



Upward Roots Changemaker Challenge

One of our goals this year is to deepen relationships with our Oakland public school partners in ways that are meaningful to them—adult leaders and allies—and their students. Deepening relationships means working hand in hand to craft an opportunity that will benefit students, teachers, afterschool staff, and Upward Roots. Our vision is to expose more young people to service, contribute to building a positive school climate and culture, and grow the Upward Roots community of changemakers.

To start, we're excited to announce that on Friday, September 21, for the first time, Upward Roots will be bringing an all-school service event, the Changemaker Challenge, to the school day.

We're collaborating with our longest standing school partner, Esperanza Elementary, to launch this new initiative. Together will engage every student at Esperanza elementary in community service. Each class will choose their own service project and volunteers will support students and teachers in the execution of that project. Some service may be in classrooms creating kindness campaigns or preparing positive messages and care kits for the homeless, while other opportunities will be outside, like campus clean-ups or restoration work in the school garden.

Esperanza serves approximately 330 students, with over 93% eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. During the first six weeks of school, teachers, students, and staff lay the foundation for a positive school climate and culture. One of Esperanza's [core values](#) is service and together, we will help each Esperanza student experience service on Friday, September 21.

The Changemaker Challenge will empower each student to create positive change in their school community, building a positive culture around making their community better, together.

Upward Roots will provide needed supplies and materials, as we are able, and you can contribute to making this day possible by making [a donation](#) or purchasing an item on [our supply wish list](#). Volunteers are also essential to supporting teachers and staff in executing the Changemaker Challenge. So, consider signing up to [volunteer here](#).

We're planning this to be the first of several collaborations with schools and afterschool agencies to engage more students in leading community service at their schools.

Thank you for your support!