

# Larchmont area kids take on environmental issues

**By Nona Sue Friedman**  
If you're ever on Larchmont Boulevard in the early morning on the first Saturday of each month, you might see a gaggle of elementary school kids picking up trash. These are the Future Fighters, 9- and 10-year-olds comprising a local organization that wants to make an impact on how we treat our planet.

The group started in the summer of 2021 when Lulu Homer, then 7 years old, came home from a local day-camp upset that they were serving lunch to everyone in multiple

individual plastic containers. She didn't eat the camp's lunch that day or any day that summer. That evening, she wrote a letter to the camp director and explained how plastic is bad for people and the environment. She brought the letter to camp the next day with an extra page attached for potential signatures.

Was anyone else disturbed by the plastic and interested in signing her letter?

She finished the day with a page full of signatures.

From this interaction, Homer's mother, Larissa

Dooley, an environmental psychologist, realized that her daughter and like-minded peers needed an outlet to help them make an impact on their surroundings. And that is how Future Fighters was born.

The group concentrates on environmental activism, interacting with nature and education about climate and the environment.

Dooley, the group's leader, says members "focus on giving back directly to the local community," which is one of the reasons they clean up the Boulevard and hold their fundraisers there. They concentrate on solutions, how to be a good citizen of the planet and the different levels of impact people and products have on the environment.

In the short time they've been in existence, Future Fighters members were asked to speak in front of hundreds at the Youth Global Climate Strike at Los Angeles City Hall. They planted a garden and composting station in the closed alley behind one of their homes, and their fundraising on Larchmont Boulevard supports agencies that align with their beliefs, such as 4Ocean, Sunrise Movement and Tree People.

The kids come from all different schools but almost all live in the Hancock Park and Windsor Square neighborhoods. Dooley's goal is to model it like a Girl Scout troop. She plans to apply for grants to further support their projects.

Future Fighters is looking for more eager members. Although it has a mailing



**FUTURE FIGHTERS** Byrdie Howe, Betty Dentler, Jo Thomas, Eve Jacobs, Lulu Homer and Edie Matloff, cleaning up Larchmont Boulevard and its alleyways in February.

Photo courtesy Susan Matloff

list of about 60 people, all through word of mouth, the average gathering has about six to 15 participants. To get involved and find out more, check out futurefighters.org.



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