



“Beyond differences” KAY MS CLUB NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023



LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Together

Sunflower Health Plan is partnering with KAYAN to support a program called **Beyond Differences** for all KAY MS Clubs across the state. The mission of **Beyond Differences** is to inspire students nationwide to end social isolation and create cultures of belonging for everyone. There are activity opportunities for clubs to learn about social isolation and develop creative ways to eliminate social isolation at their school. This program envisions a world where all youth are accepted, valued, and included no matter their differences.

PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES
Participation in **Beyond Differences** projects is not required but does provide MS students with many valuable lessons and experiences. Each club has the opportunity to **earn \$100** for participating in at least **2 social inclusion projects** during the school year.

Clubs may either engage in the social inclusion projects offered through the national **Beyond Differences** program, OR create their own projects based on situations they are aware of at school. They can also choose to partner on an existing social inclusion project already occurring at their school.

WHAT IS SOCIAL ISOLATION?
Social Isolation is defined as a lack of social connections. Signs could include: depression, anxiety, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, increased risk of substance abuse. It is especially acute among students perceived as “different” because of physical appearance, disability, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, etc.

PROJECT TIMELINE
07/25/23 – Intro to KLC Middle School Campers
10/30/23 – Email and Newsletter to MS Sponsors
01/2024- Reminder email to sponsors with reporting form
04/15/24 – Report Form for completed projects due to KAYAN
05/01/24 – Notification Letter & Check mailed to qualifying clubs



Beyond Differences is a national organization. Its projects are tailored around three National Awareness themes and dates, however the projects can be done at any time during the school year. This is one resource, but other social inclusion projects count for the award.

- KNOW YOUR CLASSMATES**----- 10/13/2023
- NO ONE EATS ALONE**-----02/16/24
- BE KIND ONLINE**-----05/10/24



Information about **Beyond Differences**, their project materials, tools and videos can be found at www.beyonddifferences.org

QUESTIONS
TEXT Stephanie Rasmussen – 785-218-9391