

Dear Teachers and Parents,

“Fingerprints on the Heart” was inspired by my fourth grade students. We did an art project and put our handprints on canvas. On the back of the artwork we placed this poem:



## HANDS

Hands are powerful.  
They feel when we can't see.  
They write. They play.  
They lift. They serve.

We want to use our hands  
To quietly help others.

If you receive this art,  
Please find someone to help  
or to be kind to.

Give a hand. Pass it on.

Mrs. Wright's 4<sup>th</sup> Graders 2015

My students each chose someone to be kind to. One chose to make cookies for the fire department. Another chose to fold laundry for his parents. Another chose to help the neighbor pull weeds. They each chose to help someone and leave their artwork with them.

After their service, we were working on personal narratives. They wrote about the small moment of sharing their artwork after they had been kind and how it made them feel. Later, we were studying persuasive essays, and they used that small moment to convince others to help someone in some way.

I hope this book can be used to inspire your students. Our hands are powerful tools to lift and help those around us.

*Sherri Heider Wright*