

# Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association

## Hoover Uncommon Student Award Application

**First Name:** Lucia

**Last Name:** Ruppert

**Project Proposal Title:** The Adventures of Lucy and Lulu

**Give a brief, clear statement of project and its goals.** A children's book documenting a disaster volunteer family's, specifically a little girl, Lucy and her stuffed animal giraffe Lulu, as they help out in their own community and travel the world helping victims. The book helps to put disasters large and small in a perspective that is comprehensible to children, in a non-frightening way. The book promotes volunteerism starting at a young age and would support organizations such as the Red Cross or UNICEF with a portion of the proceeds of book's sales.

**Benefits or importance of project (Why do you want to do this project?)** This project is important to me because in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans my brother Tucker and I saw all the disaster and devastation on TV so we wanted to find a way to help. We already had a table in our parents' booth at the farmers market where we sold home made hot pad holders and fresh produce we grew in our garden. We knew that people loved to buy things from little kids and that if the proceeds were going to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina that they would buy even more! So Tucker and I decided to make necklaces and bracelets from glass beads that a family friend had given to us and BEADS OF CHANGE was born. We made many different lengths with different color combinations and designs. People loved them and purchased them faster than we could make them! Over the next few weeks we raised several hundred dollars. We then took the money to the Red Cross and donated it to help the victims. In my heart, knowing that the money we raised gave someone hope to help them make it to the next day was very rewarding. It is really humbling to know that the most important things to the victims might be a blanket or a new pair of shoes. These things seem so simple and basic to us, but to them it can be a small miracle.

The experiences that I have grown up with, including traveling around the country with my parents has inspired me to do this project. I want to share this with other kids and inspire them to help even in the smallest ways. Essentially I want to let kids know that even though they may be young that they also can learn to help, so I came up with the idea of a little girl named Lucy and her stuffed giraffe, Lulu. Lucy's parents are disaster volunteers who travel to different locations around the world to help people in need. Lucy and Lulu travel with them everywhere and in each story they meet other kids with stuffed animals and they become

friends and connect with each other. Lucy and Lulu keep a scrapbook from every adventure they go on and get lots of hands on experience with helping the disaster victims and really get a unique view of the world. As the books sell, a portion of the sales will go to humanitarian charities to help real life disaster victims.

**Procedures you will use to complete your project, (How are you going to do it?)** I have a three-part plan of action. Firstly, I would need to get these books published and would need to find funding or underwriting to pay for the initial printing. Secondly, would be to get the books in the hands of children to teach them to get involved and that doing even the smallest of things can make a big difference. I want the books to be inspirational and age appropriate so kids can take action and not be scared by natural disasters. The Red Cross mobilizes the power of youth through clubs starting out in elementary schools so I think that would be a good place to start. I would also approach media outlets and create social networking to promote sales of the book. Thirdly, I would love to be able to have a small stuffed giraffe attached to each book so that disaster volunteers could hand them out to families affected by disasters to provide comfort. It would be great if I could get a plush toy company to sponsor the stuffed “Lulu” part of the project.

**Resources/materials you will use to complete your project.** To complete the physical part of this project I would need the following elements.

First I would take the prototype that I have already developed to a finished book with the help of a family friend and mentor, Lori Gould for the illustrations to go with the book. Next, I would use an online self-publishing company to get the book printed in a small initial print run. Finally, I would also like to contact a plush toy company, possibly TY, to see if they could sponsor my project and produce small stuffed animal ‘Lulu’s’ to go along with each book.

**Mentors you will look to for guidance, if applicable. (You must ask for agreement and note in proposal).** In addition to Lori Gould, another mentor I would like to include in my project would be a good family friend of ours, Karen Weir-Jimerson, who is a freelance writer and editor. Karen has self-published her own book and I know she will be very helpful in the part of the process.

**Conclusion or results you expect.** My hope would be that each story inspires kids of all ages to take action like we did with the Beads of Change. I want the stories to teach them that any help, even the smallest contribution like collecting loose change around the house and donating, or helping to fill a sandbag, can make a huge difference in someone’s life and

community. With the money that is raised by the sales of the books I would also like a portion to go back into printing the books that would be handed out to children during disasters.

**How your work on this project relates to Herbert Hoover's expertise as an organizer and leader?** I think President Hoover would love my idea because he exhibited great passion as a humanitarian! He had a large concern for the welfare of people, especially children. This was evident when Hoover co-founded UNICEF, a charitable organization supporting children's health and rights. The Adventures of Lucy and Lulu is about children helping children and is designed to motivate youth to get involved in 'advancing the cause of humanity', just like UNICEF.

**How did you find out about this program?** I found out about this program because my brother Tucker Ruppert who was chosen as an Uncommon Student in 2011 for his Meals from the Market program. I was inspired by all of the applicants' projects and I wanted to be able to contribute and create something that was just as amazing, meaningful and uncommon as the students that I was inspired by four years ago.