



The Memory Project

We're so grateful for the tremendous feedback we receive every day. Here is just a small sampling of quotes from art teachers, followed by a few words from art students...

This is my favorite project in all my years of teaching!

- Jenny Davidson, WA

Our students said this was one of the most moving experiences they have ever had, and one that they will always remember about high school.

- Tom Steward, WI

My students are halfway complete with their portraits and I am amazed at the energy and love they are pouring into them. It is the only way to teach portraiture.

- Teri McCombe, RI

I've had students comment that The Memory Project was the most significant project they participated in during high school. I would hate for my students not to have this opportunity.

- Brandy Noody, NY

From my experience, this project is a wonderful opportunity to bring a new level of ownership and compassion to your students' work. It also brings positive attention and support to the art department from the school and community.

- Heather Vitticore, NY

I can truly say this was one of the highlights of my teaching career. Thank you for allowing our students to become involved in this incredible global sharing. They will carry this experience with them for a life time and as a teacher that is the most important lesson I can hope to teach them.

- Zita Hudnut, NJ

This is a very beautiful and uplifting project for me and my students. Thank you for letting us participate.

- Bill Perry, MO

One of my students said she has NEVER felt this excited about a project before!

- Susan Briody, MA

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Participating in your wonderful program, even with just a few kids, has been a high-point in my teaching career.

- Erin Albright, TX

The Memory Project was one of the most rewarding projects I have been involved in along with my students. Thank you!

- Nichole Roller, IL

I had a student come home from Northwestern University just the other day and tell me the Memory Project is her favorite memory from high school.

- Jim Meyer, OR

I cannot think of a more important and meaningful experience for our students. As an adoptive mother and teacher I applaud all you are doing.

- Kathy Fortin, MA

This is the most meaningful, important and valuable project I have ever worked on with my students.

- Kellye Markowski, MO

Thank you for offering this amazing opportunity to my students. They have enjoyed this experience, and it has truly, deeply, touched them. Thank you.

- Rachel Rice, ME

The Memory Project was a fantastic art opportunity for my students and myself to be involved in - what a memorable experience for all.

- Sandra LeBarron, MD

I have looked far and wide for a service project that I could use to involve all of my students and fellow teachers that had an international impact. The Memory Project is absolutely perfect.

- Lisa Shaffer, SC

You cannot imagine how excited my students are to be participating in this project. For students to realize that their artwork can make a difference is an invaluable lesson.

- Debra Burger, NY

I want to tell you what an awesome experience you have provided for my students through this project. It takes learning to a new level because it makes it authentic. I have been at this for 30 years and I have never had students more engaged in their art.

- Susan Mountain, KS

I think when you combine goodwill with an art project, amazing things begin to happen. The Memory Project is incredible. Thanks for letting us be a part of it.

- Monique Dobbelaere, SC

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And now a few words from art students...

On behalf of all the members of the Clarence High School chapter of the National Art Honor Society, I am writing to sincerely thank you for your determination and efforts in promoting The Memory Project – at our high school, and nationwide. Your dedication and work has truly inspired and impacted me and my classmates, as we were given the unique opportunity to “adopt” a new sibling, a new friend.

We bonded with our children from Haiti and Rwanda – a remarkable feat, as we will never meet face to face. We love them. Truly. Our NAHS advisor always tells us: we have been given artistic talents, and it’s our responsibility to better our community and our world. These past two years, your dedication and your mission has enabled us to do just that.

It has been an honor and a joy to forever be a part of these kids’ lives. As my classmates and I leave high school, we will keep the spirits and memories of our Haitian and Rwandan friends with us always. Hopefully, they will do the same.

Thank you, sincerely, for this incredible opportunity. It has meant the world to us, and we will be forever appreciative. - Grace

I’m a senior at Westminster Schools of Augusta. My aunt, who lives in Minnesota, sent me a link to your video on the CBS News. This project nearly brought me to tears, because I too was once an orphan and I’ve seen what something so small can bring to someone who has nothing.

I’m adopted from Korea and my best friend is adopted from China. If you have any children’s pictures from these countries I would love to offer my art services to you! Thank you so much for starting something so wonderful that will give students like me a reason to love art and for all of my adopted friends who know what this means to people like us. - Eva

I recently graduated from high school but this year I and many others participated in the Memory Project. I would just like to say that this was a great experience for all of the students who participated.

Normally many students would be reluctant to do something that doesn’t benefit themselves, or that takes up time from their busy high school lives, but I really think that we all took a great interest in this because it’s such a great idea and so wonderful.

I was also wondering if you have copies of the pictures of the kids with the portraits we painted. I will be heading off to college in a few days, and would love to bring that picture with me and hang it in my dorm. Well, thanks for your time and for your amazing project. - Michael

I am a high school senior in Wisconsin and this year my school participated in your Memory Project twice. I just wanted to thank you for creating this opportunity. Though I do volunteer at and donate to other organizations, I have never felt so connected to a cause before. I know how much a portrait can mean to me, with so much else that I have, so I can imagine how much it would mean to a child without much. Thank you for impacting the lives of so many people, both the children in need and students like me. - Elizabeth