

GORDON

MEETS THE NEIGHBORS NEXT DOOR



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Story created and written by Quinn Hayes and the youth from the Young Writers Society:
Serenity, Ni'Jayia, Rodnessia, Delron, Kenndal, Tykeria, Kiara & Direll

Illustrated by Valencia Goodwin
Graphics & Layout: Tiffany Housey, Karen Alexander-Banks
Inspired by the Auntie Karen Foundation & Gordon, the Jamaican Yam

Neighbors Next Door

Pam Ardern, Karen Alexander-Banks, Julie Bussels, Leroy Cannon, Rosalind Chavis, Pat Corley, Eddie Fulmer, Jeannie Gravelle, Randy Grant, Carlos Gutierrez, Mary Hammond, Alicia Jarvis, Sheldon Jenkins, Rosemary Lynn Martin, Lisa Macon, Rhonda Marshal, Norma Mackey, Irene & Jim Murphy, James Rhett, Barbara Rice, Augustus Rogers, Emily Mitchel, Steve & Susan Peeples, Webb H., Lila Anna Sauls, Susan Pillow, Barbara Rice, Dean Slade, Cynthia Simpson, Kelly Strum, Wyche Scarimbolo, Kassy Alia Ray, Laura Stokes, Andre Goodman, Louise Slater, Glenda Smoot, Antiwan Tate, Tony Weston, Danielle Whaley, Lauren Wilkie & Stacey Atkinson

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Dedication

This coloring & activity book is a gift to thank the children and Neighbors Next Door who persevered despite Covid-19 and who showed consistent resilience by standing in Gap of Life to help their neighbors and others who visited our community.

We believe and have seen firsthand how neighbors are the heartbeat of their communities. Our neighbors more often than not become like family, someone who cares about YOU- just as you are. Many have come to answer the call by being like a Brave Superhero coming to the aid of others whenever they were in need. Whether it is sharing groceries, celebrating a graduation, preparing a meal, providing a ride, or simply gathering together to welcome a Newcomer to the neighborhood, we are reminded by these ties that bind us that we are a family. Our Neighbors Next Door provide unity in the community by threading each encounter with love, support and understanding. That is exactly what Gordon's friends did for him and that is what we strive to do every day. This is what it means to be a - **Good Neighbor**.

Partnering with a Purpose

Gordon Meets the Neighbors Next Door is an activity book inspired by the tireless efforts of a diverse and resilient group of children, young adults, neighbors and volunteers from apartments, churches, nonprofits and homeless shelters. The book is created by youth for youth from four of the surrounding neighborhoods in the 29203, North Columbia area. With coaching from a creative advocate & poet, youth from each neighborhood became a part of the Young Writers Society that would develop a storyboard and characters that possessed superpowers to aid various needs found throughout their respective communities. These young writers through self-expression and lived experiences would educate us through their eyes with who and what makes their neighborhood, neighbors, and community special. They also created community codes to live by for their neighborhoods. Gordon, from the Auntie Karen Foundation, is the main character who journeys throughout the community to check in on his neighborhood friends and learns an important life lesson about friendship and how family can be made from members of your community and school. Gordon like many of his friends in 29203 face challenges with isolation, reliable transportation, good paying jobs, safe places to play or exercise and access to nutritious foods. These issues compounded with social unrest and the scare of COVID-19, made many of their already heavy hearts become heavier. So, it became imperative for their story to be told and for Gordon to meet the Neighbors Next Door.

In the end, family, faith, friends and neighbors are like superheroes that help us hold onto **HOPE** during trying times.

This page is dedicated to our Super Hero in Heaven, Knowledge Alex Sims (2012-2020)



Characters Left to Right

BRAVE VILLA
Serenity

MIRANDA
Ni'Jayia

ALICE
Rodnessia

KITO
Delron

KENDAL
Kennedi

GORDON THE JAMAICAN YAM
The Auntie Karen Foundation

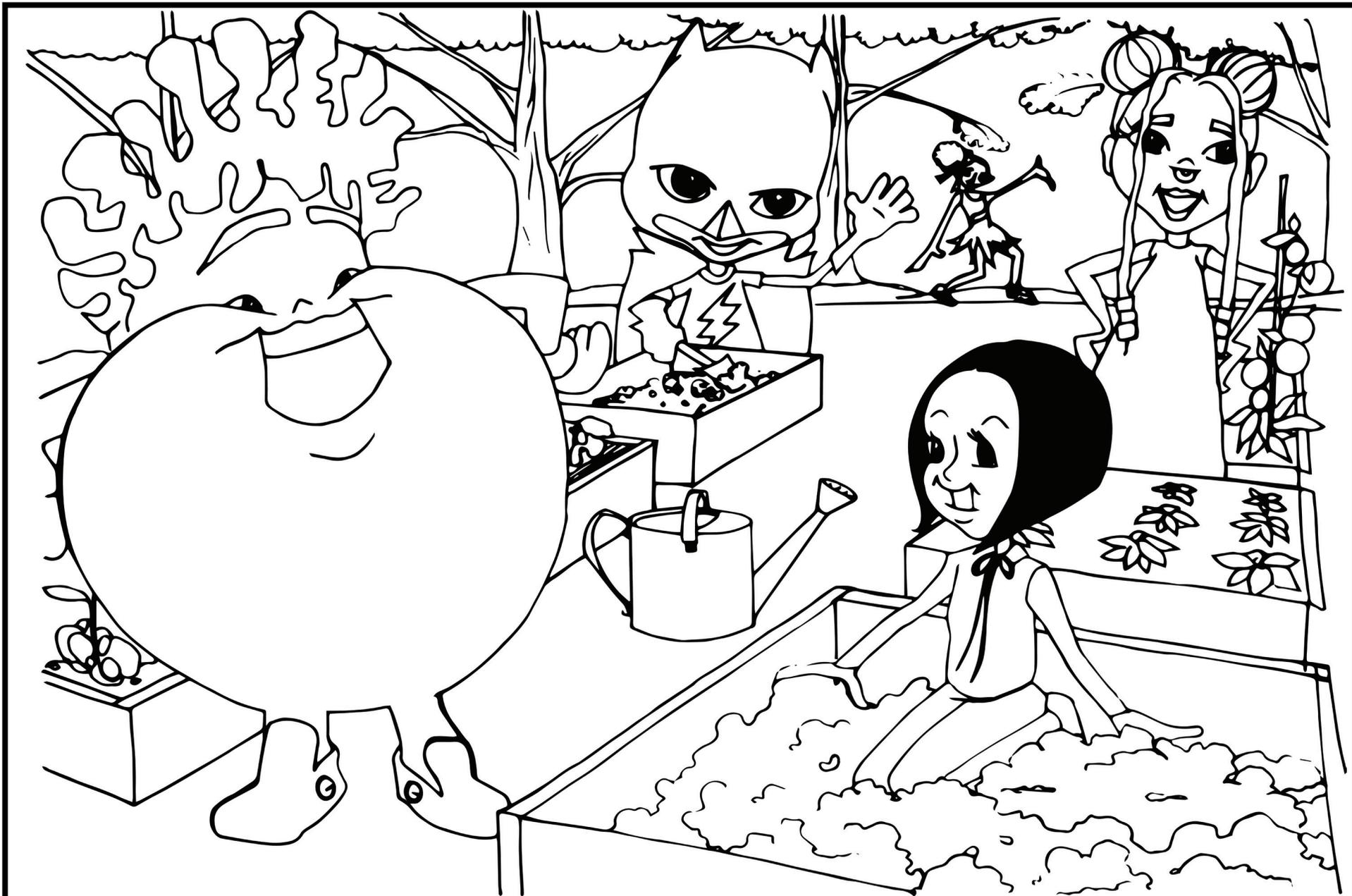
SKI (THE MONKEY)
Tykeria

AUTUMN
Kiara

FLASH BAT
Direll

LYRIC THE POET
Quinn

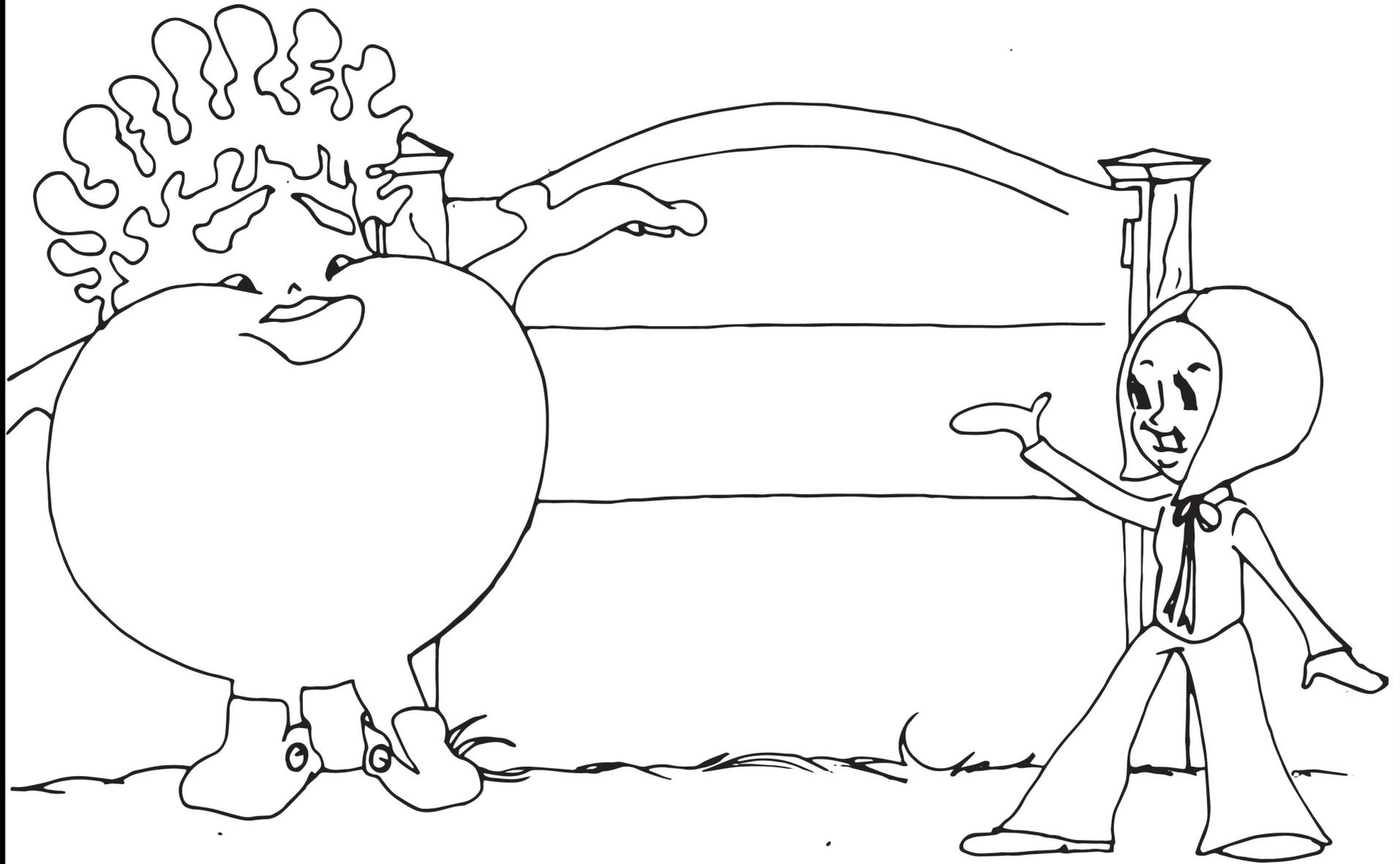
Hi, my name is Gordon. I am visiting my Neighbors Next Door. Do you want to come visit them with me?



Gordon is overjoyed that he has so many friends to come to visit with him in the garden. He introduces himself and welcomes each of them.



Gordon tells one of his friends that he needs her help with healthy eating and physical activity. She tells him that she loves to dance and can help him.



Another one of his friends tells him that the Neighbors from Next Door have great recipes that they can share from their cooking class.



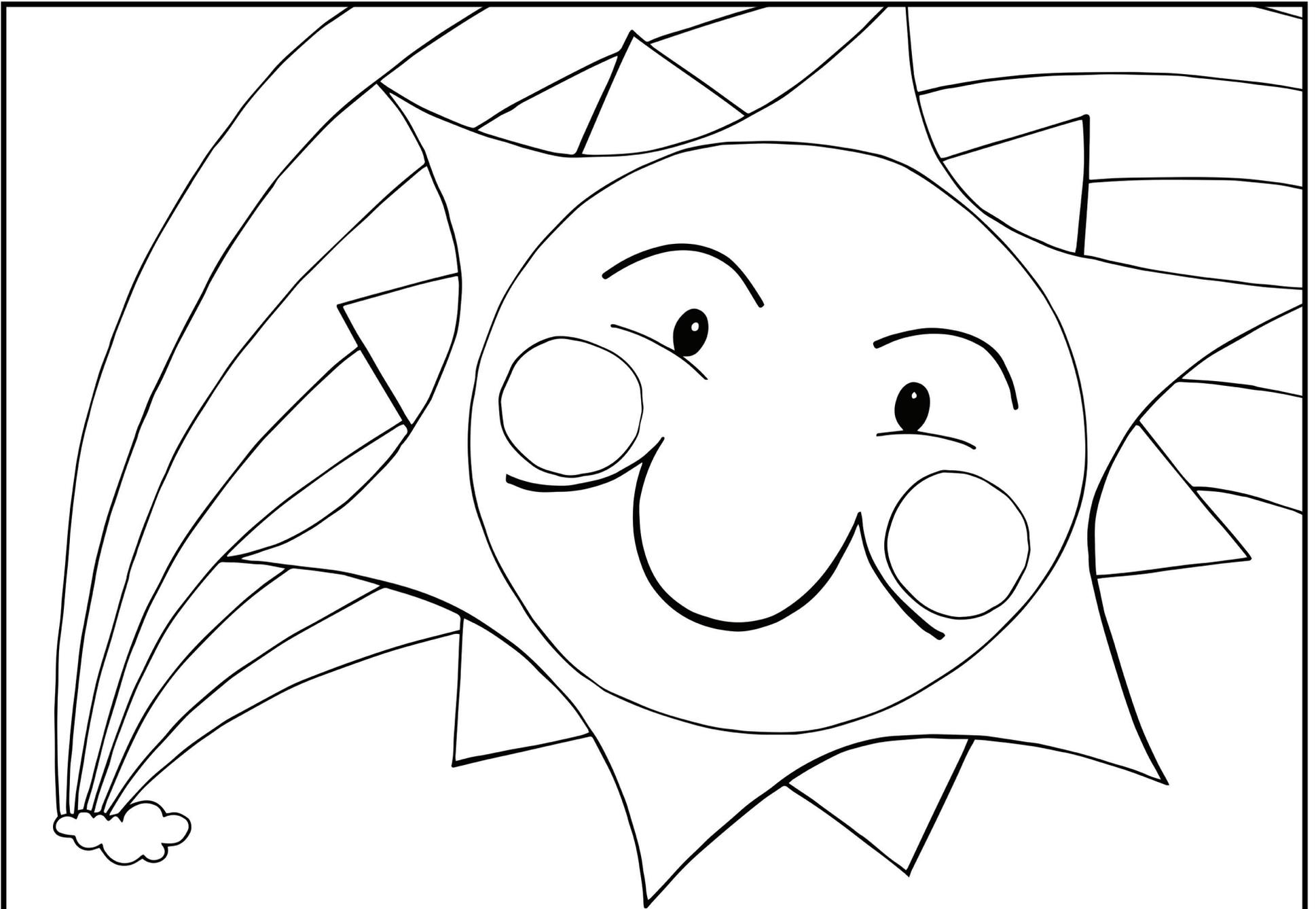
Gordon is so happy that his Neighbors Next Door care so much about his well-being and are eager to help him with healthy eating and physical activity.



Gordon arrives at the next neighborhood, but notices a police car is there. The last of the naughty neighbors have been removed his friends tell him. Everyone is so happy that their neighborhood is safe again.



When our Neighbors Next Door act fast, work together and look out for one another, it allows everyone to remain safe. Gordon and his friends dance in celebration of the brighter days ahead.



It was the first time in a very long time that the neighbors gathered together to rejoice.

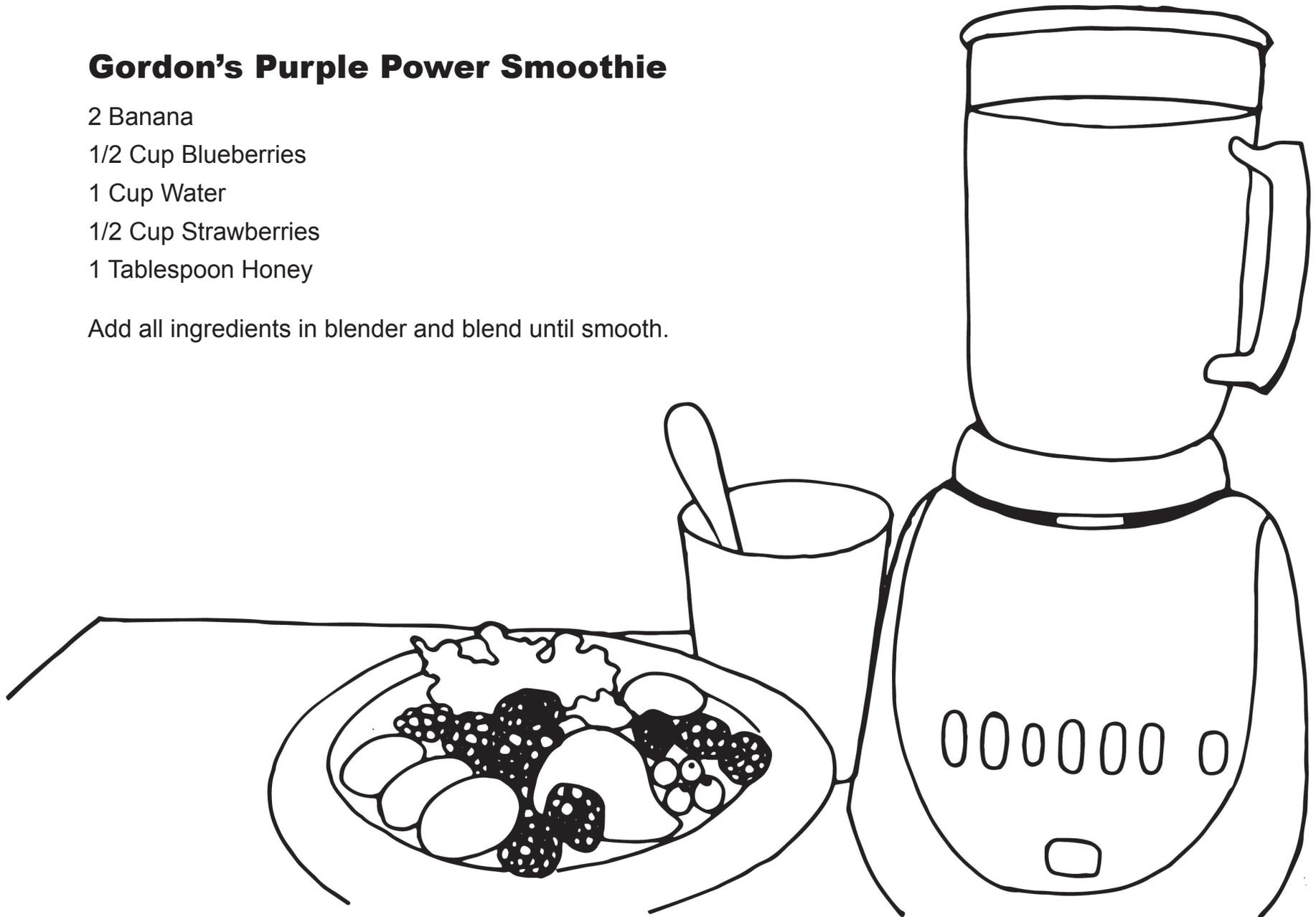


“That was so much fun! Now, I have worked up an appetite, says Gordon. Do you have anything we can eat?”

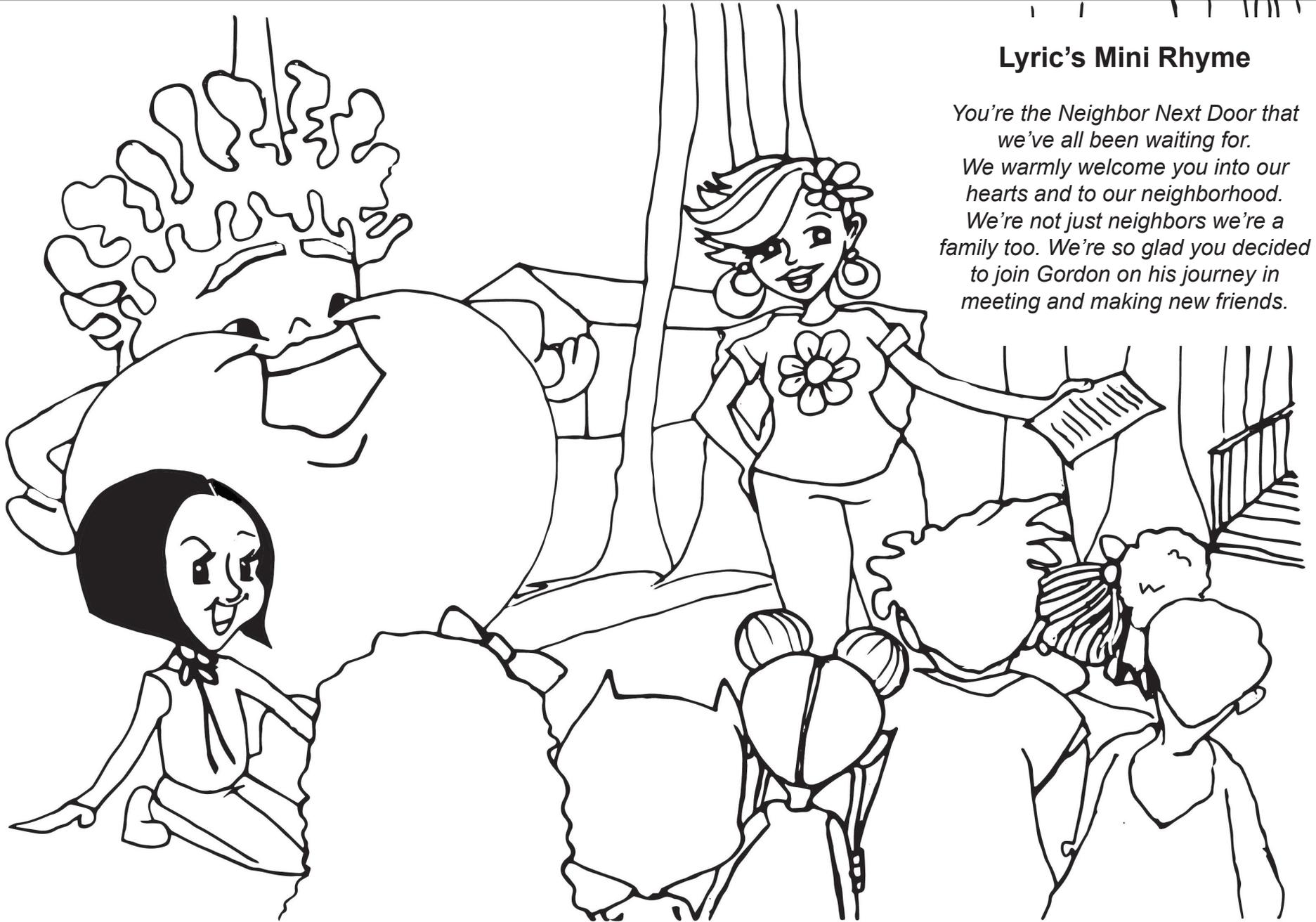
Gordon's Purple Power Smoothie

- 2 Banana
- 1/2 Cup Blueberries
- 1 Cup Water
- 1/2 Cup Strawberries
- 1 Tablespoon Honey

Add all ingredients in blender and blend until smooth.



The Neighbors Next Door and Gordon make a delicious smoothie in the kitchen.



Lyric's Mini Rhyme

*You're the Neighbor Next Door that
we've all been waiting for.
We warmly welcome you into our
hearts and to our neighborhood.
We're not just neighbors we're a
family too. We're so glad you decided
to join Gordon on his journey in
meeting and making new friends.*

As the sun was setting and the breeze blew upon their bright and hopeful faces, Lyric had heard that Gordon was visiting and decided to surprise everyone by stopping by. She too had a surprise that was a little rhyme in honor of Gordon making friends in the neighborhood.

Gordon Meets St. Lawrence Place Children Over Winter Break

Gordon and his friends thoroughly enjoyed their visit with the children of St. Lawrence Place. Together, they learned about healthy foods, exercise and Gordon's Jamaican Song then applied what they learned by making fun snacks and purple smoothies.

Here's a recipe from their garden! Healthy Collard Greens

Ingredients:

- 1 bunch collard greens
- 1 smoked turkey wing
- 3 1/2 cups water
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vinegar
- 1 tsp sugar

Don't worry, if you don't have a garden, you can buy the greens from the store!

Put your turkey wing in 3 1/2 cups water. Cover and bring to a boil. Simmer on low for 15 minutes.

While your wing is simmering, wash your greens really good and cut them into strips.

When the wing water is ready, add the salt, vinegar, sugar, and cut up collards.

Bring the mixture back to a boil. Then cover and turn it to low and simmer for 45 minutes or until the greens are tender.

Enjoy!

"It's fun watching our vegetables and flowers grow in our garden. And then we get to eat it!" (Mila)

Hear Our Voices From Our Community

What Makes a Good Neighbor?

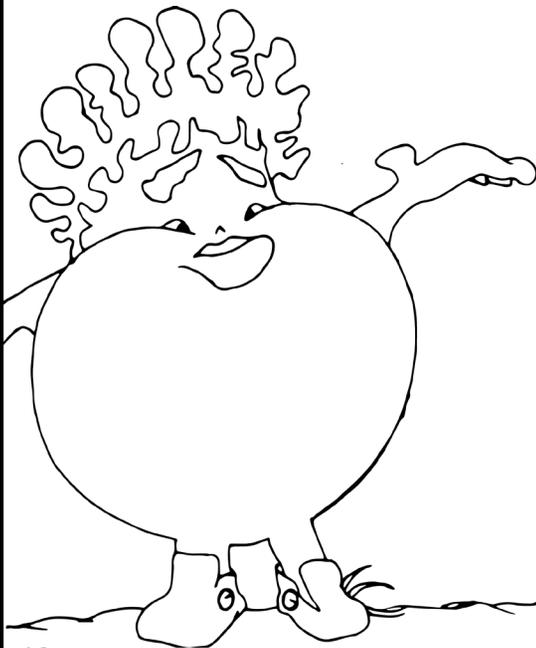
- Someone who checks in on someone daily when they go outside.
- They are nice and kind
- There are a lot of helpful people around our community
- Lots of loving
- A peaceful person
- Friendly
- Work together
- Solve problems
- Maybe sad turn into good
- Encourage one another
- Teaches his friends to be leaders
- They help out when they can
- Maybe his friends be brave like him
- Tell his friends funny things when they upset
- Honest and trustworthy



Be a Private Detective. Find the special neighborhood words.

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| E | Y | I | R | G | O | R | D | O | N | H | K | T | L |
| S | R | O | B | H | G | I | E | N | G | T | I | O | E |
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| A | O | C | P | E | N | O | M | R | L | U | D | R | D |
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| S | M | O | O | T | H | I | E | G | M | E | L | E | A |

- GRADES
- NOISY
- PROBLEM
- TRUSTWORTHY
- HOPE
- STEALING
- SMOOTHIE
- GORDON
- NEIGHBORS
- UNIQUE
- LISTENING
- FRIENDS
- POET
- POLICE
- DANCING
- MAJORETTE
- LEADER
- COMMUNITY
- KIND
- BORING
- VIOLENCE
- FAMILY



Draw your Neighbors

What makes your neighbors or neighborhood special? Can you draw a picture of what that is?

Good Neighbors, Thank YOU!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors In Our Community and Beyond

Ames Villas (Manor)
 Andrea
 Andrew Boozer
 Antioch Baptist
 Armani
 Ashanti
 Barre Recreation
 Bethel Baptist Church
 Bethlehem Baptist
 Brenda Johnson
 Candice Chamberlin
 Central S.C
 Christ Mission Church
 City of Columbia Police
 Clarence Hill
 College of Social Work, USC
 Curtis Boyd
 Darlene Sparrow
 Daryl Macon
 Daryn Murphy
 David Fellows
 De'Niya
 Debbie Billings
 Dee Conti
 Delores Campbell
 Diane Sligh
 Dominique Hodges
 Dru Hamm
 Dylan Gunnels
 Edna Samuels
 Eddie Fulmer
 Emmanuel Samson
 Emmaus Church
 Episcopal
 Francis Burns United Methodist

Gable Oaks
 Gail Anastasi
 Girls Scouts Mountains to Midlands
 Glen Ober
 Habitat for Humanity
 Homeless No More
 Hope Whiteside
 Irene Murphy
 James Rhett
 Jaqueline Mobley
 Jeannie Gravelle
 Jequan
 Jerry Strother
 Joan Johnson
 Joe Anderson
 John Corley
 John E. Moore Family
 John Vitters
 Justin Holloway
 Kathy Brown
 Kelly Batchley
 Kenyatta Davis
 KiKi Johnson
 Kilani
 Kiononia of Columbia
 Knowledge
 Kyjah Anderson
 Laila
 Laura Parnell
 Lauren Ridings
 Living Faith Christian Ctr.
 Liz Anders
 Lt. Calby
 Margie Mitchel
 Margie's Ministry

Mary Lee
 Mary Louise Resch
 Master Construction
 Melvin Johnson
 Michael Lyn
 Michelle
 Michelle Eargle
 Midlands Tech. College
 Mikki Kaminer
 Morganelli Family
 Mutual Aid Midlands
 Nancy Bradshaw
 New St. Thomas Reformed
 Nicole
 Niki McIntosh
 Officer Walls
 Omari Fox
 PalmettoPride
 Pam Savage
 Papa John's Pizza
 Parrish Family
 Pearl Livingston
 Piggly Wiggly, N. Main
 Prescott Manor
 Raven
 RDS Design
 Rev Cannon
 Rev. Neal
 Rev. Creighton
 Rev. Hamilton
 Richland Co. Sherriff
 Riverwood Baptist Church
 Rob Hock
 Robert Green
 Sam Davis

Sandrica Himes
 SC Lutheran Men in Mission
 Senior Resources
 Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
 Sgt. Moody
 Shealy Graville Group
 St John Baptist Church
 St. Lawrence Place
 State 4H, Clemson University
 Stephanie Vokral
 Steve Slater
 Stover Chapel AME
 System Wide Solutions
 Taylor Macon
 Tenisha Carraballo
 The City of Refuge
 Tim Brown
 Travis White
 Union United Methodist
 United Way of the Midlands
 Urban League
 Wanda Turner
 Wiley Kennedy Fdn.
 Wiley Kennedy Foundation
 Woodley's Landscape
 Wyche W. Scarimbo, CPA
 Youth Learning Institute, CU
 Yvette
 Zakiya
 Zariya
 Ziyon

Our Neighborhood Partners:

The Young Writers Society (YWS), a program of The Weight of Words Society were both formed by Quinn Hayes in 2020, after seeing the impact of social unrest on communities. It now serves as a key community cornerstone and platform for young or inspiring writers and artists. YWS extracts creativity and amplifies voices that would otherwise be unheard. YWS enables writers and artists to craft, celebrate, and orchestrate their deferred dreams into actualities both hoped for or achieved.

Auntie Karen Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization focused on education & empowerment through the arts.

Homeless No More works with at-risk and homeless families through our primary programs of Family Shelter, St. Lawrence Place and Live Oak Place. We're more than shelter – we're an organization that works with the whole family as they continue on their journey towards financial independence. HNM believes in community. Community is important to all of us as we grow as individuals – but most importantly, as we grow as neighbors!

Koinonia of Columbia is an Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) nonprofit in the community of Eau Claire. We are a racially-reconciling, healing presence in the Eau Claire community, anchored in our steadfast dependence on God and one another.

Serve & Connect is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization focused on fostering positive change through sustainable police and community partnerships. They are proud to support the coloring book through their partnership with the North Columbia Youth Empowerment Initiative, a movement launched through Serve & Connect's COMPASS program.

The Door Home is a 501(c)3 initiative, under Christ Mission Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) in America collaborating with the public and private sectors to Unlock Pathways for Sustainable Futures.

In The beginning there Were Neighbors & A Pop Up Portable Pilot

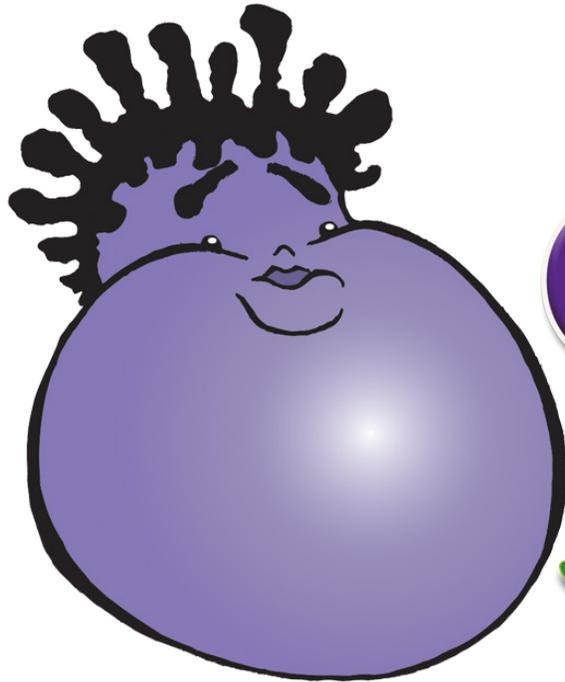
The Pop-Up Coffee House at Ames Villa (Manor) is a bold effort, co-created by the residents, to improve social connection, safety, and economic opportunity. The apartment-based Coffee House is 'next door' to everyone, and it is a catalyst for building trusting relationships, mobilizing community leaders, and launching homegrown community solutions. Utilizing a 'prototyping' process ensures ineffective solutions are rapidly discarded and effective solutions emerge by the Neighbors Next Door.

Gordon Meets the Neighbors Next Door is funded by the George W. & Connally S., Rogers & The Atkinson Foster Fund of Central Carolina Community Foundation. Donations and support for this and other Civic Engagement Through the Arts Initiatives are welcomed.

The Auntie Karen Foundation
www.auntiekaren.org
PO Box 602, Columbia, SC 29202
Karen.Alexander@auntiekaren.org (803) 748-7124

For additional information on The Door Home & The Pop Up Coffee House please contact Stacey TheDoorHome2019@gmail.com

THANK YOU NEIGHBORS!



GordonTM
the purple
Jamaican Yam

GORDON THE PURPLE JAMAICAN YAM is an Auntie Karen original cartoon character. To learn more about Gordon and his friends visit www.auntiekaren.org



Christ Mission Church

