

KHLOE THOMPSON
Episode #12 Transcript
Written by Gabrielle Mirabella
Music by Ernie Bird

GABRIELLE: Hey everyone, Gabrielle Mirabella here! On behalf of myself and Ernie Bird, and in collaboration with our friends at #GivingTuesday, we are thrilled to introduce a new series of episodes called, “#GivingTuesdaySpark: Ladies Who Lead!” Each month we are highlighting the incredible journey of one young woman who is currently creating positive change in her community. For more information on the #GivingTuesday Spark program and how you can become a youth leader in your own community, check them out at givingtuesdayspark.org.

We also want to give a shout-out to our sustaining sponsors through [Patreon.com](https://www.patreon.com/whatwillshedonext). Your generous donations go directly towards the musical theatre artists you hear on our program. If *you* have an interest in becoming a sustaining member, head to our site at [Patreon.com/whatwillshedonext](https://www.patreon.com/whatwillshedonext). For as little as five-dollars a month *you* have the power to keep this show running. That’s [Patreon.com/whatwillshedonext](https://www.patreon.com/whatwillshedonext).

INTRO MUSIC.

GABRIELLE: Hello! And welcome to this month’s special edition episode of #GivingTuesdaySpark: “Ladies Who Lead”! I’m your host Gabrielle Mirabella and together with composer Ernie Bird...

ERNIE: Hold it!

The music cuts out.

ERNIE: This intro needs more... *Spark! (SFX: Voice echo)*

GABRIELLE: Okay. But, how do we do that?

ERNIE: Easy. Like this!

NEW intro music begins!

GABRIELLE: On today’s episode we follow the journey of #GivingTuesdaySpark Youth leader Khloe Thompson, an international philanthropist on a mission to end homelessness. This episode was written & narrated by myself with music & production by Ernie Bird.

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ERNIE: Now, that's what I call *Spark!*

GABRIELLE & ERNIE: Enjoy!

THEME SONG PLAYS:

*“What will she do next?
What will she do next?
Her aim is true but will she see it through?
Oh, what will she do... next?”*

GABRIELLE: Before Khloe Thompson became an international philanthropist, a person who uses their gifts and talents to help others in need, she was just a regular kid.

From a young age, Khloe loved to draw and roller skate and to learn new skills like sewing and pottery. But, one of her favorite hobbies was reading!

Through her love of reading, Khloe discovered another young woman, like herself, named Malala Yousafzai. In Malala’s autobiography, a book written by the author, about the author’s life, Khloe read of how this brave young girl from Pakistan stood up for women’s education, even when dangerous forces in her own hometown tried to stop her. Khloe saw Malala as a role model, and was encouraged by her strength and resilience in the face of injustice.

Then one day, at the age of eight-years-old, Khloe herself was faced with a situation that had her making her own big decisions. And, whether she knew it or not, everything in her young life was about to change...

TRANSITION MUSIC.

It was another normal day for Khloe. Nothing new or out of the ordinary had happened yet, and it seemed that nothing new was on the horizon. She went to the same places she always went, and saw the same people she had always seen. Everything was the same. Day in and day out. Including, that one woman who was always there, sitting on that same street corner, day in and day out... Huh... Wasn’t she there yesterday? And, the day before? And, why is she sitting on the sidewalk? Doesn’t she ever get tired or thirsty, or hungry? These were all very new thoughts

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for 4th grader, Khloe. Thoughts that had never occurred to her on any other day but today. Khloe could have let these questions slide and continue to walk by, but instead she continued asking questions...

She asked what the woman's name was. Her name was Michelle. Khloe asked how the woman was that day. She was fine. That made Khloe happy. Khloe then asked the woman why she was sitting out there on the street. Michelle smiled, and responded, *I live here.*

SFX: Record scratch.

But, how could someone live on the street? Don't they have a home? Khloe was confused. She had seen Michelle almost every day, but now she was seeing her from a whole new perspective. If Michelle lived on the street, and she didn't have a home, that must mean she is... homeless.

TRANSITION MUSIC.

This woman, Michelle, a woman that Khloe saw every single day, is homeless; a person without a home. But, how is that possible? And, how can people walk by her and not do anything? These questions that Khloe was forming led to even more questions, then even more! And eventually she found herself feeling *really, really, REALLY upset!!!!*

SPX: Echo on "really, really, REALLY upset!!!!"

And, then she found herself feeling sad.

But, even though she was feeling all of these new and scary feelings, she knew, that more than anything, she had to help Michelle. She had to find a way to make her life better in some way. So, Khloe made a promise to herself, and to her friend Michelle, that even though she was young, and even though this was all very, very new to her, she was going to find a way to help.

TRANSITION MUSIC.

What do people who are without a home need the most? What could make their lives easier? Khloe was lost in a sea of really BIG questions. Was this impossible at the start? Was there really anything she could do to create change? And, ugh! Why aren't the adults doing anything about this??

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And, then Khloe noticed something very small. A bag, lying next to Michelle. Although she did not have much, the items Michelle did have were carried inside of a plastic bag. Bags! That's it! Perhaps if there was a way to supply Michelle with a sturdy, more durable bag, instead of a plastic one that could easily rip, that would help her! Khloe had her idea. Now, it was time to get to work.

Work music!

The work of a philanthropist doesn't just involve sitting around, coming up with great, big ideas. It also takes a team of people who are willing to lend a hand. With Khloe at the lead, and with a great support system behind her, 8-year-old Khloe started creating and distributing something she called, "Kare Bags".

These bags were filled with the many things that Michelle and other women in her situation were in need of; things like socks, clothing, toothbrushes, and female sanitation products.

When people would ask Khloe why she did all this work for the homeless women living in Skidrow, Los Angeles, she would simply reply, "The homeless are people just like you and me. Why not help them?"

TRANSITION MUSIC.

Time began to pass. Khloe was growing up, and the compassion she felt towards her friends, like Michelle grew everyday. Over the next five years, with the help of other kids and her loving family, she made over 6,000 Kare Bags. She was on a mission to continue her work, and to find new ways to help even more folks in need throughout her community.

But, the road towards philanthropy isn't always an easy one. Many times Khloe felt frustrated. She had so many big ideas to help her community, where was the support she needed to see these plans through?

Sometimes her friends would tell her to slow down. Be realistic. Helping others takes money and time. You can't fix every problem overnight.

But, throughout the difficult moments, Khloe reminded herself why she did the work. She remembered Michelle and the other women living on the streets in Los Angeles. She

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remembered their smiles when they opened their bags. She remembered the wonderful stories they would tell her about their lives and their history. These memories would set Khloe back on course.

For you see, remembering the small and wonderful moments of giving, inspire you to continue even when the problem seems way too big.

TRANSITION MUSIC.

Today, Khloe is still hard at work, and her foundation “Khloe Kares” is helping folks from America all the way to Ghana, a country in Africa. As Khloe continues her work with homeless women around the world, she is constantly reminding herself to stay focused, and to stay motivated. And, to always remember the friends, like Michelle, she has met along the way.

And, what can we learn from Khloe’s story?
What questions does her incredible journey raise?

Perhaps we can ask ourselves if we’ve seen people in our own neighborhoods who are in need?

And, what special talents do we have that could help those people?

Today, we’ve learned all about Khloe Thompson and her incredibly giving journey. Now, I wonder, what will you do next?

TRANSITION MUSIC.

If you would like to learn more about Khloe Kares, here’s some information to get you started on your own giving journey. And, to help me out, here’s our leading lady herself!

GABRIELLE + ERNIE: Hey Khloe!

KHLOE: Hey Gabrielle and Ernie! For more information on Khloe Kares, you can visit my website at khloecares.com and if you also want to find my social media, it’s KhloeKares on all social media platforms, so instagram, facebook and twitter.

HISTORICAL WOMEN MUSIC.

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GABRIELLE: Just like Khloe, women have a long history of giving.

Women like Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop. Born on December 19, 1831 in Honolulu, Hawai'i. Princess Bernice was a smart and gifted leader who sought ways to give back to her community.

As a royal descendent, the Princess inherited great wealth from her family and she used that money to create educational experiences for children all across the Hawaiian islands.

After she passed away on October 16th, 1884, she left her entire estate towards the construction of schools.

Because of her efforts, the Pauahi endowment supports over 50 thousand students across the state, offering a better, brighter future for the people of Hawaii.

End of Episode.