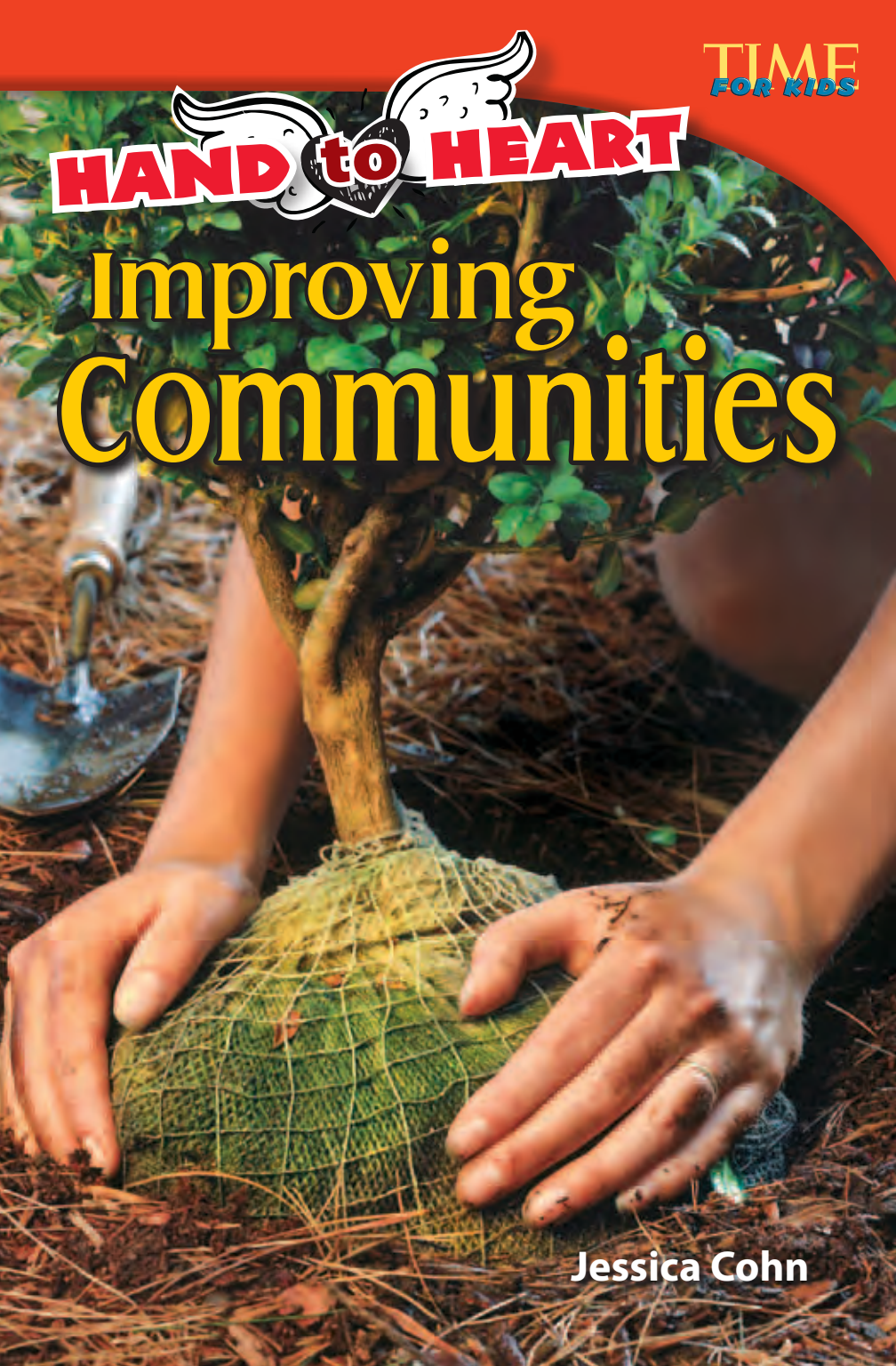
TIME FOR KIDS

HAND to HEART

Improving Communities



Jessica Cohn

Consultants

Timothy Rasinski, Ph.D.
Kent State University

Lori Oczkus
Literacy Consultant

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For Review Only

Take Time

Littering. Pollution. Natural disasters. Poverty. Each one is a problem in our world. Some of these problems can't be avoided. Others are caused by humans. We can't stop a **tsunami** or a hurricane. And we can't stop an earthquake from turning a city to rubble. Those problems are out of our control. But we can decide how to respond to natural disasters. We can come up with a plan to stop litter and pollution. And we can help people in need.

How do we solve these problems? We work together. Problems may be big or small. They may be global or local. Either way, we can help solve them.

The writer and **activist** Booker T. Washington once said, "If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." That's what **volunteers** do. They spend their time helping others. They solve problems. So, what time can you take to lift someone up?



Volunteers collect supplies after a flood.



Volunteers clean a pelican after an oil spill.



THINK LINK

- Why is it important to help people?
- How can you improve your community?
- In what ways do time, money, and raising **awareness** help people?

More than 60 million people volunteer their time every year.

For Review Only

Volunteer Spirit

Can you spot a volunteer? They may be in schools, parks, or the neighborhood library. Some help children learn to read. Others pick up trash from the beach. They work together to solve problems in the community. Most people don't volunteer to be famous. They simply see a need and want to help.

Do you spend time helping out at home, at school, or in your community? You might be a volunteer! But if you haven't volunteered before, don't hold back. Longtime volunteers will tell you that it's best to jump right in. By volunteering, we show the world what we believe in. We show that we will stand up for what is right. And there are so many ways to get started.

Franklin Fires Back

Volunteering played a large role in American history. In early America, the city didn't pay for firefighters. Benjamin Franklin thought everyone should receive help during a fire. Today, many towns have volunteer fire departments. It was Franklin who started the first one.



Giving Thanks

Firefighters in Texas battled wildfires for much of the summer of 2010. Students wrote letters of thanks. Some left gift cards at the fire stations. They wanted to let the firefighters know how much they were appreciated.

Today, 70 percent of firefighters in the United States are volunteers.

For review only



Youth United

Are you between the ages of 5 and 25? If so, you can join Youth United. It is a Habitat for Humanity program run by kids. The team works together to build houses for people in need. Members also learn leadership and teamwork skills. The younger members help get the word out about the program. Everyone helps to build new homes—as well as hope.



Habitat for Humanity has volunteers working in over 80 countries.

As many as 100 million people worldwide are homeless.



Building a New Future

It is believed that nearly two billion people in the world live in unsafe houses. These people may not have the money to buy a new home, but with help, they can build one. When Habitat for Humanity builds a house, they put everyone to work—including the people who will live in it.



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