Living a More Thankful Life: 30 Days of Gratitude with Creativebug

Chapter 1 - 30 Days of Gratitude
Series overview
- Hi my name is (laughing) I forgot what I was doing, okay. - Hey everyone, I'm Courtney. - And I'm Liana. - I think that when we did the daily challenge, living a more creative life. We saw how hungry everyone is to actually change their thinking and their perspective. And this daily challenge is a new one for us before we're tackling a topic that we've never tackled before which is gratitude. But it's something we've been thinking about for a long time. - That's right, we've been wanting to do this daily challenge for awhile. And we finally pulled it together and got the opportunity to corral our entire team here at creative bug in one way or another. - To show you different ways that you can show gratitude to the people in your life. It could be co-workers, friends, family or even strangers out there in the world. - So everyday for the next 30 days we're going to be showing you a different way that you can apply gratitude to your life using your craftiness and creativity. - Some of these will be actual crafts NDIY wise and some of them will just be inspiration and jumping off points to show gratitude. - Plus we have a lot of ideas for how you can get involved creatively with charities and do something to help make the world a better place. - We challenge you to find ways everyday this month to express your gratitude. And we know that you can do it. Yeah!

Day 1: Greetings and Salutations
- Hey everyone, welcome to a monthlong daily challenge of gratitude. Just like any practice, a creative practice, or a thankful practice, we always want to start small, so it's easy to integrate these ideas into our daily lives. Today's is as simple as we can get, and something that I think, I really love to do, and it's really simple and easy to do, which is send a postcard and let someone know that you're thinking about them. You're thankful for them in your life. Or you just want to say hello, and give them a little reminder. It's nice to get a piece in the mail that says someone out there is thinking of you. Recently, I was waiting for breakfast and it was taking a really long time, and I popped into the store next door and bought a little book of postcards. And instead of checking my phone, or just waiting, looking around for my breakfast, instead, I wrote a postcard to a bunch of people on my phone, just saying I was thinking about them. To make this even easier, I always try to remember to add the address for my friends who I write to often, so that I can quickly reference it when I'm working on my postcards, and then pop them in the mail after breakfast. And it was a nice way to just make contact with people that are a little bit farther away, or it could be someone you see daily and you just wanna send them a special little note in the mail. I always keep postcards in my bag. I also keep postcard stamps, which are different than regular stamps, they're actually a lower rate, right now, it's 34 cents. And I keep them in my wallet so that I can write a postcard when I have a little bit of downtime. Of course, if you watch any of our daily challenges, you could make your own postcard. I have a pattern-a-day daily challenge, and these are just on index cards, so I could send these. I often will pick up show cards. This is from a local gallery in San Francisco. So they have some information on the back, but you can still send them. I have a friend who would love that show, so it would be fun to send that to her. I just had show, and I sent postcards last night, just saying thank you for the people who came to the opening. So, again, even though there's content, you can just write a quick little message and an address. I love vintage photos and vintage postcards, and I found a few that were actually taken in San Francisco, around the turn of the

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century. So this one I'm sending to my boyfriend. Does this place still exist? Let's go there. So I have to put a stamp on that. And fill in his address. Faith, who you guys might know from our daily challenges, she was like, "I have some great postcards in my bag, I just picked these up recently." So these vintage ones are easy to find, and then she has this great one of a pink chicken, which I love. A lot of publishing houses now also do stationery, notes, and postcards. This is from a set of scientific illustration, and I really loved the whale. If you're not gonna make your postcard, or you don't have vintage ones on hand, go to your local bookstore, a lot of publishers are now creating stationery and books of postcards that maybe match your favorite book covers, or by your favorite illustators. And it's a really tidy and easy thing to just slip into your bag and pull out when you have a little bit of downtime. It's nice to send a reminder to tell people that you're thinking of them, and you're thankful for them in your life.

Day 2: Stranger Love
- We all have our daily habits, and it's easy to just be so focused on those and kind of step back and take a bigger look at the world around us, and there was this guy I used to see at coffee all the time who always had the best socks. He was like your kind of traditional businessman, but he would sit at the counter and so because his foot was up on the stool, he always had these like, really cool and unexpected patterned socks. So one day with Leanne and I were grabbing coffee, I drew a little picture of a sock on a post-it note and I just put it on the window as we were passing so he could see it and it said, "You always have the best socks." And he was surprised and because I posted it on Instagram, somebody else later commented that she knew him and he was totally delighted to get the post-it note, and it changed my perspective about what leaving a note like that out in the world can do for somebody. In that case, I got the feedback, but it's even better and maybe even more mysterious to just leave anonymous notes of kindness out in the world to brighten someone's day. So, I like the idea of using a post-it note and drawing a little message or even a little image, some words of encouragement, and placing them all around the city just to change someone's interaction with something like the button you press to cross the street or the ATM or some other place where people are going all the time and just going about their own routines and forgetting to check in and maybe add a smile to their day. It's surprising that when you put that positive energy out into the world, it actually pays it forward. I wasn't in the best of mood when I was placing my random acts of kindness on post-its, and literally as I was crossing the street back after having done a loop around the block, this gentleman, also a businessman, just because he worked downtown, was like, "Hey, is that you with the post-it notes? Nice job." So that was really nice. I put out the post-it notes, somebody saw them, and they actually said something back in return, which was surprising and fun.

Day 3: Be a Good Guest
- It's early in our month of showing gratitude, and Julie, who's one of our founders, has some really great gift wrapping ideas, that you can be ready to show gratitude, kind of whenever, right? So you can have these things on hand, and I like that you said when we were talking about this, that sometimes you like to buy items that are splurge-worthy, things that people wouldn't necessarily buy for themselves, like what kinds of things? - So, you know, if you're going to a party, you got invited to a dinner party, or you've got a neighbor, a friend who's done something nice for you. I like to recognize them with something that you might not buy for yourself. So, a nice vinegar, or a California olive oil, some herb salts, chocolate (faint speaking) - A little indulgent. - Exactly,

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something you just wouldn't pick up at the store for yourself. - I love that. So this is a great way to say thank you for making us a meal, sharing your meal with us, or like you said, something a neighbor maybe did something unexpected for you. I think it would be really nice just like as a welcome gift, if you're just wanting to be like, we're grateful for you in our neighborhood. Welcome to the neighborhood, it can be a cute little thing. - It would be perfect. - Yeah, and I think the key is just really being ready for that and vinegar, olive oil, salts last a really long time, so you wrap them early and just have them at hand, right. - Yes, whenever I see them or happen to go to the store for something, I just grab a few and I've got a little area, on a closet shelf that I keep everything ready to go. - Oh, that's awesome. So you're gonna share some great gift wrapping ideas. I know that baubles can be tricky around objects, unusual objects can trickier to wrap because they don't necessarily fit in a box and they're kind of heavy and unwieldy. So what are you're ideas for gift wrapping them. - I'm gonna show you how to wrap a bottle of vinegar, and this can work for a bottle of wine. It can work for some salts. It can work for anything that's cylindrical-shaped. We're gonna use cardstock and tissue paper, and little bit of ribbon and a washi tape. I'm using holiday paper as we're getting close to the holidays and I wanna stock up my stash. But you can do this anytime of year, with any combination of tissue and paper. So I'm gonna start with some tissue paper. I just have one standard piece. I have it folded in half, got a nice little pattern on this one, but it works great with plain, whatever you happen to have in the house, honestly. Place your vinegar to edge. Leaving a little bit at the bottom, to be able to tuck under, when you're done rolling. And we're just gonna take the paper, hold it around, and just roll it tightly. (paper crunching) It's a little bit easier with a round bottle, but we'll get it done with the square bottle too. What's nice about this is that it's really quick. So once you have the paper tightly around your bottle, the seam side up and I'm gonna use a little bit of tape to secure it. - [Host] So this could be any tape and then are you gonna cover it with washi tape after? - [Julie] Yeah, this can be any tape. I'm gonna be covering it with a cardstock belly band, and then some cute little washi tape. Once you have the tissue around the bottle, taped securely, then we're just gonna fold in the paper at the bottom, 'cause you wanna stand up your bottle when you're done. And this I'll secure with a little piece of cute washi tape here. - [Host] Oh, I love that sparkly one. - [Julie] It's so fun, huh. Got lots of sparkles here on the table. Okay, and once you're done, you can stand it up and make sure that it won't fall over, and you're good to go. - [Host] What do you add next? - So next I'm gonna add a little bit of cardstock, and so this is patterned. So it's really easy and fun. I've cut it down to about the width of the bottle. - Oh nice. - [Julie] About six inches, but you can really use whatever size you want depending upon-- - [Host] And you have, this is the pattern you're gonna be showing once you wrap it. - [Julie] Correct. - [Host] Cool. And how do you attach it? - [Julie] So I'm just gonna put my paper right-side down, under the bottle that I am wrapping, and I'm just gonna fold the sides around, as so, and I'm gonna attach with washi tape. So I'll start by securing one end, and you can really make this any width or thickness that you'd like. I've got it pretty much the length of the bottle, but it's really to your taste. I've got some patterned cardstock here, with some cute little holiday words, but you can actually do your own. We've got a great calligraphic class. - [Host] That a good idea. - [Julie] You can do your own custom paper which is really fun, adds a personal touch to everything. - [Host] I love that, yeah, Maybell has the class where you can practice your thank you, over and over, so that would be a nice like idea to do your practice sheets and use it for this. I love that. - Exactly. - Cute. - And so once you get the cardstock, got it taped securely with some washi tape, I'm gonna stand it up and finish the top. - [Host] Cute and how do you do that? - [Julie] As I'm gonna stand the bottle up, but the seam side in the back, I'm crunching the tissue paper around the neck, just a little bit, to

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mark where I want the ribbon to go. I'm just gonna tie a simple little bow here. Again, quick and easy is what we're going for. We're can attach a pompom or a little tassel, a little die-cut, really whatever you have around the house. For the last step, I usually just take and open up the paper at the top. - [Host] On nice. - [Julie] Crimp it down a little bit so it's more like a lot flower or rose, as another little piece of detail. - That's so cute! It's so easy. (paper crinkling) - It's so easy. It just adds a little bit of-- finish! - I love that! - [Host] And these are some other ones. Let's see, put this down. So that's the one we just did. And I love this. What are these little buttons? Did you glue those on? - [Julie] I got these little buttons at my local craft store. They come already to go. - [Host] Oh yes, they're sticky on the back. - [Julie] You just pop them off and stick them on. - [Host] Oh my God, that's so cute. Here is a belly band, but it's like only two inches as opposed to six inches. - [Julie] Exactly. - [Host] And I love the difference in color and the use of twine. Of course, these are holiday ones, because we're nearing the holidays, but you can do this anytime of year. Just to show that you're grateful, I love the idea of doing a little bit of a splurge, knowing something really nice. Maybe you have a favorite cooking item, that you know a neighbor might like that they don't have in their house. I think that's a really nice thing. But I think even like a book could be fun too, right. - Exactly, you could really wrap anything, just something small, a token of thanks. - I love that.

Day 4: Pay It Backward
- A nice way to pay it forward and to show thanks and gratitude is to do something you're already doing and just double it up, so paying for coffee for the person behind you when you're in line grabbing your morning coffee. Maybe you commute to work and you go through the toll bridge, just paying for the car behind you. Can you imagine driving up to the toll booth and the person telling you oh, the car in front of you paid for you? That would be amazing. Maybe you want to pay for the person behind you in line at the museum or maybe at the movies. You can do this in any small or grand way, but it feels really nice to do something you enjoy, like have your cup of coffee in the morning, but it feels even better to enable someone else to partake in that too, so whatever the activity is, just pay it forward.

Day 5: Sidewalk Surprise
- Hi, I'm Allie, and one way that I like to spread random acts of kindness in life is by using chalk to leave messages on the sidewalk and on brick buildings. The reason why I do this is, you know, if you're in the daily grind, if you're working, if you're stressed, everyone is constantly juggling a million things. It's really lovely when you're walking down a sidewalk and you come across an inspirational quote or a sign that says, "You are beautiful," or, "Have a great day," or, you know, a heart, or anything really, or a peace sign. I always find those really uplifting and it reminds me that no matter what's going on, that just to take a deep breath, be appreciative of all that I have, to be happy. It's a really fun way for me to share that with the world.

Day 6: Highlight, Lowlight, Insight
- Hi, I'm Courtney. - And I'm Mike McConnell. - And I invited Mike here because we're talking about ways to be thankful and show gratitude this month. And you have a really great practice that you've told me about that I love because I think teaching kids how to be thankful and grateful can be a real challenge. And you have a son that you do with this, and what's the practice that you guys do every day? - So my partner and I have a 12 year old and every night before dinner when we have him, we do highlights, lowlights, and insights. So you say your highlight, which is the best part of your day.

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Your lowlight, which is the part that you wished didn't happen. And then your insight, what you learned from the day. - And your son's name is Yonah. How does Yonah react to this? Does he enjoy it? Is he resistant? How do you encourage him? - No, if we put the food down and start eating before we do it, he gets really frustrated with us if we haven't done it yet. And he's into it. Sometimes those things don't always makes sense, or he will make fun of us kind of and say like, oh, my back's hurting 'cause I went to the gym. That was his lowlight. But as he's gotten older, he has, they're much more in sync of what is actually happening in his life. - And then as the adult, like you and Mark, how do you guys internalize this? Like is it something you enjoy or look forward to? Is it hard to share these things with a kid? - No, it's actually really fun 'cause it makes you kind of like, kinda rewind your day to the point where you are and kinda check in, what has happened, and sometimes you overlook like something really small that like made a big impact on your day. I went to my friend's bachelorette party and it was, you know there was eight girls, and we made this huge dinner. And before we had dinner, I made them do highlights, lowlights, and insights. - I love that. - They thought I was crazy. And then they loved it. - I know, it's such a great practice. I can't wait to have kids 'cause I'm gonna start it too. - Awesome. - I think it's like such a great idea for ourselves, as adults, to check in, like you mentioned, because it's so easy to lose sight of those same things that we have been experiencing since kids, our highlight of the day, the lowlight of the day, and the insight. What kind of things do you say as an insight? What does Yonah say as an insight? - Sometimes he'll say that, he'll say that he learned that he shouldn't say certain things, or what would have happened differently if he wouldn't have had bad behavior. - Yeah. - So, I mean. - It's good, it's a nice way to reflect and-- - Also teach, I mean he's learning like what things are appropriate to say and stuff like that. - Yeah. And I think probably with model behavior too, like what are your parents consider a highlight, lowlight, and insight, and it's teaching him too how to spot those things in his day. - Yeah. - I love that, it's such a great practice. And I think just coming together for a meal and doing this first or while eating, especially if. - Yeah, we're not allowed to have supper until we do it, so. - I love that, it's such a good tradition. I feel like we should put this into practice. - [Mike] Okay. - So, what was your, do you do a highlight and highlight? Or do you do the full run and then-- - One person goes through, and so Yonah will actually, he directs which order we will say it in, so like he'll tell us. So my highlight of the day was going to my dance class this morning. My lowlight of the day, so far, is that it's extremely hot and I'm not a very big fan of the heat. - And you're not even wearing a tank top, appropriately, for the weather. - Well, that's actually my insight 'cause if I would have known, I would have wore a tank top to this shoot. - I love it, so that's what you're learning was. Okay, let's see. My highlight this morning was no or very little traffic on my morning commute, because this week has been a terror as far as traffic. My lowlight was that my check engine light came on while I was driving. I'm having a lot of car things this week. And my, maybe my insight is that it's just a car and actually what's been awesome is having you here in the Creativebug Studio 'cause it's a rare treat, so all of that car stuff doesn't even matter. It's nice to have you here. Thanks for coming. - Thanks for having me. - Try to instill some daily gratitude with a practice like this. Maybe you want to start a new tradition before dinner or in the morning even, maybe what you're grateful for at the end of the day. Just any of these little moments to check in and see how your day went and say thank you for the things that went well.

Day 7: Reasons to Celebrate

- Hi, it's Courtney. - And Liana. - And so far we've been talking about little ways that you can show that you're grateful or show thankfulness throughout your day, but we thought about what if you

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did something instead of just little but something a little bit more surprising and maybe a little bit bigger. - So we got to thinking, it was a couple of our coworker's birthdays. - And normally we just do kind of pop the champagne, have the cake, sing the song. But we thought it would be more fun to do something different and a little bit more surprising for an office birthday. - Courtney went out and got a whole mess of balloons. How many balloons were there? - It started with two dozen balloons. What two dozen balloons look like. And then two really big ones, the 24 inchers, which are much bigger than you think. - Yeah, so Courtney's calling me from the parking lot, right? I spent the last 30 minutes trying to get these balloons in my car. (laughing) - I was totally balloon wrangling. (lively music) But I think it paid off because we got here just in time, enough to fill Julie and Brian's desk with some balloons, tie one of the big balloons to the back of their chairs and maybe this is something you always do in your office, but for us it was new and I think they were really surprised. - It was really, really fun watching them come in. Well Julie walked right up and she just kind of had her head down, "good morning", "good morning", "good morning", and she didn't even see it until she was right at her desk. - Oh my gosh. (laughing) - And you're like, wait a minute. - Brian knew right away. - [Leana] No Brian skipped by. - [Courtney] Oh he did? - He saw all the camera's set up and he was doing twirls and stuff because he just thought- - He's Brian. - Oh we're just filming something. - Yeah. - And then it wasn't until the last minute he saw them. - He realized it was his balloons. - I think there was a little squeal. - Oh my God. What is going on? - So think about the things that you already do to show thanks and how can you up the ante. For us it was doing a bigger gesture, balloons and the big ballon but maybe it's something else. - Surprise element. I'm a big fan of the surprise element. - It's key. Just another way to show people in your life that you're grateful for them. - Happy Birthday, Brian. (laughing) - Thank you. - [Brian] Oh my God. (upbeat music)

Day 8: Warm Up America
- Hi, I'm Faith, and I love to knit, I love to knit for other people, and I especially love to knit for charity. There's a lot of different charities around this country that accept finished garments or knit pieces, but one of my absolute favorites is Warm Up America. They collect squares and distribute afghans, so if you can't commit to knitting an entire afghan, you can knit one, it's actually a rectangle, you can knit a single rectangle, and then Warm Up America also trains people how to stitch them together into bigger afghans. Now, you might be thinking, if you're brand new to knitting that you want your stitches to be perfect before you include them in a big project, but what's really special about these is it's definitely the thought that counts, and also the warmth that this rectangle provides, and when it's mixed in with a bunch of other rectangles, you won't even notice its flaws. So, I'm going to walk through making the simplest, easiest square on their website. If you go to warmupamerica.org, there's a bunch of different patterns for these squares, ranging from beginner to more experienced. You'll need a worsted weight acrylic wool, acrylic because it's washable and durable, and also the size needles needed to obtain gage. I'm going to be using a size seven. Make a slip knot, giving yourself about a yard. We'll be casting on 35 stitches, as per the directions. Make a slip knot. Put it on the needle. And this is called a long tail cast on. It's my favorite cast on, but if you have one that works for you, use that one. You insert both fingers, pull them back, we'll go up through here, pick this up back through and down. This looks tricky at first, but it ends up becoming a very fluid motion. Through here, pick this one up, and pull it down. Once again. You'll repeat that until you have 35 stitches across, and then we'll begin working in garter stitch. Now, I'll begin knitting with a knit stitch. Make sure you're pulling from the ball and not your long

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tail. It's an easy mistake to make. Insert the needle, go around the back, peek through, and off. I like using bamboo needles with acrylic because it has a bit of a grip to it. Sometimes metal needles can be a little bit slippery. I'm gonna slow it down one more time. Go through, around, back through, and off. Do you guys know the rhyme for this? It's very cute: in through the front door, out around the back, peek through the window, and off jumps Jack. So, that's the front door, the back, the window, and Jack. When you get to the end, you will turn it around and begin again. That's what makes this the garter stitch. So, there's a series of ridges, and you are only using the knit stitch. You don't need to purl. This is why I've chosen you the garter stitch for your first charity knitting rectangle, because it's the easiest one possible. You actually can submit anything, as long as it's seven by nine inches, but this one only uses the knit stitch, no purling. Go ahead and continue working in that method until you have nine inches, and then we will bind off. To bind off, you'll knit two stitches. Knit one, knit two, and using this needle, bring the first stitch over the second. Knit another stitch, bring it over, knit another stitch. And you'll repeat this way all the way until the end, until you have one stitch left. When you've gotten to the last stitch, pull it through and trim, taking care to leave yourself a long tail. Different organizations will want you to finish your afghan square in different ways, so check out the FAQ to see whether or not you should weave in your ends or leave them long. If this has gotten you excited about knitting, we have plenty of patterns on our free pattern library, and also a bunch of knitting classes. And please consider the next time you sit down to knit a project, knitting a seven by nine swatch to donate to charity, or donating your project to charity.

Day 9: Nice Bombing

- Hi, I'm Liana and one way that I like to express my gratitude is by spreading the sunshine. A great way to spread sunshine, especially if you're a crafter, is with yarn bombing and with seed bombs. We like to call it nice bombing. Seed bombs are these cool little, they're very, very light, they're paper clay and I have mashed them up with seeds from a seed packet and they're really fun for sneaking into empty lots. You can launch them over fences or drop them into like the little plots where the sidewalk isn't and give it a little time and these things will start to sprout and wildflowers will grow. People have taken these and filled up whole lots with them and it's really, really cool to see happen and you know what, nobody seems to mind when you plant a whole bunch of wildflower seeds. If you want to find out how to make these, I have a class on Creativebug. Just go search for seed bombing. (laughing) I didn't want to hit the car. Another fun thing to do is to decorate outdoor spaces with big old yarn swatches like this one. If you're wondering what to do with all those swatches at home, why not use them to decorate a pole or a tree branch or even a bike? You can go ahead and actually, if you have something in mind you want to decorate, you can measure it and take those measurements to make a swatch that's exactly the right size for it. I just happened to use a swatch that was lying around and it's the perfect size for this pole. I'm going to first, I'm holding this needle, going to attach it to the pole with a little bit of tape. It just makes it a little bit easier because it's a little bit fussy at first. I'm just going to pull off a nice long piece of this masking tape and this is just going to hold my swatch in place. I'm going to do it right in the middle. Don't do it too tight and then I'm going to start stitching it all the way down the side. It's okay if it doesn't go all the way around. It's just yarn bombing. Insert your needle at the top and come on over here to the other side, pull it all the way through and again because this is yarn bombing, I'm not going to worry too much about no knots in knitting and we're just going to tie it on. It does need to be tight or with the first hint of humidity in winter, it's going to droop down and you don't

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want a droopy yarn bomb. So once it's knotted off like that, I'm just going to start going in and doing a whipstitch. Now many people do this in the dead of night. I'm feeling pretty comfortable with my neighborhood that they're going to be okay with me doing this. But the best thing about this kind of graffiti is that if the recipient of the yarn bombing doesn't like the yarn bomb, you just get out a pair of scissors and you cut it off. But really, who doesn't love some yarn bombing? - [Devlin] Hey lady. - (laughing) Devlin! As I get closer to my tape, I'm going to remove it because this is on pretty securely now, and because it's masking tape, it doesn't hurt my knitting at all. Okay and then we just continue to stitch all the way down. Awesome, this has been a very multi-purpose swatch this week. Little swatch, you've lived a good life. I'm at the end, tightening it up. I'm going to tie it off with a knot and it feels like it is on there very securely. This is definitely going to last us all winter long. All right, I think we're good to go, just need some scissors, maybe give it a little scooch around so people walking down the street can see the pretty colors. Now you know you're at creativebug offices because we yarn bombed our street. And there you have it. Just like that, we dressed up this little section of the street that otherwise didn't really have a lot going on. Hopefully when people walk past here and drive past here every day, they'll look up and go what, I can't believe there's knitting attached to that pole. That's so cool and it'll bring a little smile to their face and I'll feel like I did something kind of good.

Day 10: Pie is the Answer
- Hi I'm Liana and I'm here with-- - Devlin. - And Devlin is pretty famous around Creativebug for making pies. - Yes, I do love making pie. - Why do you like making pie? - I don't know just making something from scratch with your hands, all those different steps and being able to enjoy it by yourself or with friends, it's great. - And you learned from your mom right? - I did, I learned from my mom. Many, many Thanksgivings, many years. She was a baker and just always was making pies and something stuck. - So in your opinion, are pies just for Thanksgiving or the holidays or are they for every day? - Absolutely not, they're for every day. I think I made a pie the other day for the office because they just happened to have some apples when I was on a little trip in Bolinas. - It was so good. - There was an apple tree and I just picked some and I made a pie and I think that's one of my favorite things actually is just spontaneously making pies. Those are actually when they come out the best, when there's less pressure of, oh my god, I have to make five pies because Aunt Sally is in town and so is Uncle Roger. - That's right, you need to get into your zone in order to make a proper pie crust. - Yes, when there's no pressure pie, those are the ones that come out the best. - Oh, no pressure pies taste delicious. Well I was thinking of you recently and how much you love to make pies for people. I love to make pies for people too, and one of the trickiest things though is when you bake the pie, actually getting it into the car or walking down the street with it, cuz then you're like this, you never want a one hand, you're gonna bump into somebody and dump your pie. - That is the one thing that is a pain cuz I take public transportation here. - Oh I know Well guess what! I'm making you a pie carrier. - A pie carrier? - That's right. - Oh my gosh, well how do you do that? - Well, I'm gonna show you. - Oh my gosh, while you're showing our wonderful audience how to make a pie cover, I think I'm gonna go make a pie. - (chuckling) I think that's a great idea. - And then we can test it out. - This is teamwork at its finest. - Best of luck to you. - Thank you, you too. - See you later. - To make your pie carrier, you're just gonna need two rectangles of fabric and they will be 28 inches by 16 and a half inches and then you're also gonna need two pieces of cotton webbing and mine are 15 inches long. So in order to get started on this, I'm gonna move this out of the way. This fabric is gonna be my lining so one will be the outside, one will be the inside. And just move this out

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of the way. And the first thing we need to do is attach our straps. So you're gonna measure five inches in from these short edges. And I am using this really cute kitty fabric. It is a heavyweight cotton fabric and it makes for a nice, sturdy pie carrier but you can also use a quilting cotton if that's what you have on hand. I have my fabric right side up so you can see, no kitties on the backside, just kitties here. So gonna turn this around and measure, again, five inches from the bottom here. Making sure it's nice and centered. Whoops, there goes my tape measure. Okay so that is in place and we're gonna do the exact same thing on the other side of your rectangle, and check to make sure that you didn't twist your straps and that they are facing towards the inside of the fabric, not to the outside of the fabric. If that looks good, we're ready to take it to the machine. We are going to sew these straps in place, we're just kinda tacking them on and we're gonna use a quarter inch seam allowance, so that's usually just shy of your standard presser foot. And lowering the needle, we're going to backstitch and I'm using just a medium stitch length, nothing fancy here. (sewing machine whirs) You're going straight across. (sewing machine whirs) And when you get to that other handle, just backstitch and you're done. Once you've tacked down both sides of that strap, you're ready to go to the other side and do the exact same thing. (sewing machine whirs) (hums softly) All right, my straps are on, now I'm going to add my lining. So I'm using a solid lining. You could also if you wanted to use the same fabric, you could use these kitty cats for both the outside and the lining. I'm using a hot pink and this is the same on both sides, but if you are using a printed fabric, make sure it is right side facing down. So we're just gonna match up our corners here, and pin all around the edges. And our next step is going to be to sew all the way around but we're gonna leave one little three inch opening for turning it right side out. My favorite strategy for pinning when you have one long edge to do is to do the two corners first, then pin the middle point and then do the two points in between, just makes the fabric nice and evenly spread out. When you're pinning these short sides, you do wanna make sure that your strap is on the inside and that it's not hanging outside, cuz it's gonna all make sense when we turn this thing right side out. Let's start sewing right at the beginning of our three inch window that we've marked out, that way when we get to this pin, we will remember that it is time to stop sewing. I'm sliding it in and I'm going to sew it with a three-eighth inch seam and that is just a scant little bit outside of your standard presser foot. Once again, we're going to backstitch. Very important that you backstitch at the beginning and end of an opening when you're turning fabric right side out. (sewing machine whirs) There will be a lot of pressure on that seam. And we're just gonna go all the way around the perimeter. (sewing machine whirs) And when you get to the corner, stop three-eighths inch from the edge or as close as you can guesstimate. Leave your needle down, pick up your presser foot, turn your fabric to pivot, and you're ready to go down the other side. (sewing machine whirs) Go a little slow as you go over your straps. Machine should move fine over those straps, though. (sewing machine whirs) All right I'm turning my last corner and I have to remember to stop where my pin is. Leaving that three inch opening. (sewing machine whirs) I'm going to backstitch again, and we can take it out of the machine. Once you've gotten around to your three inch opening, you are going to take some scissors, some fabric shears, and snip off the corners. This will make your corners turn out nice and sharp. Okay. Now we're ready to turn our pie carrier right side out. So just reach your arm in through that opening. I like to go to the farthest corner first. And start pulling. (chuckling) Reach your fingers in and poke out those corners as best you can, you might wanna use a chopstick or a knitting needle to do this. I have a pretty pokey little pinky, so, I'm not even gonna use one. Now that you've turned your pie carrier right side out, it's starting to look like a pie carrier. The next step is to take your iron and just flatten these edges, you want them to lay down nice and flat, so I like to

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give it a little pinch and then press. And since the hot pink is our lining fabric, then we wanna make sure that's rolled a little bit to the inside and that the ochre is kind of going over the edge a little bit more to make it the more dominant color. So we're just gonna press all the way around the edge. And then we're also as we go going to fold that opening closed. And press it shut so it will be invisible in the next step. I'm just gonna pop in a couple pins here where I press down that three inch opening. Just so I remember it's there and it stays nice and neat. And then, we're going to flip it over so the lining is facing up. We're gonna find the center point by folding it in half. There's my center point, I'm gonna put one more pin in place. Just gonna pop it in right, right there. Opening it back up. And now, I'm gonna fold this in and find one and a half inches from that center point. And so there is my pin. There's one and a half. Great. That to be even. And then we're gonna pin along this bottom and top edge, getting it as even as possible. And as you can see, when we sew along here, we're gonna close up that little three inch opening. It's very efficient. And pin the top, and then you're gonna do the other side exactly the same way. Once your top and bottom are pinned, you're gonna sew along this edge and then you're gonna go down and do the other edge. All right, I'm gonna put this in the machine and we're going to sew it pretty close to the edge with that quarter inch seam allowance again. If you want to make your seam line less visible, you can use a matching thread. I'm gonna use a contrasting thread so that you can see it. I'm gonna backstitch. And just go nice and carefully along the edge. (sewing machine whirs) We're gonna go straight across this open section here. And when you get to this flap, you may want to stop with your needle down and lift up your foot just to make sure it's in there nicely. Set it back down and continue going. (sewing machine whirs) And right here, we're gonna start going over our three inch opening. And I'm gonna remove my pin so I don't sew over them. Just keep an eye on it, keep your finger on it if you can. (sewing machine whirs) And backstitch at the end. Do the same thing on the other side. My pie carrier is done. Now I just need some pie to put into my pie carrier. - Okay I got one here. (chuckles) It's hot. So what do we do? - Freshly baked pie. - Freshly baked. Just now. - All right, well all you do is pop it in here. Just like this. - Oh my gosh. - And then. - What? - You're ready to go. - That's awesome. Okay bye. - Okay bye! (chuckling) Get back here. - Wow, that's amazing. - If you wanna learn how to make a beautiful pie, just like Devlin makes, then you should really check out his class on Creativebug. - Yes, and please feel free to ask questions and comments, I'm always there to help out. - And the pie class is a pie crust and you also give ideas for fillings. - Yes. - Beyond the apple pie. - Yes and different crust techniques. Like less crust, then top crust and doing the cookie cutouts, all that fun stuff. Tell me about this one you got here. - This is another version that I made. It's made exactly the same way, but it has the exact same fabric on the inside. And I also did double stitching along the edges so it's extra sturdy. - It's pretty, this one goes with my outfit better. (chuckles) - Well you can take that one if you want. - Yeah I'll take this one. - So I don't know about you but I love making pie for people, it brings them so much joy. - Yeah, and having something like this and making a really unexpected pie and then delivering it to them in such a handy little container is awesome. - In fact, you know what would be a great idea? If somebody in your life makes a lot of pie and is giving pie to a lot of people, why don't you make them a carrier and then that will be a great way to give it back to them.

Day 11: Cozy Kitties

- When I think of the things in my home I'm most grateful for, of course, I think of my cats, I love my cats so much and they're both rescues and the SPCA is a place that often needs donations of food or toys or even beds for the animals. So you'll have to check with your individual animal shelter to

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see what kind of items they accept. This is a cat bed I've made for my cats. And it's really easy, you just need some materials I'm sure you have lying around. Pick a long sleeved sweater that you need to donate or get rid of or that has too many holes or you can get one at a thrift shop. You'll also need some batting and a needle and thread. I'm using a really large gauge needle and some brightly colored chunky thread so that it's easier to show you but you'll wanna use, maybe, a matching color and you can even use your sewing machine if you'd like. You'll begin by turning the sweater inside out and stitching closed the neck. We're going to be sewing from shoulder to shoulder in a smooth arc and make sure your thread is about twice the length. You'll make a knot at the end. (optimistic music) And we're just going to make some really open stitches. Once we turn it right side out, we'll be reinforcing it again. So your stitches don't have to be all that close together. Also, you're welcome to do this part on the machine. (optimistic music) When you get to the other shoulder seam, you're going to tie a knot. I like to make a little stitch around and loop through twice. Trim it with a half an inch and turn right side out. Now working on the right side, we're going to do another line of stitches from underarm to underarm the same way we did the other ones. Now we're going to use our batting to stuff the top two thirds of the sleeves and also the top half portion of what we're already sewed off. (bag rustling) (optimistic music) Once you've stuffed it down to the elbows of the sweater, you'll see a little bit more of about how it's suppose to come together. We'll be wrapping these around and tucking the sleeves into each other and stuffing this as well. So I think I want a little bit more stuffing. If I just leave it like this, it'll be not a very big bed but if I give it a little more stuffing, it'll have a lot more room. So I'm gonna put more in both sides. (optimistic music) Okay, I think I have it how I like it but before I go ahead and sew the sleeves together, I'm going to put one last layer of stuffing in the body and for this you can use batting, you can use stuffing but I like to use an additional piece of clothing that I'm getting rid of. My cats seem to really like it. They like having my smell around them, so here's another sweater and you can kind of crinkle it in or you can fold up, depending on the side of the sweater but you want it to be about the base of the bed. Gonna fold it in half. And push it up against that line of stitches. And that goes to about here so I think that's reasonable. And you tuck one sleeve into the other sleeve. Once our stuffing and the base is even with the edge of the arms. We're going to fold the bottom over and then sew the arms to the base using a whip stitch. Do some final adjustments and alignments. It doesn't really matter what it looks like on the bottom but we want the inside to be as smooth as possible and then when you have this tucked how you want it. Take the closet loose edge and pinch it to the arms. Make sure to capture both layers when you're doing whip stitch. And you'll continue like this all the way around. On your last stitch, you'll make a knot or a double knot actually. (optimistic music) And let's see if it's pet approved. Charlie, come here. Come here, Charlie. Come here. - [Helper] That looks cozy, lay down. Go lay down. (gasps) Go lay down. (laughs) - He loves it. (laughs) That was perfect Good job, Charlie. - [Woman] That things perfect. - [Man] He's so sleepy.

Day 12: Paying It Forward

- Hi, I'm Courtney and I'm here with the Creative Bug CEO, Ursula. - Hi, everybody! - And I brought Ursula on to talk about something that is very near and dear to her heart, when she came, I mean you can tell the story, when you came from the UK to here, you were searching for something to kind of get involved in, right? - Yes, so when I started working in London back in the late 80s, giving away my age, I worked in a place called SoHo and it's where the magazine district was and the design district and I used to get off at Piccadilly Circus which is one of the biggest undergrounds in the whole world, and I'd walk through Theatreland to get to work every day, and what really struck

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me was that through Theatreland you'd get homeless people sleeping in the streets every night so they'd be still sleeping, some of them getting up when I was walking through, and I think the biggest thing that struck me over probably about six months is I used to recognize when somebody was new to homelessness, 'cause you'd recognize their fresh face and then they'd degenerate like really, really fast. You'd see people like young kids, like aging, I felt really helpless and I didn't know how to help them. - I think that's like - It struck me - Something a lot of people struggle with, right? - Yeah. - Like how can you get - Involved and how can you - and how can you help. - And then a great thing happened. A publication came out called "The Big Issue," and you could buy it from homeless people and they got most of the sales for it and they could buy, it started getting people into homes, it gave them employment, it was fabulous and also people like Richard Branson and all these big stars would do these great interviews with great journalists, so it wasn't like a magazine that you'd buy and just go like I've done my donation, you'd actually buy it and like - read it - Read a story - that's awesome. - Then I forward fast, many years came to San Francisco and I was struck by homelessness in San Francisco. And again felt helpless and didn't know what to do. And out of the blue, we were dog sitting a friend's dog and I was standing outside, I would call it a supermarket, you would call it a grocery store, Mollie Stone's which is local here - yeah - And I was standing outside with the dog, my husband was shopping, and the was a chap outside and people were coming up and giving him like five bucks, 10 bucks, and 20 bucks. Being Irish, I'd talk to pretty much anybody and I said to him, wow, I mean what is this? And he said I'm homeless and these people know me and I tell them don't give me a buck or two bucks or like give me your change, it's once a month, give me - Give me something more sizeable, interesting, okay. - So his name was Adam, and he told me about Project Hand Up, so it's like hand up like if somebody gave you a hand up - yeah - And he said go onto this website and sponsor me every month and then I'll get cash and I can do things to change my life. - How long ago was that? - Oh god, this must have been, I've been here six years so it must have been about five years ago, and so I was on the bus, got the bus home with the dog on my lap and got my phone out, looked him up, got him, and started sponsoring him. And what Hand Up does, which is really perfect is he's got, I think he's got like 140 donors now, really good marketing chap - wow - And what it does is it takes the cash and then Adam goes every month and he says I need glasses, I need a health exam, I want to join the gym, my rent is this, and then Hand Up - donates that money - Donates that. - So it's almost like a mediator, like a bank and a mediator - yeah! - For this person that helps them facilitate their finances? - Yeah! - That's awesome. - And two years ago, I was in the same neighborhood and I walked past this man. And I was actually getting my hair cut because my hair dresser's two doors down. I walk past this man and I went to go hello, Adam, and then I thought no, I don't recognize you, maybe you're not Adam? Do you know what? He had rejuvenated. - Really? - So that whole thing that was really upsetting me about people aging really fast when they're homeless, that he had actually rejuvenated, he had new teeth, he had new glasses, and with Hand Up as well, I get an email like once a year or something and Adam just says like now he's got a home, now he's working - you get an update - It's a little update from Adam. - That's awesome, so I'm guessing that Hand Up is all across America? - Yeah, they have a website and on the website it says it runs now I think in 130 cities but they have all different programs, they've got really, really good now, they've got so many different programs. It might be something, I mean I think it's gotta be something that means something to you so there might be something, a program that they have that means something to you. Maybe we can put the URL in the PDF. - For sure, we can definitely do that. - Yeah. - If somebody is trying to get involved with causes or foundations that work in their own community, what would you recommend? Like you

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were lucky you ran into somebody that you could engage with and he was open and he had a particular resource to give you. - I know, it's funny. I think just something, it's gotta mean something to you. Even though Adam approached me, I think I was more open to homelessness by talking to him just because it means something to me. - Right, 'cause you had that personal connection. - Yeah, and I think you do a lot of stuff for education, because of a personal connection, so I think it's just be aware of things in your life. - Yeah, and what you maybe are already familiar with, - Yeah - What you care about. - Yeah. - I love that. - I think that's great advice. - Yeah, and also it's fun and it's more rewarding for me than it is for Adam to be honest, because seeing that - That transformation - That's something that - Affected me when I was in my 20s, and still - I love that - We are living through it, it's pretty cool. - What a good story.

Day 13: Virtual Love

- Hi I'm Courtney and I'm here with Wanshun he is our web developer, and you had a really sweet idea for how to show gratitude for your daughter, right? You have a little girl? - I do, my daughter - How old is she? - She's two and a half right now. - And it's probably hard to tell her like, oh you've changed our lives tremendously when she's only two in a half. - She doesn't quite get it when we talk to her like that, no - So Wanshun shared a great idea with me that I thought would be perfect for our gratitude challenge which is how to create like a digital scrapbook for her so that she can enjoy it when she's a little bit older. - Yeah. - So you and your wife kinda came up with this together or. - Yeah my wife actually came up with the idea, she had it originally and then I was like that makes a lot of sense you know, it's like these days everybody's got their phone it's all digital, everybody's taking pictures, shooting videos and what a great way to share it with, you know our daughter by like just sending it to her and writing little notes and telling her about it much later - So how do you set that up? It's not like a Facebook account right? It's like something that's private. - Right so it's private so I just set up an email address for her that's her own so that she's got her own personal email now before she even knows about it. - Right. - And basically all I do is just email that address if I have pictures or if I took a video or an audio clip I just send it, attach it, write a little note or anything and I just send it off. And just even little notes, not even, it doesn't have to be multimedia or anything. Like I just wrote a note to say I was thinking about you today or something, just little notes you know. - Do you also like record if she says something funny, not record as in film but just like make a note of and send that off as well. - Yeah yeah yeah yeah, like if she did something cute that day or she did something funny or in a video or whatever, or like firsts, you know, like if she says something for the first time or if she enjoyed something or didn't or whatever, just anything. - Do you feel like because it's digital it just makes it a lot easier to do? - Yeah I think it's just commitment like, basically when she was born, my phone went from having all this free space to having no space because I'm just shooting pictures, videos, all the time so you know, these days, just, people, it's harder to print pictures so this is a quick and easy way to kind of preserve it and send it and to kind of make use of all that stuff that's on my phone. - I love that. It's nice to find quick and easy ways to build that kind of stuff into your daily life because we're all so busy so I think trying a digital scrapbook for your child or someone else that you love is a great idea.

Day 14: Use Your Art for Good

- Hi, I'm Courtney. - And I'm Mike McConnell. - And I invited Mike here. We're friends, painters, co-creators of Social Sketch, which is a monthly drawing night. But most importantly, you are a great advocate for donating work to charity. I feel like you do this a lot, where you have little

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paintings and sketches and sometimes really large paintings that you donate to auctions, and even just on your own Instagram feed, auction off. - Correct. - Yeah, and can you talk a little bit about your work, just to kind of familiarize people with your stuff? - Yeah, I mainly paint a lot of animals or people and animals interacting together. Sometimes, the people have animal heads, so the anthropomorphic side of my art. Painting animals, I think a lot of people think that I'm an environmental artist, and since I don't really have, I don't have a big strong political -- - Like intention to begin with? - In my regular work, that doing these charities allows me to kind of take part and have a political stance or put my talent to a good use. - I love that. So you may not be doing something that has a political message in just looking at the piece, but you get to contribute politically by donating the proceeds from the artwork. - Yeah. - So this is a batch that you're working on currently, and you're gonna be auctioning off. - Yeah, so I've been doing all these little small 4x6 watercolors, and a lot of the times, I put a call out for people, like what animals they want, or someone is interested at the time, like I did one capybara awhile ago, and then everyone was all about the capybaras. - [Courtney] That's these guys, right? - [Mike] Yeah, they're like the giant rodents. - [Courtney] And this one's been yarn bombed, which is so fun. - [Mike] Yeah. - Where are these from? What country? - New Guinea, I think. I don't know. South America? They're like the South American giant guinea pig. - [Courtney] This is hilarious. - [Mike] That everyone likes, every animal gets along with it. - [Courtney] I know. - [Mike] There was an article about it. - [Courtney] You have this push/pull between cute and serious with a lot of your animals. - Yeah, well, a lot of times when I paint people, people think they look sad or too serious. But people say that there's a lot of emotions or whatever in the animals, so I kinda stick to, I think people connect to the animals better. - [Courtney] I love that. So if somebody wanted to go about doing something like that, this whole month, actually, we've been talking about ways to be thankful and putting your talents to good use. So it doesn't even have to be painting, necessarily, it could be knitting, but if somebody did want to try doing a donation, what would you recommend? What do you do this on? - I mean, I use them just on my Instagram feed. And so I'll post a batch of them together, and say, "Just direct message me." These are all gonna be $45. - So people look at your feed, you're poopingrabbit on Instagram, and they DM you, and then you collect the money, and you choose the charity, but you say that in your post, right? - [Mike] Correct. - That's awesome. I love that. So if you want to try it on your own, you would totally advocate for that, or I would advocate for that, too. But we also have some friends who do this for other people, where they'll collect single pieces from several artists and then choose a charity for the month, and then donate that. - Yeah, like, Lisa Solomon, who I think also has taught classes with you guys. - Yeah. - She runs Artists Take Action, which I also donated to, and I donated some dog portraits to. So, yeah, we'll do pet portraits for charities, picking the place is sometimes, you can either do, I've chosen places that are dealing with the hurricanes and stuff that are more current events, and I've also, sometimes they're personal to me. Like I've donated to this place called Ruby's Rainbow, which it deals with children with Down's Syndrome, which my son has, so. - Yeah, I love that. So you can take it on a really personal level, do something that affects your life or your community, or I love that you can do something kind of globally. We're really far away from some of the natural disasters that are happening currently, but we can still contribute in small ways, put our talents to good use, and collect some money, somebody gets an original painting for a really affordable price, which is amazing. - [Mike] Yeah, I think people get really excited because they're getting original art, but then it's also for a good cause, so it's like a win/win. - I love that. I also love that people can contribute even if you're not a painter or an artist necessarily, and you don't feel like you're confident to paint something to

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auction off. You can always support by purchasing original art. It's good for the artists in your community, and it's great for a charitable cause.

Day 15: Care Packages for the Homeless
- Hi, I'm Allie and one thing that I like to do periodically, but especially during the holiday season is to put together care packages for the homeless. In my neighborhood, there are a few homeless individuals who I've really become close to and they've become more like neighbors than just homeless people that you might see on the street. And when I'm in a store or I'm thinking of it, I like to grab up some essentials for them just to help make their lives hopefully a little bit easier. So I've got a bunch of items here that I'll go over so that if you want to put together your own care package for the homeless, you'll know where to start. So when putting together a care package, the best way to think about it is if you were running out of your house and you were going away for a few days, what are the essentials that you would need to grab to make yourself feel fed, clean, and a little taken care of? So the first thing that I always love to put into a care package are baby wipes. Baby wipes are essential, especially since a lot of homeless people don't have access to proper sanitation and shower facilities. So having baby wipes can help them stay clean and feel refreshed and more like a human being. I like to put everything that I've purchased into an easy tote so that individuals can carry these items with ease. These totes don't have to be expensive. You can utilize your local pharmacy such as a Walgreen's, CVS, Rite Aid. You can also go to your local dollar store. They might have some great items. The next item besides baby wipes I'm gonna put in, speaking of a dollar store, is this mini flashlight. I mean, if you think about it, at night you wanna be able to see, whether it's to read a book or just to have some semblance of electricity. A flashlight is a really great option to give to a homeless individual. If you are giving to a female homeless individual, they will of course need sanitary napkins and that's what I have right here. So I've got some pads and, of course, socks which are really important. As we all know, keeping your feet dry and clean feels great. It helps you stay warm and comforted, so giving that option to a homeless individual is a really great thing. Speaking of feeling warm and comfort, for those who are in a colder climate, especially during the winter months, it's imperative that they stay warm. So my next item in my kit are body warmers and these are pads, much like hand warmers, that you can crush and they provide warmth. These are pads that you can place on your body and they'll warm you up for a few hours. So that'll help when the temperatures drop. Next up is basic hygiene products so I've already had the baby wipes put into the bag, but next I'm going to do some antibacterial mouthwash. I'm also going to do some hand sanitizer. And as the temperatures drop and your skin gets dry, it's really important to keep that nice and lubricated, so I have two items that are really helpful. One is Carmex. It is a really thick salve for chapped lips. The other is A&D Ointment, which can be used for diaper rashes, but also because it is a thick salve, you can use it on your hands. It really helps with dry hands, regardless of where you live. I have a hairbrush, which is essential. I always like to put in water because I'm very particular about staying hydrated and having access to clean water is very important. And I always like to include ibuprofen because when you have a headache and you have no ibuprofen, your life gets pretty miserable. Last up are two items. One is a basic food item. It's a trail mix. A trail mix will have protein. It'll have some fat. It's a really cheap option to give. And last I included some cough drops because when the temperatures start to drop and things get chilly, colds are very common, so I'm hoping that this provides a bit of relief and comfort to those that I give it to. So now that I have all of my items, I'm going to zip up my bag. You can put all these in a backpack. If you have an old piece of luggage that has rollers on it, you might want to stock off on

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this, too. In addition to the items that I have here, you can also add clothing items to your care package. Items like long johns are really going to be important in the colder months, T-shirts, fresh underwear, fresh socks, hats, gloves, items really that are going to make someone feel a little more comforted and provide some warmth at the same time. I like to put together these care packages because for me, it's a very reflective moment. It's a time for me to think about all that I have in my life and to think about others who are in need and to try and provide some sort of comfort and humanity to them and to let them know that they are being thought of, especially during the holiday season.

Day 16: Gratitude Cookbook
- Hi, I'm Faith, I'm here with Brian. - Hi, I'm the producer here at Creativebug, and I thought I would show Faith this lovely project that I thought of. It is making a cookbook for your friends or family. So I came up with this idea because I'm really, really thankful that my roommate Dan, he cooks me dinner all the time, and he's a great cook. He is from the south, from Louisiana, he knows all these recipes, so he cooks like red beans and rice, pork chops, jambalaya, all sorts of things. So what I thought, since I'm so grateful that he does this, that I would make a little cookbook of all of his recipes. - [Faith] That's so sweet. - [Brian] Yeah, so what you'll need is a computer, for sure, and I'm using a MacBook here, and I also downloaded a free app called iBook Authors. It's a free app that you can find in the app store. You download that, and actually what's really cool about that is that it has all these templates. In fact, it has a cookbook template. And so it's basically drag and drop. - [Faith] So if you don't know how to do layouts, that's not a problem. - It's not a problem whatsoever. The next thing you'll need is a camera. Or a camera phone. I have here a DSLR, but using a camera phone should be fine. - I would probably use my phone, right? - Yes. - I don't have a camera. - Use that portrait mode, if you've got it. - Oh good, okay, okay. Good to know. - Yeah, once you're done with your spread, you could print them out onto regular printer paper. And we've got a laminator here from Scotch and we've got a three ring binder and a three hole punch here, so after you're done laminating you can hole punch it and put it in the binder. So the last couple of meals that he's made me, I have actually taken pictures of it. So I put it near some natural light, got up on a chair, took some pictures. He's like, "what are you doing?" I'm just like, "I'm just gonna take some photos "of your food." Then I got the recipe from him, and what I did from that is like input that all into the program, dragged and dropped some pictures in, and made a whole layout of the book. It's really simple. When you're done, you can print out the pages, and then I laminated it. And when we laminated it, it was really easy. - Hold machine until it pulls it forward. It will automatically exit. Do not pull. - Okay, so this like this. I can feel the heat. Oh, there it goes. Oh, that was fast. (Faith laughs) - [Faith] Perfect. - [Brian] Blue light is on. Here it comes. Whoa, that's cool. - That's amazing. - Whoa! That was really easy, too. - [Faith] It's like, very exciting. For minimal action. - That was really... It's done! Let's see, we gotta make sure that we're doing it the right way. So if this guy looks like this. There we go. - Oh wait, because it ends up. - Cause it lifts up like that. Oh yeah, yeah. No, you're totally right, you're totally right. - [Brian] Right? - [Faith] Yes. - And I haven't hole punched in a long time, but just like even, right? - You want help? - Yeah. - Okay. - [Brian] Yeah. Cute. Look at that. - [Faith] It's so special. - [Brian] So after you're done laminating and putting in the binder, it's gonna look like this. - That's so sweet. - I have the cover here, put Dan's Cookbook. This is actually a picture I took of his pork chops and red beans and rice. - [Faith] It's beautiful. - [Brian] Which is one of the recipes in here. So you open this up, and he does southern foods, so I thought the first chapter would be a Southern Spin. - It's so sweet. - And I wrote a little thing. So many of the meals

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I've enjoyed while being with the person I cherish the most, my roommate. Every recipe in this book I've cooked at least once to appreciate the love that goes into it. Then I photographed each meal and put the book together for all to enjoy. And the first page here, as you can see, is the pork chops with red beans and rice, and I got the ingredients here, and I put how to cook and also I put a little description of when he first cooked me the meal, and then a picture of us here. So it's kind of-- - That's so sweet. - [Brian] Yeah, it's really sweet. And then we had to pay attention on how the layout went when we were laminating. So put that picture there, and the next one here. He made these really good bacon wrapped jalapenos. - [Faith] Oh, my goodness. - [Brian] Ingredients again. I've yet to laminate this page. But again, another picture of us and the instructions on how to cook it and when he first made it. - And one this I found really convenient about this process of lamination is you didn't have to worry about printing front and back, and which side goes up. - Right, right. - You had the two separate sheets and you put them together so you could visualize it. - Yeah, so that was-- Yeah, 'cause you came up with the brilliant idea of having a spread open like this. - Thank you for calling it brilliant. (both laugh) - It is brilliant! - It looks really nice. - It's brilliant, because you can see everything all at once instead of having to turn. 'Cause that's actually-- - And you have it on your counter, it's propped up all nicely. - Yeah, right! And it's like super easy to laminate it, so you can go ahead and spill all the red beans and rice all over it. (Faith laughs. As much as you want. - Yes. - I also made a digital copy from iBook Author. You could export it and then open it up in like, an iPad for instance like I have here. So I have it digitally here. - Oh, my goodness. - So you can tap, you can look at the chapters, for instance. We got the pork chop and red beans and rice just like this. And it's as easy as swiping, which is really cool. So you have it all here. So if you have the friend who's more tech savvy and wants everything on their iPad or iPhone, I have it here. So I do tell my roommate all the time how thankful I am that he's cooking for me, but I thought this would be an extra special way to show him that I really appreciate every meal he makes for me. Cute. - [Woman] Cute! - Alright! (Brian laughs)

Day 17: Go Big!

- We're about halfway through the month and we've talked about a few different ways that you can spread gratitude in the world in small ways, but we like the idea of also doing things in big, grand ways. Immediately I thought of those protesting overpass signs that you see when you're driving to work or maybe just tooling around the city. But I thought it would be nice to put something that's a little more generous into the world, so I thought I'd share a few different ideas for making a variety of signs to put in your neighborhood. You can start on a smaller scale, although this is large for what it is. This is a giant Post-it believe it or not and you can actually buy this. It's made by 3M. It's an actual Post-it so it sticks really nicely. It's small for a sign but it's giant for a Post-it and it's a good way to start because it's removable. It's not going to deface anything. You could easily stick it on a building or window just to spread a little joy. And one of the keys, I think one of the frustrations when you go down to make something like a sign, even if it's just a garage sale sign is not having the right kind of pen. So I actually don't prefer a Sharpie for something like this. I like a Permapaque pen. These are made by Sakura of America. They're double tipped. One side is a chisel tip which is the side I'm gonna use, and the other side is a finer point. But what's awesome about these is they almost feel like a paint pen but they're water-based. They have a really great color. They lie down color really nicely and really opaquely, but they work just kind of like a Mr. Sketch marker. So they're the perfect sort of hybrid for sign making. Don't worry about your handwriting. Part of the reason the chisel tip is so nice is because it creates a really nice line. That took me all of 30 seconds and I

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can easily stick it outside. I mean you could even put this in your office if you want to spread a little bit of joy. Now that's, like I said, the smallest scale, if you want to do a sign kind of like that. But you can also do something a little bit bigger. I've got a large piece of heavy weight craft paper here, and again I can use my Permapaques. Even though the craft paper's sort of a medium tone the Permapaque will show up really nicely on it. And the idea for this is that you want clean lines so that it's really visible if someone is driving by or walking by or riding a bicycle. The key to making a sign like this is just having clean simple letters that are bold and that people can see when they're riding or driving by. So I like to just letter them out to start and then you can go back in and make it a little more bold. Now this isn't a lettering class. If you want some great lettering tips you can check out McKaela, her daily lettering challenge and she's actually works for Sakura of America so she is really familiar with all these products and has some great tips for using them. And she's the one that introduced me to this marker pen, and I love it because it's really opaque and dense and really easy to work with, and you can see how nicely that red shows up on the craft paper, and how quickly you can color that in. I mean it really looks like a paint marker but doesn't smell like anything. It's water-based. I have a finished one. This one's really large. I just did that same simple lettering that I showed you and filled it in. I did something simple for go. I made it a little different. I added a little bit of red and then for it is in red with a little bit of purple outline. So it's still simple, two colors. I'm not doing a ton of different typefaces. It's just a simple block lettering in my own kind of handwriting style. It's not fancy or super special. If you're an excellent letterer then this is a great opportunity for you to do something bigger, maybe put your art out there into the world in a different and new way. But I like the idea of driving by and seeing something. This can mean so many things for so many different people and it's nice to have these little reminders in the morning as you're headed to work. And one of the last things I wanted to share is working on drop cloth. I make a ton of backdrops for the set here at Creativebug, or large signs for garage sales or flea markets, and I love to work on drop cloth. It's really inexpensive. People think it's gray linen and it looks fancy but it's a really affordable large surface to paint on. So I have a piece that I just cut and tore. I'm working on that thick craft paper because it's also a really good barrier between my paint and my table, and I've just got a little bit of craft paint. This one happens to be FolkArt Multisurface so that if it's going outside it'll hold up in the outdoors. And because it's really thick and I want it to be a little bit thinner I'm adding a little bit of water. So I don't want it to be like watercolor consistency. I want it to be more like kind of thick cream. And I'm working with a one inch foam brush, and just like a chisel tip on a marker this will help my lettering look better. I know that I want this to just say do good, so I'm actually gonna start with my G, sort of just left of center. I've ironed my drop cloth. There's some pretty deep creases in it when you take it right out of the package. And I'm just starting, I'm not pressing too hard because I want to maintain that one inch that the brush naturally has. And then I can go in and fill in my letter. But you can see how clean that type is even though I'm not a lettering artist by any means. I'm just letting the one inch foam brush do the work for me. You can go in and clean up edges if you want. You also have to remember that people are gonna be reading this from far away. And once it's dry it's permanent and so it can be left outside. I can just fill that in. It's gonna dry a little bit darker than what you see here. And you can just eyeball things for spacing. Here's one I finished. And you can see really how clean that is. You can put your own thoughts and sentiments out into the world. You can easily look up quotes and inspirational phrases that you can put into the world. I could add do good work, or do good in the world, whatever I want to add to this. I like to attach these to fences or any kind of place with a zip tie makes it really easy. The zip tie will just poke right through the fabric and if you want to take it

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down at some point you can. It doesn't deface any property and you can easily find inspirational quotes or your own ideas and thoughts. You can pull things from your favorite books, letter them on paper or fabric and put them out, and this little tiny thing becomes this really grand gesture to inspire someone in their day.

Day 18: Do Unto Others
- Hi, I'm Allie. - And I'm Dev. - And we have a tradition of grabbing each other a carrots or a snack each time one of us goes to the office kitchen. - When I am going there I know that Allie might want a snack. So I just help myself and grab her carrots because we love carrots. And she does the same for me. - Yeah. - And it's kind of become this little ritual. - It's a little unthinking of you. - Yeah. - It's like good morning, here's your carrots. So besides carrots, if you love coffee and you know that your co-workers love coffee as well. - If you're going out to get lunch and your co-workers are really busy, it's like hey, do you want me to grab lunch for you today, you know. - That's a great one yep. I think it's little things like that that really help people feel like they're being appreciated and most importantly that they're being thought of. Everyone wants to be thought of. - Oh Yeah. - Yeah.

Day 19: Grateful for Home
(cheerful music) - Today we want to tell you how grateful we are for our space, and we hope that you're grateful for some space in your life as well. Creativebug has a brand new studio and home. Before, we were in a space that was shared, and we were this bright little corner, and now we're in a space all our own. And the nice thing about having our own space is that we can really have things that remind us of our evolution and travels. This is a chalkboard designed by Sam O'Leary. He helped Jeanne, our founder, kind of in the beginning when Creativebug didn't even have a studio, we just had a basement. And this is a reminder of how grateful we are for all of you guys. This is our little library 'cause I'm really big on books. We have this beautiful wall hanging that one of our artists, Annabel Wrigley did, and so that's nice to display that right when you walk in. You might spy a project or two hanging on our coat rack here, because we just used them in a photo shoot. Of course, this is our mascot. You probably recognize Charlie. This is our creative space. Before, we had a door that was closed, but now everyone's really encouraged to use this space as they're working and developing classes, photo shoots, or of course, our live shoots. Right now I'm knee-deep in a gift wrap challenge, and so it's a little bit of a mess. Just with some of my favorite supplies, and materials, and a bunch of wrapped gifts. And you can see everything is organized as best we can behind us. This is where all the magic happens, people. And of course, all of our amazing videos are shot by yours truly, Brian and Devlin. Say hello guys. - [Cameramen] Hey! - And this is our office. We really pride ourselves on communication. We talk to each other all the time. In fact, we're usually shouting across tables, so everyone is here. Of course, food plays a huge role. There's lots of snacking in the Creativebug office. You might recognize some of these. This was our live shoot yesterday. On our giving plate that Lisa Congdon and I did on Tuesday. So, live shoots happen upstairs. I'll give you a tour of the studio in just a minute. That's our archive up there. You have to get on these wonky little library stairs, which I absolutely love. That's where all of our projects, we've got hundreds, if not thousands, actually, of projects from our artists over the last five years of Creativebug, and they're all stored up in our archive. This is the way to the studio! We started a new Creativebug tradition, which is we're gonna have our artists sign this hallway. So, Amber from Damask Club was here a couple weeks ago, Lisa Congdon was here this week, and Lisa Solomon, who's known for her color, signed it. So, of course, we're always changing things here at

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Creativebug. This is one of our sets. As of last week, we decided to do two sets. I'm going to be changing this set, right after we shoot this, to our holiday challenge, and let's take a look and see what's on the other side. We're in the middle of a photo shoot! This is Lu, Katrina, and Liz, and they take all of the beautiful shots of all of our incredible projects. And so, even though it looks a little bit chaotic, they have a system, and we're doing our overhead shots now, so that's how we're starting today. Bye, guys. Let's see who's working at their desk today. Brian and Dev sit here. You can see, Brian's always working. That's Mark Tilling, I assume. Faith, who you recognize from her several classes and many live shoots. What do you have there? Show us. - [Faith] I'm cleaning out my desk and I found this little book I made. - [Courtney] Oh my God, it's like a star tunnel book! - Yes. - Show us. - [Faith] Well, it's a little bit stuck together. - [Courtney] It's a little bit stuck. It's been in hiding, but look at that. How beautiful! Let us know if you want that class, guys. Liana, our editorial director. She and I kind of share an area. Charlie wants you to recognize his bed is here. (laughter) - Guess what? We are 39 likes away from 300,000 Facebook likes. - We pay attention to all of that, we really do. Look how funny these are. This is from the upholsterer, Amanda Brown. She has Spruce in Austin, Texas, and we filmed these many years ago. This is our conference room. This was the first and only room in Creativebug to actually be decorated and finished. We've got Flora Bowley's paintings. Her class is incredible, brave, intuitive painting if you haven't checked it out. There's a lot of noise that carries, so we use a lot of rugs to decorate. I love this rug, actually. Faux taxidermy. That's been creeping around the Creativebug sets for years. I think it's an Ursula favorite. Here's our CEO, Ursula, this is her corner. - With my spreadsheets. - [Courtney] Unfortunately, that's what she does, but look what she does in the downtime. She's knitting a hat for Julie, actually. - Yeah, it's my third hat this week. I'm rocking through them all. It's short row shaping. - And she has, earlier in this month, if you remember the gratitude about love, this is the under panel from the veil that she painted for her daughter's wedding, which just happened. Wan Shun and Julie are in this corner, and you can see that they have quite a job ahead of them. These are our emails. - Hi, Julie! - Hi. - [Courtney] What are you guys most excited about for Friday? Lunch? - Lunch. (laughing) - [Courtney] Julie, what exactly is your title? - I don't know! - [Courtney] Sorry, I keep putting you, I keep putting you on the spot. (laughing) - [Wan Shun] She's ready for the lunch question. - Julie's one of our founders, and she and I have been here the longest, and in the early days of Creativebug, every time I would go run an errand to get some craft supplies, she would be like, "Please get me something!" We have Allie, who's our marketing manager. She's usually sitting with a cup of tea. - Yes, and I work on email, so that would be my project too. I work with affiliates and partners, so I do a little bit of everything. - I know, all eyes on the prize. And Erica, who makes the operations run here. You might remember her from our spooky October promo. Can we get some Washi tape? - Can we get some Washi tape? (laughter) - Maybe it's not the place that you sleep at night that you call home or feel like it's really your own. Maybe it is an office, or a little tiny corner of a desk that you've decorated. Maybe it's your car, even. We're putting our stamp on the place that we call home, and we encourage you to do the same.

Day 20 : Dressed Up Dollars

- I wanna show you something that's actually very easy and very simple which means you're more likely to do it and it's gonna put a smile on someone's face. I know that in my personal life, I get a coffee in the morning, I often have lunch out especially if it's a nice day, I go out to dinner often, and honestly, most often I'm using a credit card for that but you do have to leave a tip and if you have some cash, I'm gonna show you how to fold a dollar bill or a five dollar bill or a 10 dollar bill into this

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cute, little origami heart and I don't know if you're a wait person and you got that as your tip, I think that would be pretty awesome and at least it would be interesting and novel if not put a smile on your face. You're gonna take your bill and the bottom third, you're gonna fold up and crease it. Then you wanna fold it in half this way just to find out where the half is. Open it back up and then if you put your fingernail here at the bottom of that half space, that's gonna help you fold upward. So right now, it's looking a little bit like a paper airplane. Now if you're an origami master and know how to do a crane or a ring or something else then that's awesome and you should do that but I'm not an origami master and this is something I can easily do while waiting for my check to arrive. Still looking like a paper airplane but we're gonna flip it over, and then you're gonna fold down this in half and this is again just a marker to see where your next folds go. So you fold in half and then open it back up and then you just fold in these little corners. They can be to that half line or you can even fold them a little deeper. And then you flip it over and you have a heart. So depending on what side of the dollar bill you started on, you can get two different looks from this origami folding technique. Like I said, if you know how to fold something even better and more magnificent then I encourage you to do that. We're all going about our routines and our daily experiences in the same way and it's nice to one, leave a tip for the person who gives you your morning coffee or maybe your afternoon snack, but it's also really nice to go that extra step and fold a little origami note and leave that with your tip because it's gonna make them smile and it's gonna be something unexpected.

Day 21: Unconventional Family Tree
- Hi, I'm Courtney. - And I'm Liana. - We live in the San Francisco Bay area which means a lot of people have come to make this their home but their families might be elsewhere. So every time Thanksgiving rolls around that means you're gonna have a lot of friends at your table and maybe some people that don't know each other. - Right! So, to make people feel a little bit more involved and appreciated - Connected. - connected, so that they feel like they really belong there we created this unconventional family tree. - Which I love. And it's also gonna double purpose as a table runner for your decor or it could be on the wall, too. However you want to adapt it for your Thanksgiving. - Yeah, so instead of a family tree, it's actually more like a friend vine. - Exactly. - If you can go with us on this analogy. - We've got a piece of craft paper that's cut about 15" wide or whatever size you want to make for your table. You can do this as a full table cloth. We've taped it down with this really cute, decorative painter's tape that Scotch makes. I love this because it's like giant Washi tape. It'll actually hold everything down. And we've got some fun markers. We're using the Koi Coloring Brush Pens to do our leaves and vine. And then for filling in, we're gonna use our Gelly Rolls. And the idea is that the host fills this in, right? - That's right, though you can, of course, do whatever makes sense for you. If you think it would be more fun to have people fill out their own leaf shapes, then go for it. - Yeah, maybe we could do a combo. We could fill some out and then leave some blank leaves in case people want to add to it. - But we thought it would be fun to fill it in ourselves because I think the guests will have fun reading what we've written about them. - This is for our creativebug Thanksgiving dinner. So, we're gonna start with just like a big line, right, like a swoopy vine. - Perfect swoopy vine! - And then we're adding some leaves to it? - That's right. - All right. I'm gonna change my color. - Now, they have to be big enough - To write in. - to hold a little bit of copy and we have how many people coming to our creativebug Thanksgiving, eight? - Let's see how many leaves fit on here. - Okay. (Courtney laughs) That's something to keep in mind on your own. You can tell I'm an expert at drawing leaf shapes. - Totally. I love these brush pens

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because you can get a thick and a thin line. - This one will be really big for someone really special. (laughing) - Yeah, that's a host spot. - You can add some small leaves, too. - Oh, that's a good idea. - Fill this out a little. Cute. (humming) - Okay, awesome. So that's pretty simple and even that's pretty. So now we're gonna fill it in with things about our guests, right? - Okay. Who are you gonna do? - I'm gonna do Brian. (Liana laughs) - All right, are you starting? - I'm gonna do Devlin. - Okay, you start and then I'll do it. Do you write their name? - I do write their name. So I'm gonna write, Devlin, nice and big. Then I will say, "Loves to run. Fan of aÃ§aÃ- bowls." (Courtney laughs) - Totally. - "From Connecticut." - Yup, definitely an East Coaster." - And "Baked the apple pie." - Oh yeah, Devlin's an awesome baker! - Because I know Devlin. - That's what he would sign up for if we were doing a potluck for sure. - He would have made the apple pie, that's correct. - So Brian, I know he loves ribs. (Liana laughs) - Don't overthink it. It's gotta be what comes into your head. - He loves ribs. He won't help with the dishes. (Liana laughs) But he'll help you attack those leftovers. Also, he's like the most generous spirit. I think he always has a good sense of fun. - Mm-hmm. - Yeah, good sense of fun. I love it. (Liana laughs) All right. - So now you can go around and fill in all of your leaf shapes with a little bit of fun fact - Defining characteristics. - Defining characteristics of your guests. - Absolutely. - And let them all read this and get to know each other, also via these fun facts. - I know and then it doubles as your table decor. How easy is that? I think we should fill this out and just see how we do. - Like actually bring people up here to show them? - Yeah. - Okay. (laughing) - Has a metaphor for every occasion. (cheerful guitar music) - [Male Director] And action! Go up there! Go find your name! - Welcome to our Thanksgiving table! I think you're right here. - Erica, you're right there. - Lou, you're on that side. You might have to stand on a box because it's at the edge. - Alan, you're over here but you have to come over this way to read it. - I know. - [Liana] Sorry if you can't read our handwriting. (laughing) - [Female Speaker] I love reading everybody's. - [Female Speaker] Aw, that's sweet. - Yeah! - [Male Speaker] Fade to black! (laughing) - [Female Speaker] Now, let's eat!

Day 22: A Seat at the Table

- Sitting down for a meal with your family, it could be a Thanksgiving tradition, it could be a Friendsgiving tradition, or it could just be two people sharing a meal during the holiday season, or any time during the year, is actually a really nice moment. If you're very present, and you made food for someone that you love or care about, and you're sharing it with them, it's actually a really special moment. So, I thought for my Thanksgiving tradition, I usually just gather with my family, which is pretty small. I always set the table. That is sort of my contribution, usually. My mom loves it when I set the table, and do flowers, or some kind of arrangement. So I thought that this year, I would make these really easy, freehand cut place cards, where I can say that I'm thankful for the person who's actually gonna sit there. So let me show you how I made them. You wanna use a text weight paper. You could also use a cardstock paper too. I like a text weight. I've got a metallic paper, and this really nice chartreuse color. I even have some old construction paper lying around. Whatever works for your color palette for your theme. And you're just gonna fold it in half. And then fold it in half again. And that gives you four quarters. But I'm actually gonna snip it in half, because we're gonna fold in half one more time, to get the center vein of our leaf. So each eight and a half by eleven paper will make, if you're being really generous, it'll be four. If you're being more conservative, you could definitely get more leafs out of this. I like to freehand it. And you can just play with your leaf shape. I'm using a really sharp pair of scissors. I'm just keeping my scissors flat and rotating the paper as I trim. There is no right or wrong way to do this, because I can always re-trim. Try to leave

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yourself a little stem, because I think I like the way that looks. This will give me two leafs, and I think actually, before I take them apart, that's a little fat, compared to these, so I can fold it again. Come back in. Swivel. I'm gonna trim that up one more time. So you can just play with the shape of your leaf, until you like it. It's where the sharp scissors come in handy. And then I have two leafs like that. Maybe I wanna try something different. Here's another, just little piece folded in half. I'm gonna fold it in half again to create my center. Maybe this one has a different kind of shape. You don't always have to have three little prongs. I don't know, I just tend to do that. Open it up and see how we like it. I think that's pretty. This color palette's working really nicely together. I even did one that was sort of more feather shaped. And I like how these look together. So you could actually make a runner if you wanted, and do something down the center of the table. You could make a little garland sitting around the top of a plate. You could attach these together. I'm just gonna do a single leaf per plate. And I'm thankful for the person that's sitting there. This is a Permapaque metallic marker. This works on almost any surface, so if you're even working with a glossy paper this will work. There's a skinny and fat side. So I am thankful for Brian, who's gonna sit here. And if you're working on a metallic paper, you could also use a Permapaque, or you can use something like a Micron. I really like this new Micron. It's PN, which stands for plastic nib, and it prevents me from pressing down too hard on the nib and ruining it. It's just a little more sturdier, which I love. And this one, I'm thankful for Devlin. I can make one for everyone at my Thanksgiving table. If I want it to be a little more interactive, I can include some blank thankful fors. People can write on those, and contribute that to the overall tablescape. You can easily change the colors of the paper to suit your table decors. I like this really easy autumnal palette. I love adding a little bit of pop of metallic, and using the Micron and the Permapaque allows me to write on any kind of paper surface. This project is really simple. Your leaf shape can be as simple as you wanna make it. It's a freeform, handcut leaf. In addition to sharing a meal with someone, when they sit down at your table, and they see a little leaf that you handmade that says that you are thankful for them, they're gonna remember that for the next year.

Day 23: Gratitude Game

- Hi, I'm Liana. - And I'm Courtney. - And if you're trying to think of something fun to do with your family and guests on Thanksgiving, we have a great idea for you. - Yeah, usually people often will go around and say what they're thankful for, but I personally feel so put on the spot when that happens. Especially if you're like at your boyfriend's house for the first time or with a new group of people. - Right. - So Liana came up with this really fun kind of Mad Lib style prompt, if you will. So you have a minute to kind of reflect and think about what you're thankful for but also adding some new elements to the idea and the challenge of what gratitude is about. - Right, so we're going beyond gratitude here. We're talking about different things that are inspiring you in your life and that you're gonna be thinking about forever and that you are grateful for, but they can be things that are both funny and serious. And it also, like you were saying, gives the guests a chance to sit down with it for a minute, give them a pen, let them think about it, and then you can go around the table and share your answers. - Yeah, I love that, your gratitude's kind of like nestled in a little bit more. (laughs) So we have this PDF download, yours will just be blank like this, it has a space for the person's name. You can pen this in in advance, I did Liana's page and she did mine. For our lettering we used these Koi Coloring Brush Pens and some Gelly Rolls. It's really fun to play with them in conjunction. So Liana did my name, I did hers, and then this will be included on your PDF, are these prompts. Do you want to read them out? - Sure. The prompts are fill in the blank, Liana in this case,

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is inspired by, will never forget, hopes things get better for, can't stop laughing at, is grateful for. - I love that. So then you can fill it out, you can share it with your friends and guests, and like you said, it could be funny or humorous or serious, but you don't have to just be on the spot asked "What are you grateful for?". People always say friends and family, and then you have six people saying friends and family. (Liana laughs) It's not as interesting. I like this better. And then we have some ideas for how to decorate this. Should we fill it out? - I think that we should. - Okay, let's fill it out. we're gonna take a minute. - Okay. - [Courtney] On the clock here and fill this out. - [Liana] Okay, and I need to pick my Gelly Roll pen. - I'm using a Micron P and I actually really love these. Hmm. Inspired by, so many things I'm inspired by. - Okay, I'm done! - Okay, let's do back and forth. - Okay. - Okay. I'm inspired by images, art, and community. - I'm inspired by Courtney! - Aww, that's so cute. Also I give her a ride into work every day, so really that's probably, that's why she's being so sweet. (both laughing) - That's my last one. I'm grateful for rides into work every day with Courtney. - I'm actually very grateful for that, but that's not what I put on my sheet. Will never forget the first time I saw Charlie. - Oh, that's nice! I will never forget how much my dad loves lemon meringue pie. - My dad too! - Weird! - We should get them together. - See, you learn things about each other. - I love this. Hope things get better for, I have to say just like victims of national disaster I feel like the world is really going through right now. - Yep. - It's a very simple wish to put out for such a complex problem, but, seems like a hard time for a lot of people. - And similarly, I hope things get better for the California firefighters. - Yeah, you guys are doing an awesome job right now. - They are, they are doing some tough work. - Can't stop laughing at Liana's bangs wig. - That's what I put! - What? (both laughing) Liana just had a big birthday, and although I wasn't there, I did see on Instagram her amazing bangs wig. - My friends got me some, it's a wig but it's just bangs because I always say I want bangs but because I have curly hair everybody tells me I can't get them, so. - But they're straight bangs on curly hair, right? - It looks terrible! - It's pretty hilarious. (both laughing) We should include that in the PDF. - Everybody is, can't stop laughing at my bang wigs. - And is grateful for, this is always the hard one, but, 'cause there's so many things, right, and what do you write? I wrote teatime ritual with friends because I have a lot of friends that I sit down and have tea with. - Oh, nice and simple. - Yeah. - I like it. - What are you grateful for? - I am grateful for my health and the health of those around me. - That's a great thing. Everyone's been a little sick in the office, so health is a good thing to be grateful for. - Yeah, but just a little sick. (laughs) - No, it's good, yeah, that's awesome. That's like hilarious and super fun and that's just two of us, so if you have an entire table of guests, I'm gonna make my family do this. If you wanna decorate your border a little bit you can do some simple and easy brushstrokes. If you've seen my Pattern a Day class, you probably are already familiar with these Coloring Brush Koi pens, a ton of our artists use them, but they feel kind of like a watercolor brush but they're marker pens, so they're really easy. I'm sorry I already decorated yours. - [Liana] That's fine, I'll just watch you. - [Courtney] Pick a color pallette you like, every guest's could be different. But, really, you can just do like a thick and a thin mark. For a thick line you just press down and for a thin line you use this on it's tip. I'm just making these little confetti marks essentially, but you can build them up to make something sort of like a festive garland if you want. I mean really, this is like the most controlled scribbling ever, you're really not doing a whole lot of things, I'm just making like little Y-marks. - And you know what? This is a great activity to put your kids to work. - Yes. - Say "Hey kids," "You gotta decorate about a dozen of these cards." - I know, they're really fun. Just like that. - [Courtney] Pretty! - So you can kind of play. This one's a little bit different. It has softer edges, looking more kind of like a wreath and it has some cool and warm colors. They're just tiny little brush marks, but it's a nice way to decorate the place cards, or

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game, if you will, but you can also leave them blank. It's just up to you. - And it only takes a couple minutes and it's a great way to get the family involved. And best of all, it adds a whole other layer of meaning to Thanksgiving, going beyond food. - I know, I love that. And it's a nice way to start a new tradition.

Day 24: Gussied Up Gift Cards

- We're deep into our daily challenge, and Julie, who's one of our founders, is gonna show us a really great technique for that last minute gift. What is your go-to last minute gift? - My go-to last minute gift is really a gift card. It's hard to disappoint with a gift card, however, sometimes they're really impersonal, so I like to jazz it up with a little gift card holder. This is a really easy little origami holder that you can do. Pop a little gift card inside. Use a little bit of contrasting paper, and there you go. It's now a nice little surprise. - I love it. I like that you're adding a handmade element. You have this opportunity to use two different papers. You can paint your own paper like in the Paste Paper class, for example. What weight paper do you prefer for this? - I think like a text weight paper, an origami paper, use a 12 by 12 sheet, so you can get books of them at your local craft store, and you just go crazy. They've got some that are single-sided, and so then you can go ahead and put a contrasting paper on the inside. We've got some here that are double-sided and so you can skip that extra step. - Oh, I love that. Cool. So a single-sided works with a liner which you can also use card stock for, but if you're working with a double-sided, then it's doing the work for you. Let me see how it's done. - [Blonde Woman] Okay, well this is super easy and super fast. We're gonna start with a 12 by 12 piece of paper. Again, you can get those in any craft store in a big pad. All kinds of colors and patterns. You're gonna fold it over and just do a really light crease. You don't really need the crease except at a marker. Then, it's a little hard to see, but what you're gonna do is you're gonna take one corner, and you're gonna fold it up to the crease. Put the point on the seam that you made. You want it to be a point here in the corner. Hold that for a moment, and you're gonna use that to mark the other corner. This is where you're gonna cut to get the right size paper. So you'll take your mark, and you'll fold over, just evenly. You can use the sides of the paper to line it up. Crease it, and then we're gonna cut this little piece off which you can save for a little decoration. You can use it as a belly band for another package. All right, so now we've got our paper. Remember we had done a fold in half before. Now we're gonna open it up, and we're gonna line up both sides to meet at that middle crease. - [Brunette Woman] So here's where you want the printed side out. - Working with the printed side out, that's what's gonna be the outside of your card. So I'm gonna line it up and fold it, and I'm gonna use this handy little bone folder. Once you have a nice crease, we're gonna unfold it, and you've got your two creases on the side here. We're gonna fold in each corner. Use our bone folder to smooth it out, and we're gonna do the exact same on the opposite side of the paper. Believe it or not, we're halfway done. - Oh, nice. - [Blonde Woman] We're gonna fold our sides over again. Then we're gonna make a crease at the point of each triangle here. We're gonna flip over the paper. Fold it back at that point. - [Brunette Woman] Nice. - [Blonde Woman] Line up the sides. Make your crease. Flip it around, and we will fold the other side at the point. You'll see that it's overlapping a bit on the sides. That's what you want. Line it up nicely. - [Brunette Woman] I can see why the text weight is important at this stage because you're doing so many folds, and you've got so many layers happening. - [Blonde Woman] Exactly. It just makes it much easier to work with, and it makes the creases nice and sharp. Next, I'm gonna tuck in one side of the paper. Either side, it doesn't matter. Tuck it under there. At this point, you can fold it over, especially if you have double-sided designs on your paper. And you're done. - [Brunette Woman] Oh my God, it's so cute.

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- [Blonde Woman] But I like to put a little liner in. I don't like to see this crease of paper, and I like to have just a little fun with the contrast. Here I've got a little bit of polka dot paper that I thought would be cute, a little bit of metallic paper in there. I'm gonna size it up and cut a piece that's a little bit smaller than the card so it tucks inside nicely. The edges don't need to be perfect because they're all gonna be tucked inside. I like to make it a little bit shorter too. Okay, once we have our paper, we're just gonna tuck it in. I like to actually bend it the other way, makes it easy to tuck in there quickly. - [Brunette Woman] Smart. Oh my God, brilliant. - [Blonde Woman] And tuck it inside, and then let's fold it up. You wanna give that card stock a good crease. There you go. - Oh my God, that's so cute. So here's one that has a little gift card in it. So I love that you can make these in advance, right? You could be watching a movie or have a few minutes to yourself. That comes together so quickly, and then you can have them on hand when you want to pop a little gift card in something. How would you use this to show a sign of gratitude, or who do you give these to normally? - During the holidays, we really try to recognize all the people that help us day to day. We've got the postman who will put packages in his truck, and he'll keep them until we're home. - That's nice. - We have our neighbors who will knock on the door, and let us know when the lights are on in the car, and water the plants, and do all those little things that good neighbors do. We feel so fortunate. It's the teachers, it's the after care staff that take care of your kids and really entertain them until you can get home from work. It's just all the little people in your lives that really make things better every single day, and those are the people we like to recognize. - Like the quality of life people you sometimes overlook because you take them for granted, but then it's nice to sit back and reflect, and think about when that person does that thing that really makes the quality of my life better, or the quality of my kids' lives better. - Yeah. - That's awesome. Then they get to pick out their own gift which is sometimes even better. (laughing) - It is, it is. Often you don't know them that well, and you don't know what they need or what they really like, so a gift card is the perfect thing. - I love it, and then I like the handmade element of course because then it means you put some thought into it to make it special for them. - Exactly. - It's perfect.

Day 25: Toasty Toes

- Hi there, I'm Faith and I love to knit things for the people who are closest to me. But when it comes to things you wear, sometimes it can be tricky to find the right size, so I came up with this pattern for slippers that will fit anybody and they're very, very easy to knit, even for the absolute beginner. For this project, you'll need some chunky weight yarn, you'll need about a skein, and also the size needles necessary to obtain gauge. I used size 10 1/2. Whatever you need to make four stitches per inch, pick that size. You also need scissors, a darning needle, and I'm using these knit clips or you can use split ring stitch marker or even just a binder clip, it just helps with seaming the project together. Also of course because I'm feeling snuggly, I got myself a latte from my favorite coffee shop Stable down the street from us. Begin by casting on five stitches and first make sure you give yourself a 24 inch tail. We'll use that for seaming up the slippers later. So cast on five, that's one, two, three, four, five. And the pattern is available to you in the materials PDF. The first row we'll begin by knitting one stitch and then we'll perform three increases. We perform an increase by knitting in the front and back of the stitch. So we knit in the front, pull it through, we leave this on the needle, and then we knit in the back. This increases this by one stitch. We're going to repeat this two more times. Knit front. Knit back. It's a little cumbersome at first but it gets a lot easier with practice. In front, and back. And now we knit the last stitch plain. This second row, and all even rows, you will knit across. So it's knitting every stitch. For row three, we'll repeat row one. So we knit

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the first stitch plain. Then we'll knit front and back all the stitches until the last stitch, which we'll just knit plain. (calm music) Work one more row where you increase in every stitch except for the first and last, then another row where you just knit across, and then we have our final increase row. On our final increase row, which is row seven, we'll knit one, knit two, knit front and back. Then we'll repeat across from the knit two. So that means knit two, front and back, knit two, all the way across. So we're increasing every third stitch. You'll have one final knit front and back and then a plain knit stitch. And that's it, we're done with the tricky part. Now we're just going to knit back and forth until it's as long as the size you're making. So for a small, that should be about eight inches. A medium, it's 8 1/2. And a large is nine inches. If you're not sure of the size of the foot, you can actually measure the foot and you'll be knitting to one inch less than the total foot measurement. I've knit mine to 8 1/2 inches long and bound off. And when you bind off, you're gonna want to leave yourself a 24 inch tail as well and now we'll begin seaming. The construction's actually very simple. Here's where our heel is, here's our toe, and we'll leave an opening to fit the foot. So get your darning needle. We're gonna go through this series of they're Vs on this side and on this side they're the opposite of Vs. So go up through the first one and then up through that one. And we're just going to zig zag back and forth. Pick up the V. Pick up the arrow. When you get to the very end, there won't be a lot of room to work with, so just do your best. And when the hole is basically closed up, take one more stitch and you'll make a knot. A single is fine. And then you'll thread the yarn back to the inside. So put it in through a stitch to make it extra secure. Now we're on the inside of our slipper and I just go back and forth a few times to make sure that that hole is totally closed. And then you'll just weave in your end. A really simple version is just taking this garter ridge, going back through, and trimming it off. We have one more seam, we're almost done. So have a little bit more of that latte and then we'll be ready to finish. Now we're going to sew up all but the top three inches. That's what the clip is useful for. And I just am clipping it in place so that this doesn't shift. And then we'll begin by seaming up our toe. It can be a little bit tricky to see the first few rows. Sometimes I find it easier to work backwards. So this seems very clear, this seems very clear, we have these two, this and this. So you're going to go into the first stitch that you're able to identify on this side. And then we're going to start stitching through the garter bumps. So up through this one and we're just going side to side, one bump at a time. And you don't have to do this particularly tightly. In fact, looser is a little bit better. It'll allow your slipper to stretch. We're getting close to our clip and it's making it a little cumbersome to sew, so I'm going to take it out but first I'm going to make note that I need to do one, two, three, four more stitches on each side. When I've gotten to the end and I have a three inch opening, I'm going to do an overhand knot, just going in that stitch on the opposite side and through the stitch. And through. I'm gonna turn it inside out. And do one more knot on the inside, just to make it secure. And then I'll loosely weave in this end just by running it down some of the garter bumps, maybe an inch and a half worth. And then back up a few. And we're done with our slipper and our latte. I've made a bunch of these slippers. My favorite involve a little bit of flair. These ones have little pom poms and they're very stretchy and versatile. And if they get too big, you can just toss them in the washing machine. That's why I really like the acrylic yarn for this. This is a great pattern for knitters of any level and it's a wonderful gift because who doesn't want toasty toes?

Day 26: Local Love

- When planning this daily challenge, I wanted to think closely about the things that I do every day or every week, the people that I interact with, the stores that I go to, where I get my groceries. And

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one of the things that came to mind were all of the little local shops that I love, and cherish, and value. So, think about your community. Maybe there's a bookstore you haven't bought a book before, maybe you've been going to Amazon, and that's fine, too. But make a point of going in there and buying a book, because you want them to be there. I always make sure I do that, especially when I'm visiting a town that I haven't been to in a while. I want that bookstore to be there when I come back the second time, so I always make sure to buy something. This could be just buying your groceries locally for a week instead whatever's convenient on your way home. The thing that I was really thankful for, and have been our whole time at this office for the last two years is our local flower stand. I could easily go to the grocery store next door and get my flowers, but I really love knowing and interacting with the people that I buy my flowers from. They've gotten to the point where they text me if my straw flowers come in, and I can run down there and get them, which is really awesome. It's nice to have those kind of long-lasting relationships. So, I thought it would be fun to tell them how much I appreciate them by bringing them some doughnuts, and telling them that I love that they're in our neighborhood. Hey, how are you. I wanted to say how thankful I am for you guys. I'm really gonna miss your flower stand when we move. - Oh yeah, you guys are moving. - [Woman In Pink] I know, I really love having you guys here. - Thank you so much for supporting the little business people. - [Woman In Pink] I know, we always try to get our flowers here because we love it. - Thank you so much. - Thank you.

Day 27: Tzedakah Donation Box

- Hi, I'm Ally, and I'm going to show you how to make a charity box, otherwise known as a tzedakah box. Tzedakah is a Hebrew word that means charity. In Judaism, as in many religions, there is a tradition of charitable giving. So, I thought that for this month's Daily Thankful Challenge, it would be wonderful to make my own charity box. To do so, I've got several materials here. I've got some Plaid paint, some acrylic paint. Of course, I'm going to want to use some paper towels. I have some sponge brushes, scissors, tape for taping down my stencil, a stencil, and then, of course, a box. You can make a tzedakah box out of a variety of materials like a shoe box, whatever you have on hand. I chose this box which I got at Jo-Ann. First, I'm going to paint the box, but instead of painting with a solid acrylic color, I am going to water down the acrylic paint by using some water since acrylic paints are water soluble. So, I've got a little cup of water that's probably three tablespoons worth of water. And I'm simply going to squeeze in some paint. I want to do less is more, 'cause I can always mix. You can see how it kind of looks like little snakes in there. But I'm going to mix it up. It's gonna take a couple of seconds for the paint to mix in with the water. You want to mix this slow so that you don't splatter paint everywhere. All right, I'm going to tip this just to get... Okay, I can see that the solid paint has emulsified. All right, so I'm ready to start painting. So, I'm going to squeeze some paint out of my brush. Now, open this box, and flip it on its back. I'm going to want to take off this. Using the sponge brush, I'm going to lightly apply paint. You can see how watered down this is. But what this is going to do, it's basically this is mimicking a wood stain but with paint. You can do this in any color. You could do it in a teal. You could do a green for Christmas. Because this is watered down, it will stain almost immediately. So you're gonna want to make sure that you do an even application. Continue painting the entire box, and make sure that you let it completely dry before you stencil. So, now that my box has been completely painted and dried, I'm going to stencil my design on it. For my painting surface, I've laid down two sheets of kraft paper, but if you don't have this at home, you can always apply your paint directly to a piece of newspaper or, even better yet, a plate. So, I'm going to take my stencil, and I'm going to eyeball it over the top of this box. I'm

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actually going to use this brush to measure. Just want to see from the edge of the stencil to the edge of the box, how much it takes up. Okay, so I'm going to want to shimmy it a little bit this way. Perfect, and now I'm going to tape it. I want to gently release that and tape all four edges. That way I don't get paint underneath my stencil. All right, I am now ready to start painting. So again, I'm going to paint directly on my surface. Shake up my paint a little bit. Okay, now the thing with painting on a stencil is you want to make sure that you have even application. That way you don't get bare spots in some and globs on the other. Okay, that looks pretty even. I'm still going to press down on my stencil just so I get an even finish. And I'm going to just start blotting away. I want to make sure that I focus on each section making sure that the paint is evenly applied in that section. And I'm going to brush the top just to get any excess paint, and also I can see areas like right here where I need more paint. So, I can just go in, and now you can see that area has been completely covered. Continue painting until your stencil is covered. Once dried, I'm going to take off the tape and see my design. It's got a little bit of the dye coming off which is totally fine because again this was stained versus being painted, so it's not going to harm the overall effect. Now it's time to reveal the design. Beautiful. Oh, I love this. I love this design. I think this came out beautiful. When you're making a charity box, make sure to put it somewhere in your house where you'll see it often. So that you and your family members, or maybe if you're using this in an office, you and your co-workers will see it often and be reminded to give to those in need.

Day 28: Grateful for Puppies
- It's no secret that I have the sweetest and one of the most calm dogs ever. This is Charlie if you don't already know him and of course he's near and dear to my heart. When I adopted him I knew he was a very special dog. He fell asleep in my lap with his little tongue out and I instantly fell in love and had to bring him home with me. But it wasn't until I brought him to my office and have continued to do so every single day for the last three and a half years that I realized how special he is to everyone else. Even people who don't really talk to me that much in the office, if they need a little Charlie time they pick him up, give him a cuddle, he sleeps on people's laps. He cuddles next to them on the sofa when we're having a meeting. And at my shop on the weekend, often people ask if they can hold him and they'll walk around the store, and you can see visible how comforted people are just in petting him or holding him. I had a woman literally who I had never met lie down on the ground and cuddle him in the store, and it's not the first time that it's happened. The restorative and sweet nature of dogs is really healing for a lot of people. So if you have an animal that has the right disposition and demeanor to share their love with somebody else, maybe consider taking them to a senior center or possibly a children's hospital so that they can bring someone else a little bit of comfort and joy as well.

Day 29: Grateful for Love
- Hi, I'm Courtney, and I'm here with our CEO, Ursula. - Hi, hello. - And we're at the end of our month of our daily gratitude challenge, and I had the very kind of wonderful moment that we shared as a staff that kind of really sparked the beginning of this journey of kind of sharing daily gratitude with you guys, so I thought Ursula could share her story. It might get a little wet in here. (laughing) You had a pretty momentous occasion happen recently, right? Your daughter was getting married. - My daughter was getting married. - And we moved our offices, so emotions are high. - Lots of stuff is happening at the same time. We were talking about Thanksgiving, and Thanksgiving is a US holiday, and it took me a couple of years, to really, for the penny to drop, and then a friend arranged for us

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to come to a Friendsgiving, and I suddenly realized this is so special, that people stop once a year to say thank you, and feel blessed, and are grateful. - This is something, a tradition that now both of your kids live in the UK, they've brought this back to their-- - They've brought it back to the UK, which is really sweet. And so, we were talking about daily challenges. You organized a meeting about this daily challenge. I'm busy, I'm painting my daughter's veil 'cause she's getting married. - Yeah, it was a whirlwind of crafting, and moving, and all kinds of things. - Craziness. So everybody's talking about ideas that they have for gratitude. - Yeah, for ways to show gratitude. Our whole staff was talking about, you know, how do you show it, how do you express it, what are your family traditions that express gratitude. - And a lot of us are never overwhelmed, and the overwhelming was that what I felt real gratitude for was for love. And we all have love in our lives, and sometimes we take people for granted, and all of a sudden, I felt like hugely blessed that my daughter was getting married, my son had gotten married-- - A year and a half. - Yeah, before. And it was just sort of, I just felt this whole thing, and I felt love in the room as well, 'cause we all, we're very-- - We're a very close-knit team. - Very, very close-knit team. So, I think just, again, just take a moment and where you find love in your life. And it could be your pet. - Totally. - We all love Charley. It could be your pet, it could be your family, but also look at other people's lives and feel gratitude for the love in their lives. And I think that was the moment for me that I felt that gratitude, and then it also hit me that now Rebecca, Mark, and my kids are actually starting off a new family unit and new love unit. It is adjacent to mine, but I felt grateful for, I felt this overwhelming gratefulness for the love in their lives. - And something you talked about too, which of course is just a way that you expressed your love for them is these kind of family heirlooms that you've given to them throughout their lives, written letters to them that they will read much later in life. But more importantly and more immediately, you were working on a hand-painted veil for your daughter for her actual wedding ceremony, which was like your expression of a new beginning for her in her new life, this tradition from her mother who's a maker and who's always supported her in her creativity. And I just, I loved seeing that kind of connection of how you were expressing love for your daughter, because obviously it's hard to articulate, but in taking the time amidst our move and being the CEO of a company to hand-paint the veil for your daughter to be married in, which was so sweet. - Yeah, and I think the other thing is, our group, we share a lot-- - [Courtney] We maybe a little bit overshare. - And I shared a secret with the group that, when I left to come over here to the US, with our wills, I left a note for our children, and I'd totally forgotten about this note, and the note said, "I hope you find "love like me and your daddy did." - [Courtney] And they did! - And I shared it with you guys, I'm going, "What do I do with that note now?" Like, I'm asking you for advice! Do I find the note, do I tear it up, what do I do? But also, in the note I was very careful, because sometimes people don't find love and they find love in other areas, so I didn't want it to be too precious, so yeah, I kind of shared some of my stories with you all. Oh, sorry. - So, find someone that you love, or look for the love in your life, right? And acknowledge it, and take a moment to reflect about how meaningful it is to have somebody, a community, a person, a pet in your life that you care for. - And also be appreciative for the love that they get from other people, and they give. (laughing) - You gonna make me cry. - I know, sorry.

Day 30: Gifts for Everyone

- There are many ways to show daily gratitude and thanks. And I think Julie's idea that you shared with our entire office last year was a really nice idea of adopting a family. You have two small children. I think it's a nice way to show them that there are other people out there who might be in

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need. And I don't know, I just was really touched and humbled to be able to participate with your family in adopting a family for the holidays. Can you explain a little bit about how you go about doing that? - And so every year we reach out to a local organization and we ask for a family to adopt. There are many organizations out there. The Salvation Army does it. If you Google adopt a family and your city, you'll find many organizations that you can contact. So we request a family, usually someone that has a couple of kids, a couple of boys makes it easy and fun for my boys-- - Right, 'cause you have two boys. - To go shopping. So we start the process by getting a wish list. And I think the most amazing part of that is seeing the reaction of my two boys when they see what's on that list. It's typically one or two household items for the family. And then one or two gifts for each child, and then a gift certificate for the supermarket. - That's really nice. I think as we participated as an entire staff last year, we were able to do, adopt just a child from a program, right, as part of kind of something that you've helped us facilitate. I think everyone on staff was really surprised of what children ask for. I think we all assume that it's toys. There are kids who are asking for pajamas, like really cozy, fluffy pajamas. Backpacks. Shoes, sometimes. And so I think it's nice to like step back and think about like what is actually helpful to somebody in need, as opposed to just like giving a plastic toy from the toy store. And I love that you're including your boys in that, so they have to like think of somebody else. I think the holidays, I mean, not even just for kids, for adults, so you're thinking about like what I am getting for the holidays or what do I want for the holidays, but I like the idea of what can you give back. - Yeah, I definitely have seen a transformation in my boys. So when we get the list, typically there are no toys. It will be bed sheets. It'll be clothing. It'll be shoes. It'll be a warm hat or jacket. And it's really been eye-opening for them to realize these kids aren't asking for the world for Christmas. They're asking for basic needs to get them through the winter. And so we've taken it as a family challenge. So we'll make our budget. My boys have even decided they want a smaller Christmas now. - Oh, really? - And they will just ask for a couple of presents. And they want to save that money and share with the family that we adopt. - Oh, I love that. - So we take our budget and we'll go to Black Friday sales, we'll shop online, and we'll look and try to maximize every dollar that we spend. - That's great. - So usually we're able to get them, not only the household items that they're requesting, often it's dishes or a vacuum cleaner, really basic things that people need, as well as whatever clothing or shoes, or things that the kids request. And then we always try to save some extra money for some games or toys, a book for each boy. And sometimes and one year we actually got a couple of movie tickets. - Oh, how fun. - Allow them to go to the cinema which was really, - That's a great idea. - And really exciting for everyone to be able to do that. - That's really cool. And then do you get to wrap the gifts too? - Yeah, so that's part of the challenge. We try to wrap as many things as possible, so we can give them as many gifts as possible. And we wrap each one. Creativebug has a ton of fun gift wrapping ideas. - Yeah, and you can even use your gift card holder if you had like the movie tickets could go inside of that. - Exactly, exactly. - Are your boys any good at wrapping? - Well. - You might need some help. - We use a lot of washi tape. That covers everything. - I think whatever the gratitude is, something that you found useful this month, but definitely the adopting a family is a nice way to end the month, as we approach the holidays. It's a nice way to take a step back and realize that there are other people who might be needing something that's not what you think it is that they need. And I love the addition of gift wrapping it because it allows you to add like a little bit of a personal touch to it, which is really nice.

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