



Molly the Activist

A Molly Brown House Museum

History @ Home Activity

Do you think that people with greater advantages in life have a greater responsibility towards those who are less fortunate?

Margaret is perhaps best known for surviving the sinking of the Titanic, however, she did so much more! Margaret was active in her community, demonstrating civic virtue, a value that was instilled in her by her working-class parents. Thanks to the Brown's wealth, Margaret and JJ were able to be philanthropists. Margaret went a step further and was also an activist.

- What is a "philanthropist?" A philanthropist is a person who seeks to promote the welfare of others, especially by generous donation of money to a good cause.
- What is an "activist?" An activist is a person who campaigns to bring about social or political change.
- What is "civic virtue?" It is working to help others and promote a common welfare. Examples of civic virtues are voting in elections, volunteering, attending PTA and town meetings. When you work to help others and promote common welfare, you are acting with civic virtue. People who act with civic virtue are interested in having the government help all the people.

Margaret was not raised in a wealthy family. She was born to Irish Immigrant parents in 1867. Education was very important to her family and she went to school through 8th grade, as did all of her siblings. After she graduated, she worked in a tobacco factory. She moved to Colorado at 18 to live with her brother Daniel. She got a job in a Daniels and Fischer Dry goods store. Despite not having much money of her own, she helped organize relief soup kitchens for miners in Leadville. Shortly after arriving in Leadville, she met and married James Joseph "JJ" Brown. JJ had worked his way up through the mines and was working as a mine engineer and supervisor at the time. Thanks to JJ's ingenuity, he helped discover the largest vein of gold in North America!

The Browns became very wealthy in a very short amount of time. They used their new wealth not only to travel, but to give back to their community and improve the city. One of those ways was raising money for various causes such as art in public schools, needy children, the building of the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, artists in the west, juvenile justice, and women's suffrage.

When World War I began, Margaret packed up and went to France where she not only drove ambulances, but helped set up relief for a devastated France. She was awarded the French Legion of Honor medal for her war efforts there.

Activity: make your own poster!

Margaret used her resources to help those around her. What would you do to help others, even right now in your community? Remember community is: school, home, neighborhood, city, etc. What is something you are passionate about that you feel needs changing?

Use the space below or another piece of paper and make a poster about what you would like to see changed. It can be something for your school such as longer lunch periods, or for the country such as no stray animals or the world such as water for all.

Share your finished picture on Facebook or email to education@mollybrown.org and you could be featured in a special online exhibit!