance needed a second chance when my family found him.

Maybe families need second chances, too.

And I think Room 3B should win the charity trophy!

Peyton drew a giant star beside her words.

Then she wrote one more sentence.

Our goal: COLLECT MORE THAN EVERY OTHER CLASS!

She underlined it three times.

Chance jumped onto the couch.

Peyton laughed.

“I have a plan.”

Chance purred.

Chapter 2

The Big Goal



The next morning, Peyton arrived at school before the first bell. She had a poster tucked under her arm.

Across the top, in giant purple letters, it said:

ROOM 3B CAN DO IT!

Underneath, Peyton had drawn cans of soup, cereal boxes, apples, and stars.

At the bottom she had written:

500 DONATIONS!

Mateo stared at it.

“Five hundred?”

“Yes!”

“That's a lot.”

“Exactly.”

Mrs. Kennedy let Peyton tape part of the poster to the wall. It was so big, only the bottom part fit!

“We need to win.”

Mateo shrugged.

“Maybe.”

Peyton looked at him.

“Maybe?”

“There's a soccer tournament coming up.”

“I know.”

“Everyone's practicing.”

Peyton sighed.

“We can practice soccer and collect food.”

Mateo smiled.

“Maybe you can.”

Before Peyton could answer, Mrs. Kennedy called everyone to the carpet.

She explained that the food bank served families throughout the community.

“Some families may need help for a short time,” she explained. “The food bank can help make sure they have enough food while they work through a difficult season.”

Peyton listened carefully.

She thought about the phrase from the poster.

Second chance.

When Mrs. Kennedy finished, Peyton raised her hand.

“Can our class set a goal?”

“Absolutely.”

“Five hundred!”

Several children gasped.

Mrs. Kennedy smiled.

“That is an ambitious goal.”

“I like ambitious,” Peyton said.

Her classmates laughed.

Peyton opened her journal at lunchtime.

Peyton's Journal

Goal = 500 donations!

I am going to help everyone understand how important this is.

I know we can do it.

Room 3B is going to be AMAZING.

She drew a picture of a trophy.

Then she added a picture of Chance wearing a cape.

Underneath it she wrote:

SUPER CHANCE TO THE RESCUE!

Chapter 3

The Empty Box



For the first two days, things did not go according to Peyton's plan.

On Monday, three cans were placed in the classroom donation box.

On Tuesday, there were two boxes of cereal.

On Wednesday morning, Peyton looked inside.

Nothing.

Not one can.

She stared at the mostly empty box.

"This cannot be happening," she whispered.

Mateo walked past.

“What's wrong?”

“Nothing.”

“You look like something's wrong.”

Peyton pointed at the box.

“It's practically empty.”

Mateo looked inside.

“Maybe people forgot.”

“They're supposed to remember.”

Mateo shrugged.

“I forgot yesterday.”

Peyton's mouth dropped open.

“You forgot?”

“I had soccer practice.”

Peyton folded her arms.

“The food bank doesn't care about soccer practice.”

Mateo frowned.

"I know."

Peyton immediately felt bad.

"That didn't come out right."

Mateo nodded.

"It's okay."

But he walked away.

Peyton looked at the box again.

She didn't like the empty feeling in her stomach.

At lunchtime, she opened her journal.

Peyton's Journal

Problem:

People aren't donating enough.

Possible solution:

Remind them.

Another solution:

Remind them again.

BIG solution:

Remind them a LOT.

Peyton smiled.

She had a plan.

Chapter 4

The Motivational Speech



The next morning, Peyton asked Mrs. Kennedy if she could say something during morning meeting.

"Of course."

Peyton stood in front of the class.

She took a deep breath.

"Good morning, Room 3B."

"Good morning," everyone answered.

"We have a problem."

Mateo whispered, "Uh-oh."

Peyton held up a can of soup.

“This is our charity drive.”

She held up another can.

“This is a second chance.”

She held up a box of cereal.

“This is helping families.”

Then she pointed toward the empty donation box.

“And THIS is embarrassing.”

Everyone stared at her.

Peyton continued.

“We need to bring food tomorrow. And the next day. And every day. We need to win!”

Mrs. Kennedy gently raised her hand.

“Peyton.”

Peyton stopped.

“That is certainly enthusiastic.”

“Thank you.”

A few children giggled.

Peyton sat down.

At recess, she heard two classmates talking.

"Peyton is kind of bossy about the food drive."

"She really wants that trophy."

Peyton pretended she hadn't heard them.

But she had.

That afternoon, she opened her journal.

Peyton's Journal

Maybe my speech was TOO motivational.

But people need to help.

Don't they?

She paused.

Then she added:

Why don't they care as much as I do?

Peyton stared at the question.

She didn't know the answer.

Chapter 5

Soccer vs. Soup



By Thursday, the classroom was buzzing about the upcoming soccer tournament.

Mateo and several classmates practiced passing a ball during recess.

Peyton watched from the edge of the playground.

“Don't forget the food drive!” she called.

Mateo waved.

“We won't!”

“Remember to bring cans!”

“We know!”

Peyton frowned.

She didn't understand.

How could everyone be so excited about soccer when families needed food?

That afternoon, Mrs. Kennedy noticed Peyton looking frustrated.

"Would you like to talk?"

Peyton nodded.

"Everyone cares about soccer more than the charity drive."

Mrs. Kennedy sat beside her.

"Do you think they care about helping families?"

"Yes."

"Then perhaps the question isn't whether they care."

Peyton looked confused.

"What's the question?"

"Maybe the question is how they can use the things they already care about to help."

Peyton thought about that.

Soccer.

Food.

Helping.

She opened her journal.

Peyton's Journal

Mrs. Kennedy said:

Find a way to connect what people care about with helping others.

Hmm.

What do people care about?

Soccer.

Pets.

Art.

Games.

Friends.

Maybe there is a way.

Peyton drew a question mark.

Then another.

Then another.

Chapter 6

The Perseverance Award



That evening, Peyton sat on her bedroom floor.

She looked at the award hanging on her wall.

PERSEVERANCE & PROBLEM-SOLVING AWARD

She had earned it during the Great Apple Orchard Challenge. The team won a trophy for the school, but each team member received a purple ribbon.

Peyton remembered carrying that heavy basket.

She remembered getting frustrated.

She remembered wanting to quit.

But she had kept trying.

"This is different," she told Chance.

Chance was stretched across her bed.

"It's easier to solve a basket problem than a people problem."

Chance yawned.

"Exactly."

Peyton picked up her journal.

Peyton's Journal

At the apple orchard, I learned:

When something doesn't work, try another way.

But what if the first FIVE ways don't work?

Maybe I need to try a sixth.

Or a seventh.

Or...

Peyton sighed.

"I don't know what to do."

Chance lifted his head.

Peyton looked at him.

“You're not very helpful.”

Chance stood up and walked toward her.

Then he curled into her lap.

Peyton smiled.

“Actually, maybe you are.”

Chapter 7

Remembering Chance



Peyton scratched Chance behind the ears.

She remembered when he first came into her family's life.

He had been frightened.

He had hidden.

He hadn't trusted anyone.

Peyton remembered wanting to scoop him up immediately.

But she couldn't.

Her family had learned to wait.

They left food nearby.

They spoke softly.

They gave him space.

Little by little, Chance came closer.

Peyton smiled.

“We didn't force you.”

Chance purred.

“We waited.”

Purr.

“We were patient.”

Purr.

“We showed you we cared.”

Chance stretched.

Peyton suddenly sat up.

“That's it!”

Chance looked at her.

“I've been trying to force everyone to care about the food drive.”

She opened her journal.

Peyton's Journal

Chance taught me something.

You can't force someone to trust you.

Maybe you can't force someone to care, either.

You have to give people a chance to choose.

Peyton drew a picture of Chance.

Then she added a speech bubble.

TRY A NEW WAY!

She stared at the page.

A new idea began to form.

Chapter 8

Chance's Second Chance Challenge



The next morning, Peyton arrived with a brand-new idea. She opened her journal.

At the top of the page were giant words:

CHANCE'S SECOND CHANCE CHALLENGE

Underneath was a picture of Chance wearing a superhero cape.

Peyton explained her idea to Mrs. Kennedy.

“What if we have a Paws for a Cause event?”

“What would that look like?”

“Students could bring pictures of their pets.”

Mrs. Kennedy smiled.

“And?”

“People could vote for their favorite pet by donating food.”

“What a creative idea.”

Peyton's eyes sparkled.

“We could make a giant pet-photo wall!”

Mateo overheard.

“Can we include soccer?”

Peyton thought.

“How?”

“Every soccer team could have a collection box. The team with the most donations gets extra points.”

Peyton grinned.

“That is actually a GREAT idea.”

Mateo smiled.

“See? Soccer can help.”

Peyton nodded.

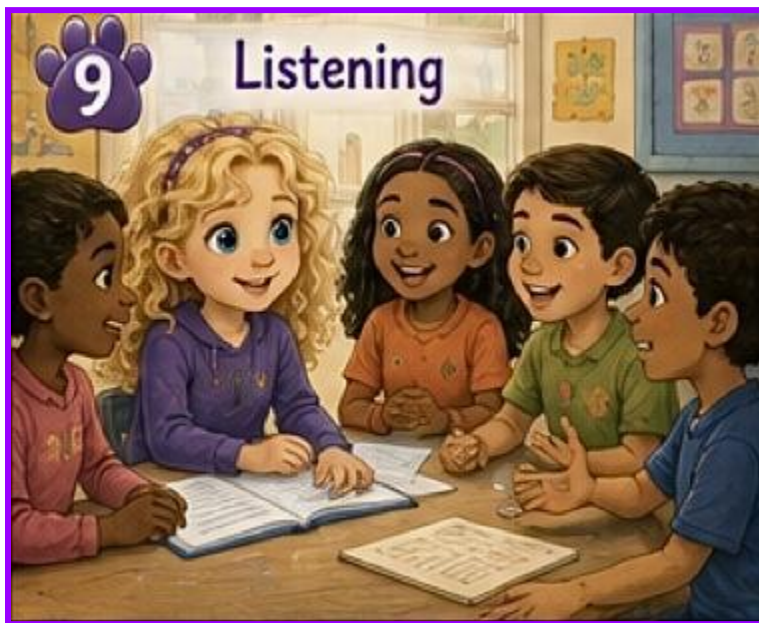
She finally understood.

She didn't have to make everyone care about the charity drive in exactly the same way she did.

She needed to help everyone find their own way to care.

Chapter 9

Listening



At morning meeting, Peyton stood in front of the class again.

This time, she didn't give a speech.

She asked a question.

“What would make the charity drive fun?”

Everyone became quiet.

Then Mateo raised his hand.

“Soccer.”

Another student suggested an art contest.

Someone else wanted to decorate the collection boxes.

A student named Ava suggested a pet-photo wall.

Peyton wrote down every idea.

“Anything else?”

“How about a pet talent show?” someone asked.

Peyton's eyes widened.

“Yes!”

Mrs. Kennedy smiled.

Peyton looked at the list.

It was much longer than the one she had created alone.

Peyton's Journal

NEW RULE: LISTEN FIRST.

Today's ideas:



Soccer Challenge



Pet Photo Wall



Decorated Donation Boxes



Pet Talent Show



Classroom Goals

This is working.

Maybe I don't have to do everything.

Maybe we can do it together.

Peyton drew a heart around the word **TOGETHER**.

Chapter 10

The Cat-Tail Thermometer



By Friday, Room 3B had a new progress chart.

Peyton drew a giant orange cat tail across the whiteboard.

At the bottom she wrote:

100

Then:

200

300

400

500!

Every time the school reached a new goal, students could mark off another colored section.

The donation box began filling.

Ten cans.

Twenty.

Thirty.

Then fifty.

Peyton couldn't believe it.

"We're doing it!"

Mateo held up a box of cereal.

"Fifty-one!"

Everyone cheered.

Peyton laughed.

The classroom felt different.

It wasn't Peyton reminding everyone anymore.

Everyone was reminding everyone.

Peyton's Journal

The cat tail chart is working!

We reached 100!

I think Chance would be proud.

I also think I am learning something.

A team is stronger when everyone gets to bring an idea.

Chapter 11

One Can Matters



On Monday morning, a student named Sofia quietly placed one can of soup into the donation box.

Peyton looked at it.

“One?”

Sofia nodded.

“My mom said we could bring this.”

Peyton almost said, “We need more.”

But she stopped.

She remembered her journal.

Listen first.

“What made you choose soup?”

Sofia smiled.

“My little brother likes it.”

Peyton nodded.

“So you picked something your family knows people might enjoy.”

“Yes.”

Peyton smiled.

“One can matters.”

Sofia smiled back.

Peyton realized that one can might become two.

Two might become ten.

Ten might become a hundred.

Peyton's Journal

TODAY'S LESSON:

Don't measure kindness by size.

One can matters.

One idea matters.

One person matters.

And one small action can become something BIG.

Chapter 12

Behind the Food Bank Door



A few days later, Mrs. Kennedy's class visited the local food bank.

Peyton expected to see shelves filled with cans.

She did.

But she also saw refrigerators.

Boxes.

Shopping carts.

Volunteers.

And families choosing food.

The food bank director greeted them.

“Welcome.”

Peyton looked around.

“How many families come here?”

“Many families in our community,” the director explained.

“Do they come because they don't have jobs?”

“Sometimes. But there are many reasons a family might need help.”

The director explained that an unexpected bill, a change in work, a family emergency, or other difficult circumstances could make it hard to buy enough food.

Peyton listened carefully.

The director continued.

“Needing help doesn't mean someone has failed. Sometimes people simply need support while they get back on their feet.”

Peyton thought about Chance.

She understood.

A second chance wasn't about being perfect.

It was about having help when things didn't go as planned.

Chapter 13

A Second Chance for Families



The food bank director showed the class a large room filled with food.

"This food doesn't just fill cupboards," she explained.

"It can give families breathing room."

"What does that mean?" Peyton asked.

"It means that if a family receives some groceries here, they may be able to use their money for something else they need."

"Like shoes?" Mateo asked.

"Sometimes."

"Or medicine?" another student asked.

“Yes.”

Peyton looked at the shelves again.

Suddenly, the cans looked different.

They weren't just cans.

They were breakfasts.

Dinners.

Lunches.

Relief.

Hope.

Possibilities.

Peyton's Journal

I thought we were collecting cans.

But we're really collecting:

MEALS.

TIME.

HELP.

HOPE.

Maybe that's what a second chance looks like.

Chapter 14

Paws for a Cause



The Paws for a Cause event arrived.

The hallway was covered with pet pictures.

Dogs.

Cats.

Hamsters.

Fish.

Even a turtle.

Students voted with food donations.

Every can counted as one vote.

The pet with the most votes would win the Golden Paw Award.

Peyton's favorite photo was a tiny dog wearing a raincoat.

Mateo's favorite was a giant fluffy dog.

Everyone laughed.

The event was a huge success.

By lunchtime, the cat-tail thermometer had climbed past 300.

Peyton stared at it.

“Three hundred!”

The class cheered.

Mrs. Kennedy smiled.

“You changed your approach, Peyton.”

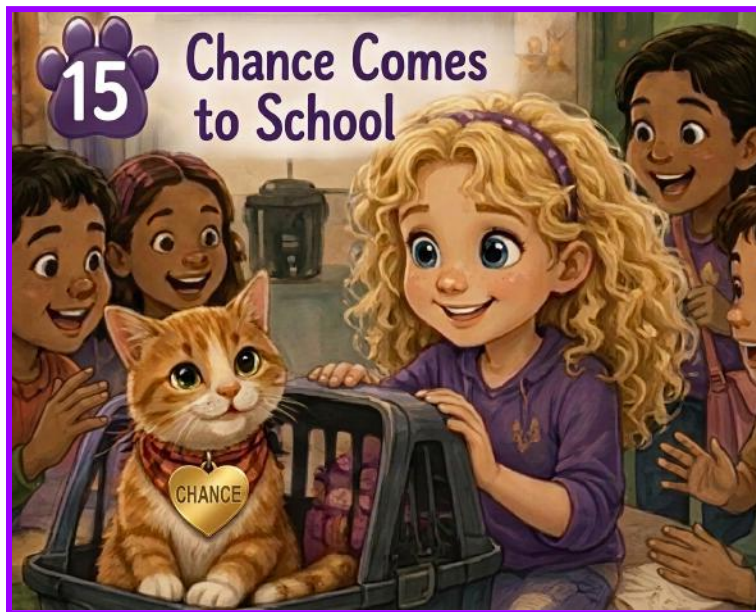
Peyton nodded.

“I listened.”

“That can be a powerful kind of problem-solving.”

Chapter 15

Chance Comes to School



On the morning of the final rally, Peyton had a surprise.

Her mom arrived at the school drop-off area.

And she wasn't alone.

Inside a secure pet carrier was Chance.

He wore an autumn bandana around his neck.

Peyton's face lit up.

“Chance!”

She knelt beside the carrier.

“Are you ready?”

Chance gave a quiet meow.

Soon, children gathered around.

"Is that Chance?"

"He's so cute!"

"Look at his bandana!"

Peyton smiled.

"This is the cat who inspired our challenge."

She told them Chance's story.

"He needed a second chance."

A student asked, "And now he's helping families get one?"

Peyton smiled.

"Exactly."

Chance purred.

Chapter 16

The Big Rally



The gymnasium was packed.

Autumn leaves decorated the walls.

Paw prints covered the floor.

Donation boxes stood everywhere.

The principal walked onto the stage.

"Our school has never collected this much food during an Autumn Charity Drive."

Everyone cheered.

The principal announced the final total.

Peyton held her breath.

Room 3B had collected more than 500 donations.

But that wasn't the biggest surprise.

The entire school had collected enough food to fill a truck.

The gym erupted in applause.

Peyton looked around.

She saw students from every classroom.

She saw teachers.

Families.

Volunteers.

And Chance, safely watching from his carrier near the entrance.

Peyton smiled.

They had done it.

Together.

Chapter 17

The Trophy



The principal held up the trophy.

“And this year's charity trophy goes to...”

Everyone shouted:

“ROOM 3B!”

Peyton and her classmates cheered.

Mateo hugged her.

“We won!”

Peyton laughed.

They held the trophy together.

Mrs. Kennedy took a photograph.

But when the excitement settled, Peyton looked at the boxes of food.

She thought about the food bank.

She thought about families.

She thought about Chance.

And suddenly, the trophy didn't seem like the biggest prize.

Peyton's Journal

We won the trophy.

But I don't think the trophy is the best part.

The best part is knowing that somewhere, a family might sit down together for dinner because we helped.

That feels bigger than a trophy.

Chapter 18

The Delivery



The next day, the school's donations were delivered to the food bank.

Peyton helped carry a small box.

It was heavier than she expected.

She looked at the truck.

There were boxes everywhere.

"So many," she whispered.

The director smiled.

"Every one represents someone who chose to help."

Peyton looked at the box in her hands.

She thought about the first empty donation box in Room 3B.

Then she looked at the truck.

What a difference a few weeks could make.

Peyton smiled.

“Chance would like this.”

The director laughed.

“I'm sure he would.”

Chapter 19

What Peyton Really Won



Back in the classroom, the trophy sat on the shelf.

Everyone admired it.

But Peyton noticed something else.

Her original goal had been:

WIN.

Her new goal was different.

She wrote it on the board.

KEEP HELPING.

Mateo looked at it.

“What's our next challenge?”

Peyton smiled.

“I don't know yet.”

“Maybe that's okay.”

Peyton nodded.

“Maybe the next possibility hasn't been written yet.”

Mrs. smiled.

“That's a very Peyton way to think.”

Peyton laughed.

She opened her journal.

Peyton's Journal

I thought perseverance meant trying harder.

Sometimes it means trying differently.

I thought problem-solving meant finding an answer.

Sometimes it means listening.

I thought winning meant getting a trophy.

Now I think winning can mean helping someone else.

And I learned something from Chance.

Sometimes everyone deserves a second chance.

Chapter 20

A Purr-fect Possibility



That evening, Peyton sat at her desk.

Chance was curled up in the chair beside her.

Autumn leaves tapped softly against the window.

Peyton opened her journal to a clean page.

She wrote slowly.

Peyton's Final Journal Entry

September 30

Today I learned that a second chance can mean many things.

Chance got a second chance when my family helped him feel safe.

A family might get a second chance when a food bank helps provide groceries.

A person might get a second chance when someone believes in them.

And sometimes we get a second chance to try something differently when our first idea doesn't work.

At the beginning of the charity drive, I wanted everyone to do things my way.

I thought if I talked louder, reminded people more, and tried harder, we would win.

But that wasn't the answer.

The answer was listening.

The answer was teamwork.

The answer was caring about what mattered to other people.

Peyton paused.

Chance opened one eye.

She smiled.

Then she added one final sentence.

Maybe every problem has a possibility hiding inside it.

Chance climbed onto her lap.

Peyton laughed.

“You agree?”

Chance purred.

Peyton closed her journal.

Outside, the leaves were changing.

Inside, Peyton was changing, too.

She was learning that the world was much bigger than her classroom.

There were families she had never met.

People whose stories she didn't know.

Problems she couldn't solve by herself.

But there was also something else.

There were possibilities.

Possibilities for kindness.

Possibilities for teamwork.

Possibilities for helping.

Possibilities for hope.

And sometimes, all it took was one person deciding to begin.

Peyton looked down at Chance.

“You know what?”

Chance blinked.

“I think your second chance turned into a pretty purr-fect possibility.”

Chance purred louder.

Peyton smiled.

Then she opened her journal one more time.

At the very bottom of the page, she wrote:

TO BE CONTINUED...

Author's Note

Dear Readers,

Sometimes life doesn't go exactly the way we planned.

A family might face an unexpected challenge. A person might make a mistake. An animal might need a safe place to begin again.

That doesn't mean the story is over.

A second chance can create a new possibility.

In this story, Peyton learns that helping others isn't about telling people what they should do. It's about listening, understanding, working together, and recognizing that everyone has a story we may not know.

Food banks play an important role in communities by helping provide food to people and families who need additional support.

I hope Peyton's experience reminds you that even a small act of kindness can become part of something much bigger.

And remember:

Your next possibility might be waiting on the very next page.

With kindness,

Jennifer Lee Quattrucci

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Peyton & Chance's Guide to Helping Our Community

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Small Acts. Big Hearts. Real Change.

For children ages 6–10



A Note from Peyton

Hi, Friend!

Have you ever noticed that sometimes a really small thing can make a really big difference?

A smile can brighten someone's day.

Helping someone carry something can make their job easier.

Including someone who feels lonely can help them feel like they belong.

Picking up a piece of litter can make a park look better.

And saying **“thank you”** can remind someone that their hard work matters.

Chance and I have learned that you don't have to be a grown-up to help your community.

You don't need lots of money.

You don't need a special job.

You don't have to do something huge.

You just need a **caring heart, a curious mind, and a willingness to help.**

That's why I created this guide for you!

Inside, you'll find 20 helping missions that you can complete with your family, friends, classmates, or another trusted adult.

Some missions will take only a few minutes.

Others may become bigger projects.

You can complete them in any order you choose.

And remember...

Helping isn't about getting a prize.

It's about knowing that something you did made someone else's day, neighborhood, school, or community a little better.

Chance says that's something worth celebrating.

I agree!

Are you ready to become a Peyton & Chance Community Helper?

Let's go!

— **Peyton**



Meet Chance!

Chance may be a cat, but he has taught me some very important lessons.

He has taught me to:

- 🐾 Be patient.
- 🐾 Notice when someone needs help.
- 🐾 Take care of others.
- 🐾 Be gentle.
- 🐾 Keep trying.
- 🐾 Appreciate the little things.

Chance also reminds me that sometimes helping means simply being there.

You can help with your **hands**.

You can help with your **words**.

You can help with your **ideas**.

And you can always help with your **heart**.

What Does It Mean to Help Your Community?

Your community isn't just a place.

Your community is made up of **people, animals, places, and organizations that you share your world with.**

Your community might include:

- Your family
- Your school
- Your classroom
- Your neighborhood
- Your library
- Your parks
- Local businesses
- Community organizations
- Older adults
- Children
- Animals
- Nature
- People who help keep your community safe and healthy

Being a community helper means looking around and asking:

“What can I do to help?”

You don't have to fix every problem.

Start small.

One kind action can inspire another.

The Peyton & Chance Helping Formula

Whenever you see something that could be better, try these five steps:

1. SEE IT 👁️👁️

What do you notice?

2. THINK ABOUT IT 💭

Why might this matter?

3. MAKE A PLAN 📝

What could you safely do to help?

4. HELP! ❤️

Put your plan into action.

5. REFLECT ★

How did your action make a difference?

Remember:

SEE IT → THINK ABOUT IT → PLAN IT → HELP → REFLECT

Before You Begin

Some community-helping activities require an adult.

Always:

- Ask a parent, caregiver, teacher, or other trusted adult before beginning a project.
- Stay with your trusted adult when helping in public places.
- Never approach strangers on your own.
- Never pick up dangerous objects or unknown materials.
- Never enter a home, building, or private property without permission.
- Follow school and community rules.
- Ask an adult before donating belongings, food, or money.
- Be respectful of people's privacy.
- Be gentle and safe around animals.
- Remember that helping should be safe for **you and everyone around you.**

Being a great helper also means being a safe helper!

MISSION 1



Be a Kindness Detective

Peyton's Challenge:

Today, look carefully for people who might appreciate a little kindness.

You might:

- Give someone a compliment.
- Hold a door for someone.

- Thank someone.
- Invite someone to play.
- Help someone who is struggling.
- Smile and say hello.

Plan It!

Who could you help?

What could you do?

Do It!

What happened?

Chance's Question 🐱

How do you think your kindness made the other person feel?

MISSION 2



Make Someone Smile

Create something that could brighten someone's day.

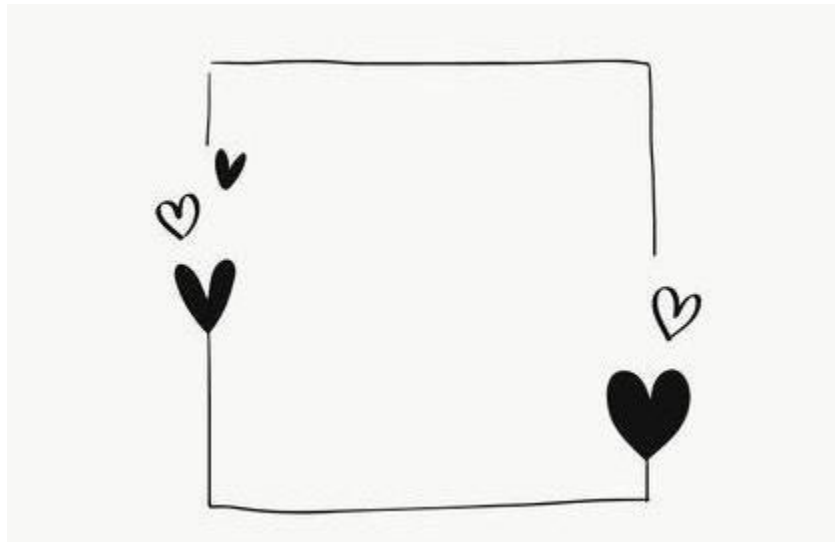
You could make:

- A drawing
- A card
- A bookmark
- An encouraging note
- A paper flower
- A small piece of artwork

Give it to someone who would enjoy it.

My Creation

Draw what you made here:



Reflect

Why did you choose this person?

MISSION 3



Be a Helper at Home

Sometimes the best place to begin helping is right at home!

Choose one helpful job that you don't normally have to do.

You could:

- Put away groceries.
- Organize books.
- Help clean a room.
- Feed a pet.
- Help set the table.
- Fold laundry.

- Pick up toys.
- Help a family member.

My Helping Job

Today I helped by:

How did it feel?

- 😊 Great
- 😊 Good
- 😊 Peaceful
- 💪 Proud
- ❤️ Happy

Chance's Challenge

Can you help without being asked?

MISSION 4



Become a School Helper

Look around your classroom or school.

What is one thing you could do to make it a better place?

Ideas:

- Help organize supplies.
- Pick up litter.
- Welcome a new student.
- Help a classmate.

- Thank a teacher.
- Help clean up after an activity.
- Invite someone to join your group.

My School Helping Idea

I will:

My Impact

I helped my school by:

MISSION 5



Thank a Community Helper

Every community has people who work hard to help others.

Think about:



Teachers



Firefighters



Police officers



Librarians



Mail carriers



Custodians



Crossing guards



Healthcare workers



Parks workers



Bus drivers



Food pantry volunteers

Choose one community helper to thank.

My Thank-You

Dear _____,

Thank you for:

You help our community by:

From,

MISSION 6



Join the Clean-Up Crew

With a trusted adult, choose a safe area that could use some cleaning.

It might be:

- Your yard
- A community garden
- A park
- A playground
- A walking path

Never pick up sharp, dangerous, or unknown objects. Ask an adult to handle them.

Before

What did the area look like?

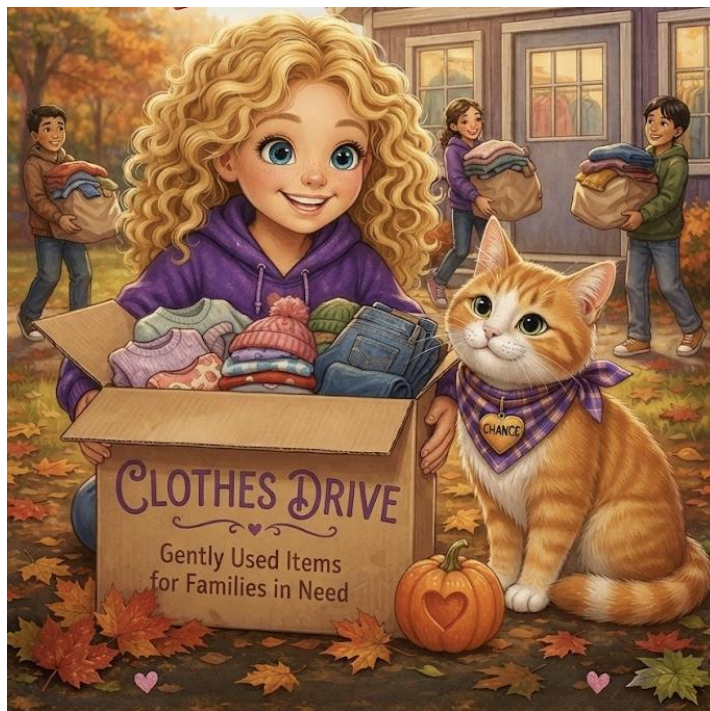
After

What changed?

I helped make my community:

- ☐ Cleaner
- ☐ Safer
- ☐ Healthier
- ☐ More beautiful

MISSION 7



Share What You Can

Many people and organizations collect gently used items for people who need them.

With your family's help, find something you can donate.

You might donate:



Books



Toys



Clothing



Art supplies



School supplies

Always ask an adult before donating anything.

I chose to share:

Why did I choose it?

My Big Idea

Sharing is one way we can show that we care.

MISSION 8



Be a Friend to Someone New

Starting somewhere new can feel scary.

Look for someone who might need a friend.

You could:

- Say hello.
- Introduce yourself.
- Invite them to play.
- Sit with them.
- Show them where something is.

- Ask them about something they enjoy.

My Friendship Mission

I will:

Chance's Question 🐱

What makes someone feel welcome?

MISSION 9



Be an Animal Helper

Animals depend on people to care for them.

With a trusted adult, choose a safe way to help an animal.

You could:

- Help care for your pet.
- Donate appropriate supplies to an animal shelter.
- Make a bird-friendly space with adult help.
- Learn about local wildlife.
- Help keep animals' environments clean and safe.

My Animal Helper Mission

I helped by:

Draw Your Animal Helper Moment



MISSION 10



Become a Book Buddy

Books can travel from one person to another and bring stories, information, and imagination along the way!

With an adult, find a way to share books.

You might:

- Donate books.
- Help organize a classroom library.
- Give a book to a friend.
- Participate in a book drive.

- Visit a library.

A Book I Would Love to Share

Title:

Author:

Why?

MISSION 11



Be a Food Pantry Friend

Food pantries help provide food for people and families.

With an adult, find out whether a local food pantry accepts donations.

Then help your family collect appropriate items.

Our Family Collection

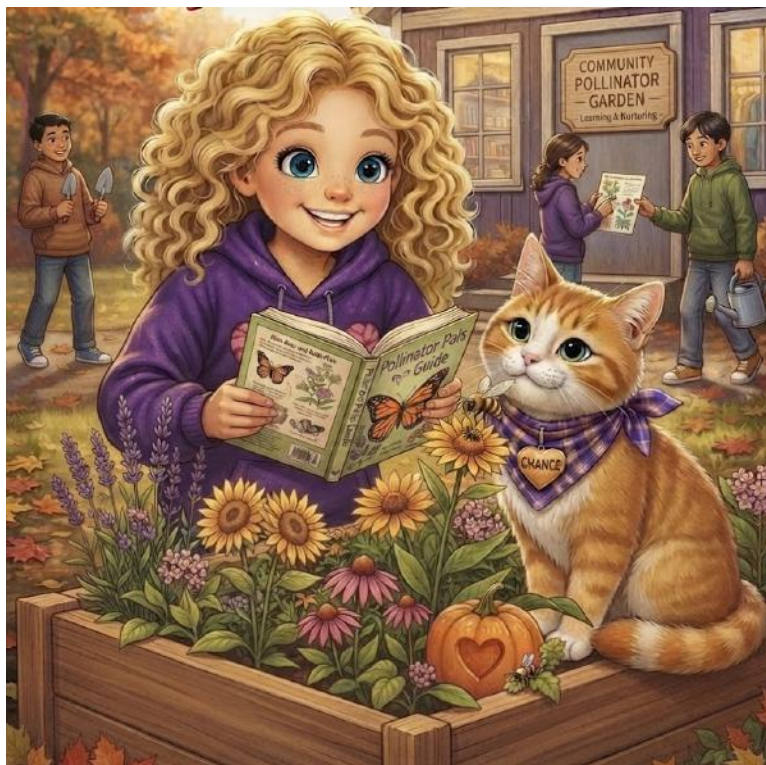
We collected:

How many items?

What did I learn?

Helping others means remembering that everyone deserves care and dignity.

MISSION 12



Become a Nature Protector

Our community includes the natural world around us.

Choose one way to care for nature.

You could:

-  Plant something with an adult.
-  Care for a tree.
-  Help save water.
-  Learn about pollinators.
-  Help clean a safe outdoor area.
-  Reduce waste.

My Nature Mission

I will:

I helped nature by:

MISSION 13



Spread Encouragement

Words can be powerful.

Create three encouraging messages.

Examples:

You can do it!

Keep trying!

You matter!

I believe in you!

Great job!

Don't give up!

My Messages

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Who could use these words?

MISSION 14



Help Someone Feel Less Lonely

Sometimes people need someone to listen, talk, or spend time with them.

With a trusted adult, think of someone who might enjoy some company.

You could:

- Visit them.
- Call them.
- Draw them a picture.
- Write a card.

- Read with them.
- Play a game together.

My Connection

I chose to:

What did we do together?

How did it make me feel?

MISSION 15



Become a Water Saver

Water is important for people, animals, plants, and our planet.

Become a **Water Detective!**

Look around your home for ways to save water.

I noticed:

One change we can make:

My Water-Saving Promise

I will:

MISSION 16



Become an Energy Helper

Your home uses energy every day.

With your family, look for ways to save energy.

You could:

- Turn off lights when leaving a room.
- Unplug items when appropriate with adult help.
- Use natural light when possible.
- Make sure doors and windows are closed when appropriate.
- Remind family members to turn things off.

My Energy Mission

I noticed:

We can save energy by:

MISSION 17



Become a Community Problem Solver

Peyton loves solving problems!

Look around your community.

Can you identify one small problem?

The Problem

Why does it matter?

My Three Ideas

Idea 1:

Idea 2:

Idea 3:

My Best Idea

I think we could:

Peyton's Reminder

Great problem solvers don't just notice problems. They look for possible solutions!

MISSION 18



Start a Kindness Chain

Here's how it works:

You help someone.

Then you encourage that person to help someone else.

Then that person helps another person.

And the chain continues!

My Kindness Action

I ...

I encouraged someone else to:

Who might they help?

Draw Your Kindness Chain



MISSION 19



Team Up!

Some challenges are easier when we work together.

Choose a small community project to complete with a group.

Your team might:

- Clean up a safe area.
- Organize a book collection.
- Make thank-you cards.
- Help a school project.
- Create an encouragement campaign.
- Collect appropriate donations.

Our Project

Our Team Members

Our Plan

What did we accomplish?

What did teamwork teach us?

MISSION 20

Create Your Own Community Mission!

Now it's your turn to be the problem solver!

Think about your community.

What could you do to help?

My Community Mission

I want to help:

The Problem or Need

My Idea

What I Will Need

Who Can Help Me?

My First Step

I Did It!

What happened?

My Community Impact Journal

Helping doesn't have to stop when you finish the 20 missions!

Use these pages to keep track of ways you help others throughout the year.

Helping Moment #1

Date: _____

What did I do?

Who or what did I help?

How did it make me feel?

Helping Moment #2

Date: _____

What did I do?

Who or what did I help?

How did it make me feel?

Helping Moment #3

Date: _____

What did I do?

Who or what did I help?

How did it make me feel?

My Helping Hands

Trace your hand or draw a hand below.

Inside each finger, write one way you can help your community.



My Five Helping Ideas

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Peyton's Thought

Your hands can build.

Your hands can create.

Your hands can help.

My Heart of Kindness

Think about the qualities that make someone a great community helper.

Circle the words that describe YOU:



One quality I want to grow is:

I can practice it by:

My Community Helper Promise

I promise to look for ways to help others.

I promise to use kind words.

I promise to include people.

I promise to care for my school and community.

I promise to respect people, animals, and nature.

I promise to ask for adult help when I need it.

I promise to remember that small actions can make a big difference.

And I promise to keep looking for ways to make my community a kinder, safer, and happier place.

My Name

Date

My Signature

COMMUNITY HELPER

Peyton & Chance's Community Helper Certificate

This certificate is proudly presented to

for using a caring heart, helping hands, and creative ideas
to make a difference in the community. You have shown:



- Kindness
- Cooperation
- Problem-Solving
- Responsibility
- Perseverance
- Compassion



Remember: You are never too young to make a difference.
One kind action. One helping hand. One caring heart.
One community made a little better.

Congratulations! Peyton & Chance are proud of you!

Chance the Cat

Peyton

A Final Note from Peyton

Wow!

You did it!

But here's something important I want you to remember:

Being a community helper isn't something you finish.

It's something you **practice**.

Every day gives you another chance to notice.

Another chance to care.

Another chance to help.

Another chance to solve a problem.

Another chance to make someone's day a little brighter.

So keep your eyes open.

Keep your heart kind.

Keep asking questions.

Keep looking for solutions.

And whenever you wonder whether one small action can really make a difference...

Remember Chance.

One little cat.

One big heart.

And one kid named Peyton who learned that **small acts can create big change.**

Now go find your next opportunity to help!

With kindness,

Peyton & Chance  

About the Author

Jennifer Lee Quattrucci

Jennifer Lee Quattrucci is an educator, author, and creator who believes that learning begins with connection, curiosity, and kindness.

With nearly three decades of experience in education, Jennifer has worked as a classroom teacher, elementary school principal, and instructional leader. She holds a Master's degree in School Leadership and is certified in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Throughout her career, Jennifer has seen the power of helping children feel valued, heard, and capable. She believes that when children know they matter, they are more willing to learn, take risks, and discover their own possibilities.

Jennifer created the **Peyton's Pages of Possibility** series to inspire children to believe in themselves, embrace kindness, and recognize that everyday moments can become meaningful stories.

Through Peyton's adventures, young readers discover that:

- their ideas matter,
- their kindness makes a difference,
- their curiosity can lead them to amazing discoveries,
- and every child has the ability to create positive change.

Jennifer is also the author of **Educate the Heart: Screen-Free Activities to Inspire Authentic Learning**, a resource designed to encourage meaningful connections, creativity, and authentic learning experiences for children.

When she is not writing, Jennifer enjoys teaching, spending time with her family, exploring new places, reading, and finding inspiration in the everyday moments that remind us all that life is full of possibilities.

She hopes every child who reads Peyton's stories remembers:

“You are capable.

You are important.

You have a story to tell.

And every day is a new page of possibility.”



Connect With Jennifer

Jennifer Lee Quattrucci

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