

The Story of Stone Soup

Long ago in a land far away, a weary traveler asked a group of villagers for food to ease his hunger. They sadly replied that they were too hungry and had nothing to share. “In that case,” he said. “I will have to make stone soup for all of us to share.”

“Could you lend me a pot and find me some firewood?” This the curious villagers could easily do.

The traveler boiled water with a stone retrieved from his pocket. Sniffing at the air, he commented, “What wonderful soup; if only I had half an onion to add for flavor!”

A nearby villager had an extra onion and promptly supplied it. The thankful traveler longed aloud for a carrot and a potato for taste. Though a small village, many families had a vegetable they could contribute.

The traveler then remarked on what a difference a few scraps of meat would make, and the villagers provided some from their kitchens. One family contributed a chicken.

Finally, the traveler reminded the villagers what salt, a little pepper, and spices could do for flavor of a soup, and a little of each was provided to him by different people.

With the soup ready, the traveler invited the villagers to eat the stone soup. The entire village feasted gratefully on the delicious and hearty soup - amazed at what they had accomplished by working and giving together.

This is exactly how an endowment grows... one contributed piece at a time – large or small – makes a difference.