Dear Parents/Guardians:

Parents want what’s best for their kids. For most, that includes raising children who think about others and their needs, who want to make their communities better.

A recent study\* found that, to develop charity-minded children, it’s important both to foster regular volunteer experiences and discuss giving and helping with them.

That’s why I’m so excited about our Modern Woodmen youth service club’s Houses for Change activity. It’s a fun, educational crafts project with a higher purpose: helping the homeless in their community.

Before the project takes place, members decide which needs or organization to support. Then members design and decorate corrugated cardboard Houses for Change supplied by Modern Woodmen. Finally, they take their completed houses home or to local businesses, schools or churches to raise awareness of and fundraise for the needs or organization the club has decided to help.

Members might purchase and donate hats, mittens or other items with the money collected. They might donate the funds or pool them together to purchase a larger item an organization needs, for example, tents or sleeping bags for the homeless.

I hope you’ll support our Houses for Change service project. I’m happy to partner with you and Modern Woodmen to help foster a new generation of young people who live out the Modern Woodmen creed, penned by Edwin Markham, circa 1939:

*“There is a destiny that makes us brothers;*

*None goes his way alone;*

*All that we send into the lives of others*

*Comes back into our own.”*

Sincerely,

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(Club leader)

\*Source: Holland, Kelley. “Charity really does begin at home. Here’s why.” *CNBC,* Dec. 4,2014. <http://www.cnbc.com/2014/12/04/charity-really-does-begin-at-home-heres-why.html> Web. 9/14/2016.