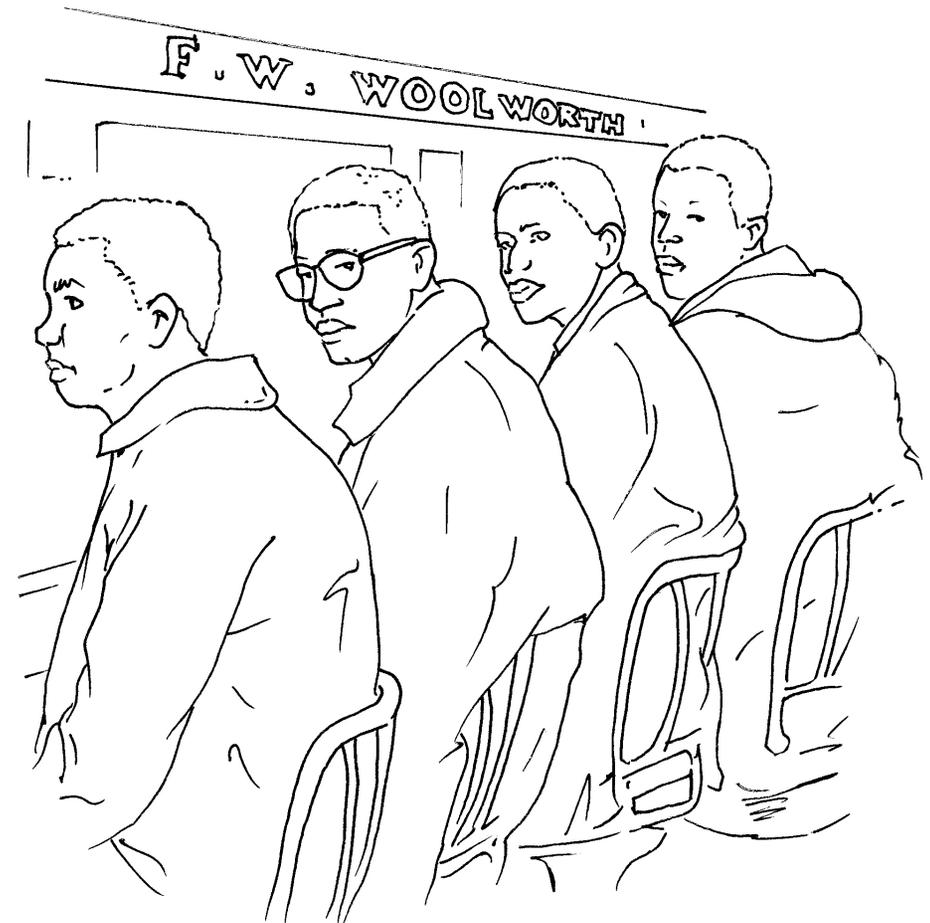
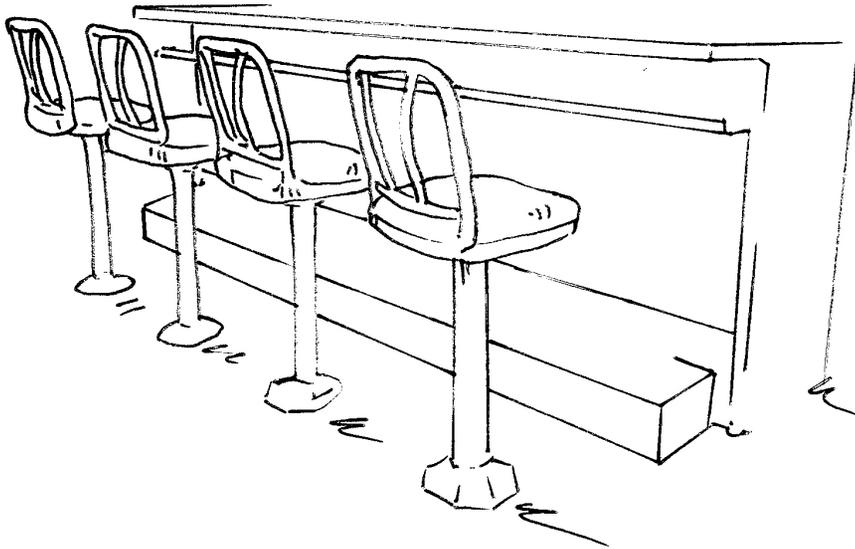


OBSERVANCE

FEBRUARY

DID YOU KNOW?

A small section of the Greensboro Woolworth's lunch counter is on display at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian.



The **Greensboro Sit-In** was a critical turning point in Black history and American history, bringing the fight for civil rights to the national stage. Its use of nonviolence inspired the Freedom Riders and others to take up the cause of integration in the South, furthering the cause of equal rights in the United States.



Greensboro Sit In

On February 1, 1960, four Black college freshmen from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, (Ezell Blair, Jr., Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, and David Richmond) entered a Woolworth's store. They bought a few small items before sitting down at the store's lunch counter. Although Black people could enter the dining area, they had to use a standing snack bar because the lunch counter was designated for "Whites only."

The students had been planning this action for some time.

The four students politely requested service at the counter, remaining seated when the staff refused to take their orders. The store manager asked them to leave, but the students did not move. A police officer arrived and slapped his nightstick directly behind them in a threatening manner, the students remained seated. The four students were paying customers so the police could only try to scare them.

The students had arranged for Ralph Johns, a local White businessman who was sympathetic to their cause, to alert the media. A photo of the students, who became known as the "Greensboro Four," soon appeared in local newspapers, helping the protest to get national attention.

The following day, the Greensboro Four returned to Woolworth's. Twenty other students accompanied them. The staff again refused to serve them. By February 4th, 100 protesters filled the store and lunch counter.

After nearly a week of protests, approximately 1,400 students met at the Greensboro Woolworth to demonstrate. Media coverage grew. Within weeks, protesters were holding sit-ins in cities across the country. Soon, many owners were integrating dining facilities across the South. The Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro opened to Black patrons in July 1960.

WRITE A POEM TO "INSPIRE"!

On the lines below, write a word or sentence for each letter given that has something to do with inspiring change. This is your poem, so it can be about what it means to inspire, what change is, or even about something in your community you think could or should change to make life better for others. When you are done, find a parent, guardian, or other trusted adult to share your poem with!

I _____

N _____

S _____

P _____

I _____

R _____

E _____

“I’ve learned that if you have a dream in your heart, do something with that dream. You can start small but if you put your whole heart in it, then your dream can become as big as you want!”



Khloe Joiner founded *A Book and a Smile* to help build kids’ home libraries and to improve relationships between children and the police. Once afraid of officers, Khloe befriended one and realized that police were helpers. Hoping to help ease other children’s fears, she had the idea of supplying officers with gifts for frightened kids. An avid reader, she figured what better gift than a new book! She launched her project by using her life savings of \$141 to buy 141 books at the dollar store

During Black History Month in 2022, she collected 1,000 books authored by or written about African Americans and gave them to kids at a drive-thru giveaway.

During the pandemic when book drives proved difficult, she worked with her City Council to organize a drive-thru book donation at City Hall and collected 5,000 new books. Her goal is to collect 1,000,000 new books for children around the world.

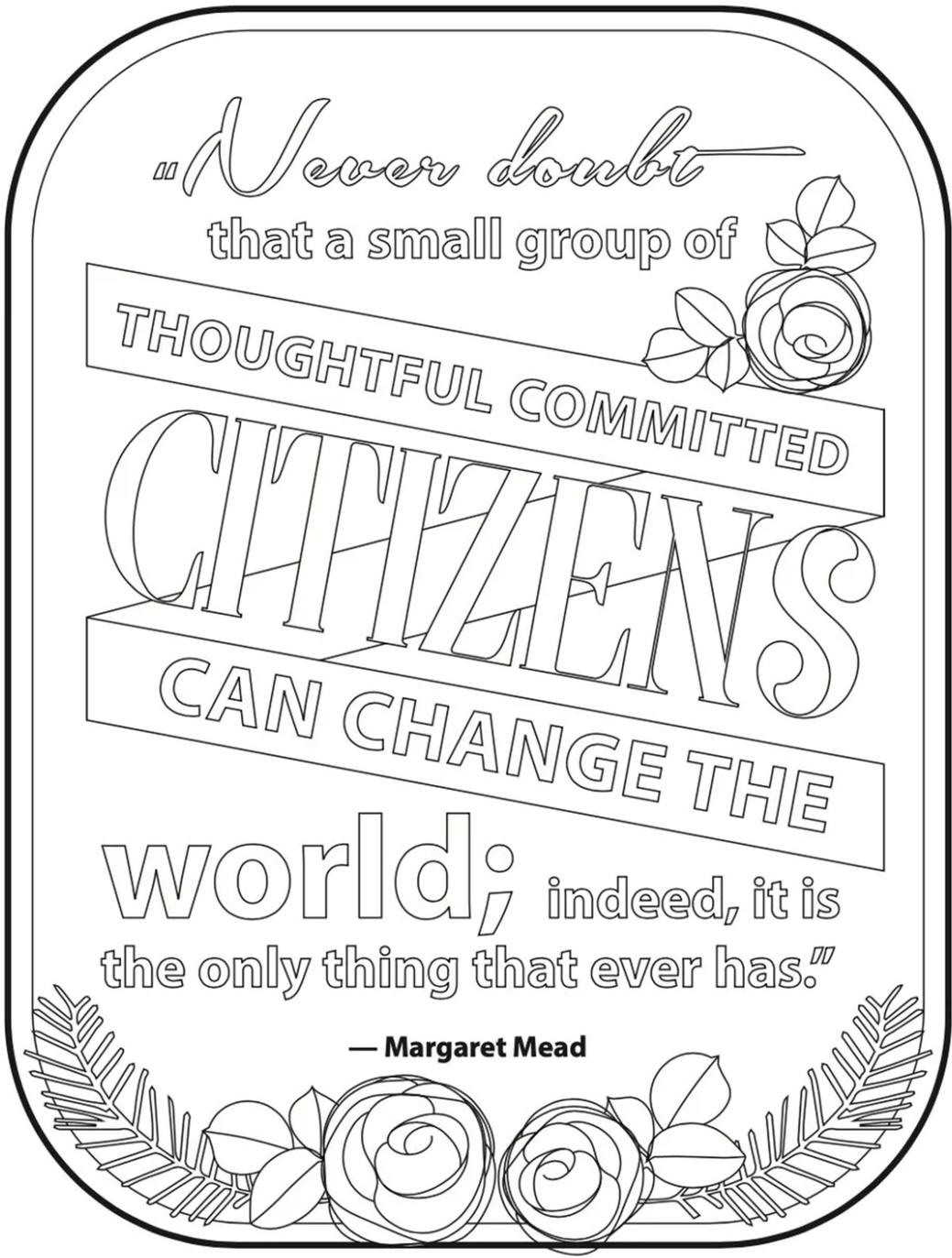


Ethan Hill created *Ethan’s Heart Bags4Blessings* to support individuals experiencing homelessness in his city. Since 2017, he and his team have distributed nearly 2,000 survival care bags containing items such as a sleeping bag, cold weather clothing, first aid supplies, food, and hygiene products.

He works to change the perception of the people he serves. On his way home from school, Ethan and his parents drive around local parks and homeless camps to check on the estimated 300 people living there. When needed, they provide essentials from a supply kept in their car or return later to help with specific requests.

Each December, he organizes more than 100 volunteers from across the state to pack hundreds of duffel bags. The next morning, his team serves breakfast in a local park and distributes the supplies.

He began his work as a 6-year-old after noticing a homeless gentleman, whom he now knows as Mr. Marcus, living under a freeway. Ethan researched “emergency needs of homeless individuals,” used his Christmas money to purchase essential items, and gifted them to Mr. Marcus and others living nearby.



How can you inspire others around you to promote positive change?

What inspires you to make positive changes in your own life?

What about the stories of the Greensboro Four inspired you most?
