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Claire Danes

DONORS CHOOSE

Donors Choose allows public school teachers to request educational materials, such as textbooks and art supplies, for their students. Supporters select the classrooms to which they'd like to contribute.

Go to Donorschoose.org, call 212-239-3615, ext. 215, or write to Donors Choose, 347 W. 36 St., Suite 503, New York, NY 10018.

Claire Danes

DONORS CHOOSE

Growing up in New York City, I started out attending public schools. **I liked the diversity they offered—being exposed to so many different kinds of people.** But it wasn't until later on, when I transferred to a private high school, that I realized how much [my public school] had been without. In my new school we had computers in the classroom and incredible art materials. The difference was so drastic that I went home after the first day and cried. It's shocking, but **a lot of public schools across the country don't have the funding to give their students even the most basic things,** like textbooks and maps. Donors Choose is a Web site that was created to take the burden off families—who too often are asked to compensate for what's lacking—by providing resources for teachers in public schools. It's a direct, accessible way for anyone to get students the learning tools they need. Each donation—whether it's \$15 or \$15,000—matters. **It takes so little to make a powerful change in someone's life.**

