



WHAT'S THE Word?

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT MY SPECIAL WORD

FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome Back Kits!

SUPPORTING STUDENTS RETURNING TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

As partner schools and programs prepare to return to in-person learning and programs, **we're welcoming students back with 200 My Special Word kits.** Packed in a handy drawstring backpack, they're filled with our book and bookmark to read with family and friends, a sticker and bracelet to remind them of their special word, and fidget toys designed to improve coordination, enhance dexterity and reduce stress.



WORDS FROM OUR CHILDREN

Springfield Youth Ministry in Springfield, Ohio recently shared the special words their children selected and how they live them every day. We love to hear from kids both locally and around the globe that have been impacted by our program.

Bridging the Digital Divide

We're proud to support **SMART Columbus** as they team up with **community partners to help Columbus families with remote learners** that lack sufficient digital access and resources.

The **pilot kicks off this month** and will **serve 300 households**. Participants receive free in-home internet access for one year and digital literacy tools to support distance learning. My Special Word is providing bookmarkers and bracelets that direct families to online activities and tools designed to keep kids engaged in positive learning and development while they are away from in-person school and community programs due to the pandemic.



SPECIAL FRIEND SPOTLIGHT



Many supporters go above and beyond in their efforts to advance our work. **This month, meet James and Jachinta Balch.** Their commitment to service inspires us, and we are especially grateful for their support creating the My Special Word kits.

James

HIS SPECIAL WORD: INSPIRE

"I like to help others and I believe in the power of a special word to change lives and give hope"



Jachinta

HER SPECIAL WORD: TRANQUILITY

"From my experience with my own word, people need something (their word) to hold on to, to keep them centered and inspired."

LIVING LEGENDS: A BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROFILE

My Special Word founder, Dwight Smith was recently interviewed by Calvin Cooper, Co-Founder and CEO of Rhove as they celebrate history makers who are serving as leaders and role models in the Columbus community.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO WATCH THE CONVERSATION

JOIN US IN CHANGING A CHILD'S WORLD TODAY [CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)