

Students plan "Fortnite" video game marathon to raise money for nurses

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The video game "Fortnite" can be played for free, which is why many charities use it for fundraising. Photo: Dreamstime/TNS

Some people think video games are for lazy people. Imagine what they think about people who watch others play video games.

Gamers have a different opinion. They would probably say playing video games could help save the world.

That's what Jack Robinson, Luke Grayum and James Heckscher believe. They are graduating seniors from the Shipley School. It is in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. The boys will play "Fortnite" for 24 hours every Friday to Saturday afternoon. "Fortnite" is a popular video game.

People who watch their games will donate money. The boys will give the money to nurses fighting the coronavirus. The coronavirus is a flu-like illness. It began in China in 2019 and has spread all around the world.

Helping From Home

The "Fortnite" games were Robinson's idea. Many people are staying home because of the virus. Robinson wanted to help nurses from home. He'll donate the money from the games to the American Nurses Association.

The boys hope to make as much as \$2,000. Betsy Snook runs the Nurses Association in Pennsylvania. She thinks it's a wonderful idea for helping nurses.

Shipley teaches its students to help their community. Shipley is a private school. Private schools often give students advantages other schools do not. Shipley believes if you have advantages, you must give back.

The "Fortnite" boys were already giving back. They volunteered and raised money for different organizations.

Brooke Donovan is a teacher at Shipley. She is helping with the "Fortnite" project. Donovan says Shipley seniors have to complete a senior service project to graduate. This year, seniors had to do the project from home because of the coronavirus.

A Way To Give Back

Fundraising through "Fortnite" games is not a new idea. Before, people raised money with TV marathons. Video game fundraisers are like modern TV marathons.

The Shipley boys will be livestreaming their games on Twitch. Twitch is the world's top livestreaming platform. Twitch has raised more than \$75 million for charities. Much of this money came from "Fortnite" games. It is free to play "Fortnite." That's why many companies use it for fundraising. There are around 250 million "Fortnite" players worldwide.

The Shipley players will play as a team. They may also add in a fourth team member. That person must donate their time and money. The head of their school played in their first game on May 22.

Still, Heckscher says it's about more than video games. They want to help save the community and the world.

The boys say their families have also taught them to give back.

Robinson's mother is named Nicole Robinson. She believes if you are lucky enough to be successful, you should give back.