

# Patchworks

FALL/ WINTER 2023

THE CABBAGE PATCH SETTLEMENT HOUSE



## Love is Magical

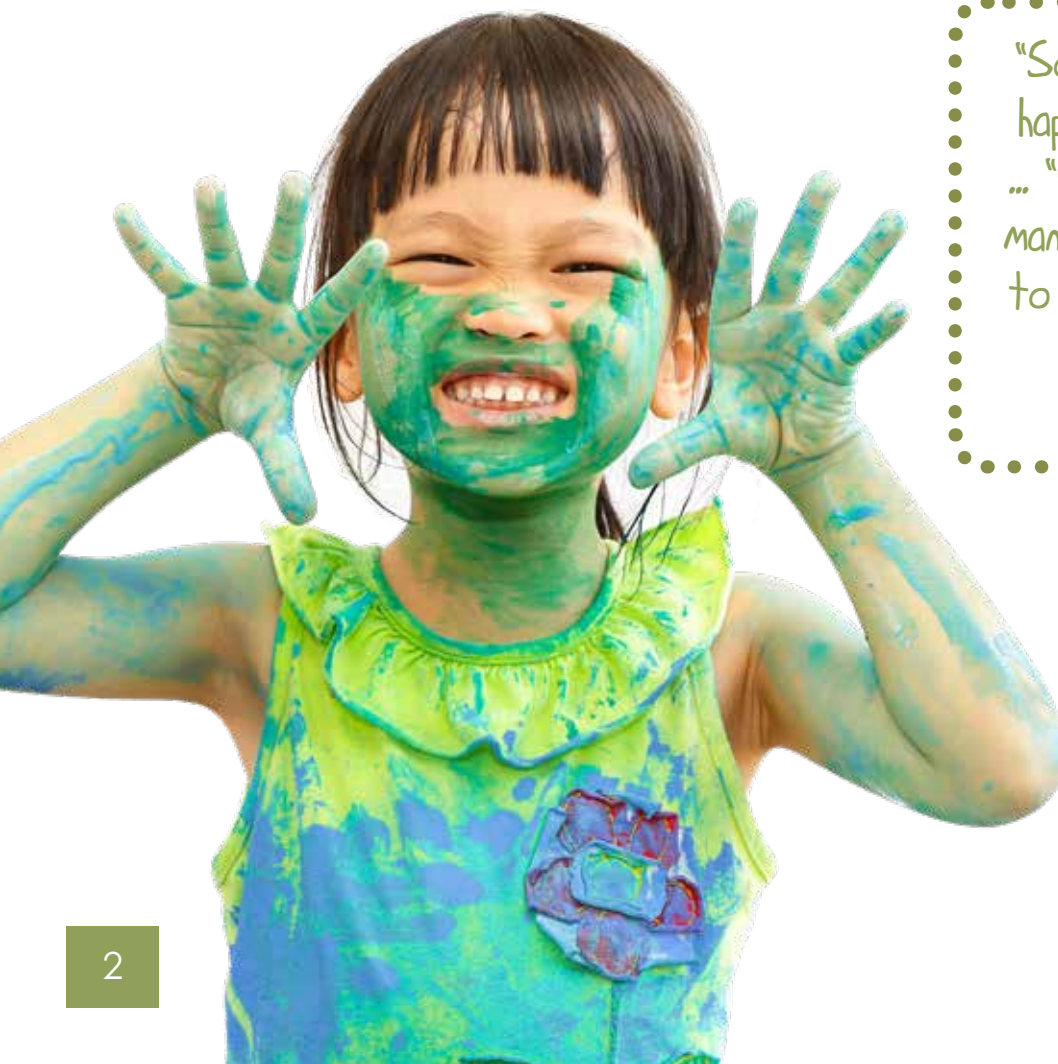


## Patch Parents: The Magical Gift of Self-Care

The Cabbage Patch is known for its efforts to engage children, but a lesser-known fact is that we make many efforts to support our parents too! One of them is a monthly program called “Patch Parents,” an evening meet-up for parents and guardians of kids at The Patch, hosted by the Family Development Department. The evening always includes a shared meal in Holladay Hall, followed by a meaningful activity. It’s a time for parents to take a short break from their busy lives to breathe. Most recently, our parents enjoyed a Chick-fil-A dinner followed by a non-alcoholic Paint and Sip activity. One parent, Sivonda, said that she appreciates Patch Parents because, “It gives us a chance to do something for us.” She explained that for many parents, self-care is often placed on the back burner in favor of showing up for everyone else. “Sometimes it feels like we’re at the end of the list.”

The theme for the Paint and Sip was self-care, body positivity, and emotional intelligence. The night’s activities were led by two local business owners: Fairen Kia, owner and CEO of Love Thy Belly, LLC, and Zuri Golston, owner of Sip Pretty. Together, they gave our parents tools to identify complex emotions, communicate through them, and left them with positive affirmations to recite each day. Everyone took home a vibrant Color Wheel of Emotions, after painting in the colors that they associate with each feeling. Ms. Golston, a mother of two, said that the color wheel has been a game changer in her own family, and she loves showing other parents how to use it in theirs. She later joked that “It even works on husbands, too!” Several parents closed the evening with their appreciation, saying that the painting activity made them feel more relaxed than they had in a long time.

“So many people can only name happiness, sadness, and anger,”  
... “but this activity shows how many other emotions there are to name; it makes it easier to communicate between parents and kids.”





## The Love of Learning

Most would expect kids to steer clear of learning activities after school, but the complete opposite happens at The Patch! The Educational Opportunities Program offers members of The Patch several forms of academic support in a structured environment. Each day, students arrive to a space holding everything they need for academic success, including books, worksheets, dry-erase boards, and Chromebooks that are free to use. The walls are decorated with photos of Cabbage Patch College Scholars, a silent reminder for current Patch kids that college can be part of their future.

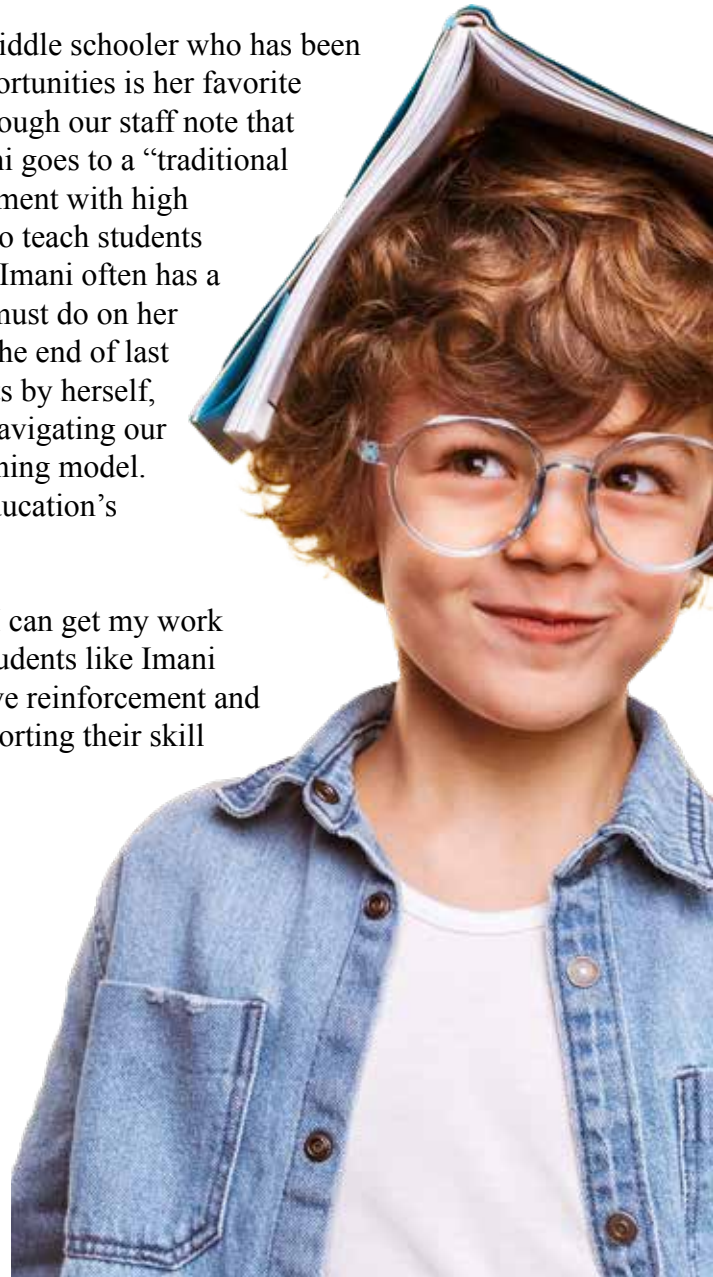
Educational Opportunities is a space where all the skills and interest areas of The Patch unexpectedly come together. Here, children can tap into their creativity, become artists with words, let their imaginations run wild in books, and exercise their minds with fun challenges and games. Snack time offers another hidden opportunity for development; it's a fun task on the surface, but it also teaches our students leadership, planning, and collaborative skills. Just as in life, the Educational Opportunities program at The Patch teaches students the valuable balance between work and play.

One student who visits the Education space often is Imani\*, a middle schooler who has been coming to The Patch since 2018. She says that Educational Opportunities is her favorite program because she likes getting help with her homework, although our staff note that she has progressed so well that she rarely needs assistance. Imani goes to a “traditional school,” one where students learn in a highly structured environment with high academic and behavioral standards, and other measures, meant to teach students self-discipline for college and career readiness. Because of this, Imani often has a heavier homework load than her peers. Regardless of what she must do on her list, she always arrives with a smile and cheery disposition. By the end of last school year, Imani managed to complete most of her assignments by herself, showing that she's performing on grade level and successfully navigating our Education Department's gentle transition to an independent learning model. That's the long-term goal for every child who comes through Education's doors.

“My favorite part of coming to Education,” Imani said, “is that I can get my work done, see my friends, and make jokes all in the same place!” Students like Imani display the magic that happens when children receive the positive reinforcement and academic support that they need to succeed. Thank you for supporting their skill development by supporting The Patch.

“Just as in life, the Educational Opportunities Program at The Patch teaches students the valuable balance between work and play.”

*\*Names changed to protect the privacy of those we serve.  
Photo for illustrative purposes only.*



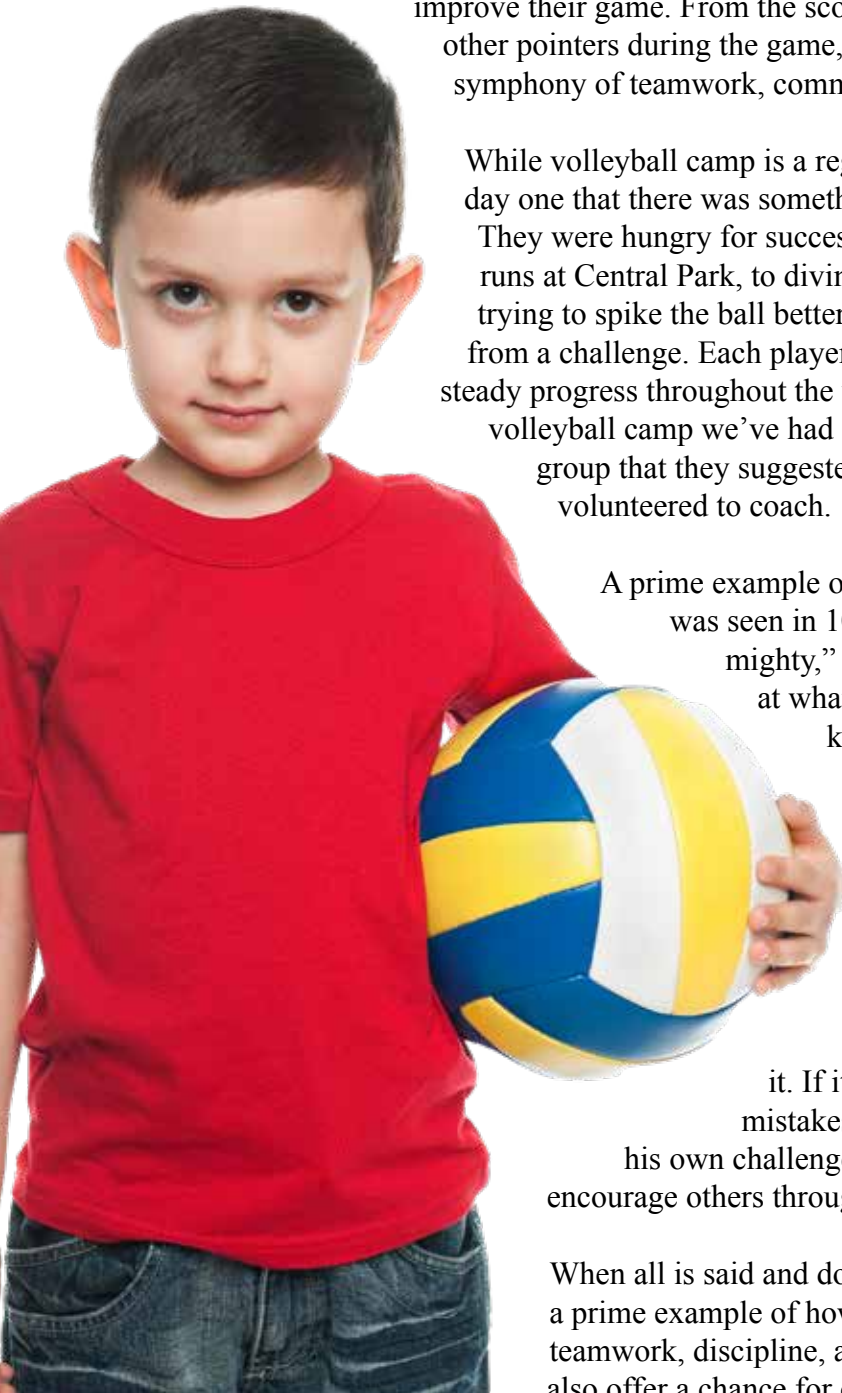
## Volleyball at The Patch: A Magic Spike of Resilience

A dose of friendly competition is always fair game at The Patch. One popular club attracts players of all ages and skill levels to center court in the gym every Monday. In Volleyball Club, kids compete to be on their favorite staff member's team, just as much as they compete for the win. While our dedicated Recreation Staff teaches the game, Patch kids from the court to the sidelines absorb their guidance to improve their game. From the score keepers in-training to the teammates giving each other pointers during the game, volleyball at The Patch always becomes a visible symphony of teamwork, communication, and fun!

While volleyball camp is a regular on the annual camp roster, staff noticed from day one that there was something special about this year's group of campers. They were hungry for success and passionate about the game. From morning runs at Central Park, to diving to save the ball from going out of bounds and trying to spike the ball better than Coach Kolby, the players never shied away from a challenge. Each player pushed him/herself to do their very best, making steady progress throughout the week and resulting in what staff has called "the best volleyball camp we've had in years." One volunteer was so impressed with our group that they suggested The Patch start a volleyball team, which they also volunteered to coach.

A prime example of Patch kids' commitment to mastering the game was seen in 10-year-old Marco\*. A true definition of "small but mighty," Marco never lets his size stop him from excelling at whatever he puts his mind to. As the one of the shortest kids in the camp, Marco was worried that he wouldn't be able to keep up with the older kids in the group. To help him overcome his doubt, Patch staff gave him some simple, but highly effective advice on how to use his size and proper technique to his advantage. It was a game changer. By the end of the week, Marco was performing just as well as the other kids and using his voice to share the same advice with them: "If the ball is above your head, set it. If it's below your head, bump it!" By learning from his mistakes and refusing to give up, Marco not only overcame his own challenges; he also developed the leadership and confidence to encourage others through their own.

When all is said and done, this year's volleyball camp at The Patch was a prime example of how organized sports help youth learn skills like teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship, but as seen with Marco, they can also offer a chance for confidence to spike at half-court.



# Thanks for supporting our CHAMPIONS EVENT and for being an awesome supporter of our **42 COLLEGE SCHOLARS!**

The 20th Annual Champions Event was a huge success! Many thanks to all our sponsors, guests and volunteers who made the night possible. Together, we raised over \$138,794.00 for the College Scholars program which grants our talented Patch members access to higher education after high school. Because of your generosity, their lives can continue an upward track toward success as they take advantage of the many opportunities that college presents.

Supporting our largest annual event is a commitment to spreading the love, ministry, and positive community impact of The Patch, and our supporters have been committed for 20 years. As we look forward to the future, The Cabbage Patch stands willing and ready to continue changing the lives of children and families through our existing programs, and those yet to come. We want to recognize the generosity of our Presenting Sponsor, Brown-Forman and our Platinum Sponsor, Stock Yards Bank. Thank you for supporting The Cabbage Patch Champions Event, see you next year!



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Mike and Danielle Marshall



## Planned Giving: A Magic Touch of Love

Elizabeth “Bunch” Sanders Griffin was a person that was always giving to others during her lifetime. Everyone who knew Bunch knew her by her trademark zest for life. A generous person, she was a supporter of The Cabbage Patch, and especially LOVED The Patch’s Summer Camp program! She believed all children regardless of their family’s financial status should be given the opportunity to experience the beauty of God’s creation through outdoor summer camps, where memories and friendships are created that often last a lifetime.

A faithful donor to The Patch for almost 40 years, Bunch included The Cabbage Patch in her estate plan. There was a generous outpouring from Bunch’s friends and family upon her death with memorial gifts to The Cabbage Patch. So much so that her own children decided to establish a named endowment fund in her memory to help ensure that the children at The Patch could have the opportunity to experience the joy of summer camps. Their hope was that each child could expand their horizons and sense of exploration; and at the same time, cultivate their God-given gifts of joy and wonder.

So in that act, Bunch’s love for camp and her vision lives on as a part of her legacy. And that part of her legacy has grown even further! Her family continues to support this fund through their generosity, ensuring that generations of future Cabbage Patch children will experience the joy and wonder of nature.

Have you thought about how to share your priorities and passions through your estate plan? Because Bunch included The Cabbage Patch in her plan, she will always be a special member of our 1910 Society. But we also have Society members who let us know about their intentions well before they are enacted. Maybe like Bunch, you have included The Cabbage Patch Settlement House in your estate plan? If you are interested in exploring this further, contact Jennifer Scott at [jscott@cabbagepatch.org](mailto:jscott@cabbagepatch.org) or 502-753-4446.



## 2023 CABBAGE PATCH GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual golf tournament was a success, raising over **\$78,000** for the Educational Opportunities Program at The Patch! Special thanks to the teams, sponsors, volunteers, and Big Spring Country Club who made this an un-fore-gettable day! We look forward to seeing you back at Big Spring Country Club on Monday, June 3, 2024.

### Congratulations to the 1st Place Winning Team



Adam Gifford, Greg Moore, Justin Moore, and Adam Waldner



## The Cabbage Patch Golf Tournament

Thank You to our 2023 Sponsors!

<b>EAGLE SPONSORS</b>  	<b>CORPORATE TEAMS</b>   
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## An Act of Love... A Legacy of Giving



**Mother Theresa said that giving is actually a manifestation of love. She explained, “It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”**

For many families, establishing a named fund at The Patch is an act of love when remembering a family member who played an important role in their lives. Do you have a loved one you would like to honor or remember? Today, we spotlight one of the families who has committed to carrying on their legacy of supporting The Patch by funding Recreation/Youth Development programming in memory of their parents.

Named in loving memory of Norma and Louis O. Giesel, Jr., The Giesel Family Fund was established in 2013 to ensure that children at The Cabbage Patch can continue to learn and grow, experience new opportunities, see new sights, and discover who God has created them to be. It falls in line with the mission of our other Recreation & Youth Development Endowment Funds, which expand Patch kids’ horizons through classes, activities, and camps that equip and empower them to be successful. The programming that is made possible by the Giesel Fund helps our kids maximize their potential.

When asked what motivated his family to start this fund in the memory of their parents, James Giesel shared the family’s multi-generational history of involvement with The Patch. Over 100 years ago, his grandfather grew up on Magnolia Street and attended a Sunday School class taught by the founder of The Cabbage Patch, Miss Louise Marshall. Years later, James’ parents worked hard to provide him and his siblings with a variety of opportunities to learn and grow. This included the Giesel kids becoming connected to The Patch in numerous ways.

*“After our parents died,” James said, “we thought a fund in their memory to support the work of the Patch would be a fitting living memorial for them. It’s meaningful to know that The Cabbage Patch continues to support the neighborhood where our grandfather was raised.”*

If you are interested in learning more about how to establish a named fund, you can contact Jennifer Scott at 502-743-4446 or [jscott@cabbagepatch.org](mailto:jscott@cabbagepatch.org) to talk about how to make this possible. Named funds can be designated for Building Preservation, Overall Mission Support, Recreation/Youth Development, and Educational Opportunities; there is truly something for everyone who wishes to give back to their favorite area of The Patch.





## Tony Williams: Slam Dunking Legacy & Impact

### Structure. Values. Life-Changing Impact.

These are recurring themes when Tony Williams talks about his memories of The Cabbage Patch. Tony and his brother were the second of three generations of Patch kids in their family who lived and worked near the facility in the 1990s. Tony still recalls his first impression of The Patch at age 12 like it was yesterday. With a glow in his eyes, he said, “It was unbelievable, exciting, and different from what we had been experiencing.”

Before coming to The Patch, Tony recalled that he sometimes had to get creative with some games, like shooting hoops through milk crates because there wasn’t traditional equipment available to play. When he got here, he appreciated having a fully equipped place to play safely and learn at the same time.

Initially awestruck by the number of activities kids could enjoy at The Patch for free, Tony says that the structure is what truly sets it apart. “The Cabbage Patch is really a rare find when it comes to that balance of letting kids be kids, but in a safe, structured environment,” he explained. He described how The Patch built upon his mom’s foundation of core values to instill her principles in him on a deeper level.

His favorite activities (field trips, talent shows, and the 3-on-3 Jamboree) were all tied to loving staff who taught life lessons. It was here that Tony saw in action the importance of integrity, discipline, teamwork, and respect. He said that all those things were instrumental in his eventual rise in college athletics and continue to be assets in his life today. “When I look back, I have to give a lot of love and respect to The Cabbage Patch,” Tony reflected. “It’s a part of who I am.” *This story continued on page 11.*

“When I look back, I have to give a lot of love and respect to The Cabbage Patch ... It’s a part of who I am.”



Simba, Tiffany, Tony, and Skylar Williams



**Thank you to the following donors who made gifts to The Cabbage Patch in memory of others from April 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023.**

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*All gifts are deeply appreciated. If any names were omitted or there's an error, please accept our apology. Please contact The Cabbage Patch so that the appropriate corrections can be made.*

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Girl Scout members visit Central Park for a Scavenger Hunt

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**for the birthday of Mrs. Art Dunlap**

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**in honor of the retirement of Ann Marie Elpers**

Elizabeth and Doug Owen

**for the birthday of Roberta Fischer**

Barbara R. Moore

**for the birthday of Mrs. Patrice E. Paton**

Jennifer Scott



Teen Employees welcoming our new Education employee, Tyler Keown, to The Cabbage Patch

## Tony Williams: Slam Dunking Legacy & Impact (continued)

After many years of travel and professional success, Tony is making strides to stay connected to The Patch today. When he's not promoting equity and access to homeownership as a loan officer; carrying on his mother's legacy of entrepreneurship; advocating for college athletes; or serving the community through numerous channels, he is a dedicated husband and father who can be seen picking up his children from the same building he frequented at their age. Bringing his kids to The Patch was "a no brainer" in Tony's mind.

As budget cuts and a lack of community resources threaten the survival of many youth programs, he's been proud to see that The Patch is still standing strong. Also seeing the negative impact that the pandemic had on kids' social skills, plus the distance created between his kids and their friends after his family moved to southern Indiana, Tony and his wife felt that The Patch would be the perfect place for their children to make new connections and thrive.

With a certain sense of magic in his tone, he described what continues to set The Patch apart from the rest in his eyes. "The Cabbage Patch represents what's missing in society today," he explained. "You're teaching kids that there is a balance between freedom and responsibility." Between the life lessons and the exposure Patch kids get to places and opportunities outside their own backyards, Tony summed his feelings up in five simple words: "The Cabbage Patch changes lives."





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