



Rise Up and Change the World



Rise
Beyond Borders



Change **IS** possible
RISE BEYOND BORDERS



Contributors

Editors

Steven Ayer
David Ayer

Journalist students

Edward Veilleux
Christine Girard
Marie Litalieu

Graphic Design students

Jason Rainville
Nico Taus
David Ayer
Ryan Meesen
Jenn Leclair
Dominique Raymond

Communicate

Risebeyondborders@hotmail.com

Dedication

While this is not a religious organization the co-founders would still like to dedicate this magazine to Jesus Christ who was the inspiration for turning us socially conscious. It is He who cares the most for the children of the world. May God richly bless and challenge the readers of this magazine.



Thoughts,

From the Co-founders, two brothers

It is a challenge for each of us to “Rise Beyond Borders” and reach out to those who do not have the basic necessities of life. It began to strike me at about 11 or 12 years old, watching World Vision programs. I saw children starving. I saw children working in garbage dumps. However, I saw the joys of seeing World Vision workers drill in the ground to provide clean water. They also showed me that children can be sponsored by other children. Finally in my 20’s I sponsored a child and we have written letters back and forth. The joy of this relationship has been such a blessing to my life. It is my prayer that you’d become involved with social justice and change your own life to serve others.

I want to introduce you to Rise Beyond Borders. We are an organization that empowers youth to fight for the elimination of child hunger, labour and exploitation. We want to bring universal education to every child. And to do this we want to unleash the potential in young people to transform the world. We believe each of you can be a spark to fuel the fires of change. Our small group wants to point you in the direction of the most amazing world changing organization; Free the Children. Getting involved with them will revolutionize your life. So if you aren’t involved in a youth in action group, get started!

The start of the Canadian Revival of Youth Activism

It was a bright morning in Toronto, Ontario, on April 19, 1995. Craig Kielburger, only 12 years old, woke up and got ready for another day at school. Craig's morning ritual always included reading his favourite section of the local Toronto Star newspaper: the comics. As he picked up the newspaper, a front page headline caught his eye: 'Battled child labor, boy, 12, murdered.' Intrigued, Craig read on.

The article was about a 12-year-old Pakistani boy named Iqbal Masih. It told of how, at the age of four, Iqbal was sold by his parents for \$16 to repay a loan. He was forced to work 12 hours a day, six days a week, chained to a carpet weaving loom and tying tiny knots to make the expensive carpets that lay in living room floors around the world. He tried to escape from the carpet factory a few times, but each time he was caught and beaten by his master. After six years, at the age of 10, Iqbal finally escaped. He began speaking out against child labour and for this, at the age of 12, the carpet mafia killed him.

Craig was appalled by what he read. He was angered by Iqbal's story. He sat for a moment at his kitchen table, comparing his life to that of Iqbal's. Although they were the same age, their lives were radically different. And the differences were shocking. Craig was so angry, he tore the article out of the newspaper and stuffed it in his backpack.

He thought about Iqbal and the article all the way to school. During his first class, Craig asked his teacher's permission to speak to his classmates. He stood up in front of his Grade 7 class, read them the article about Iqbal and told his peers what he had learned about child labour – how there were over 250 million children involved in child labour worldwide. Craig admitted, "I don't know a lot about [child labour], but I want to learn more.

Maybe some of us could start a group to look at it together?" Then Craig asked a question that would change his life forever: "Who wants to join?" 11 hands went up!

That night, Craig and his 11 friends met at his house over pizza and pop to discuss Iqbal's story and what they were going to do to help stop child labour. They decided to form a club called Free The Children. Free The Children has since grown from a group of 12 12-year-

olds into the world's largest network of children helping children through education. They have influenced over a million youth and have sparked a revival of youth activism across North America.



It's time to turn over a new leaf and get involved with Free the Children



Having built more than 500 primary schools, they rely on youth to provide fundraising. Consider getting your school involved. Join or start a Youth in Action Group today in your school.

Saving lives in under a minute

A quick way to change the world

About the Hunger site

The Hunger Site was founded to focus the power of the Internet on a specific humanitarian need: the eradication of world hunger. Since its launch in June 1999, the site has established itself as a leader in online activism, helping to feed the world's hungry. On average, over 220,000 individuals from around the world visit the site each day to click the yellow "Click Here to Give - it's FREE" button. To date, more than 300 million visitors have given more than 500 million cups of staple food.

The staple food funded by clicks at The Hunger Site is paid for by site sponsors and distributed to those in need by Mercy Corps and America's Second Harvest. 100% of sponsor advertising fees goes to our charitable partners. Funds are split between these organizations and go to the aid of hungry people in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and North America.

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with categories: Hunger, Breast Cancer, Child Health, Literacy, and Rainforest. The main content area features the 'the hunger site' logo and a large yellow button that says 'Click Here to Give - it's FREE!'. Below this, a list of steps explains the process: 1. You click daily. 2. Sponsors pay for cups of food. 3. Shop our store and give more. A note states '100% of sponsor money goes to charity.' There are also promotional banners for 'Register today & get 2 FREE* Peace Bracelets!' and 'HOP TO IT! Send an Easter e-card.' A sidebar on the left lists 'Free Ways to Help' (Send an E-card, Sign Up & Give More, Remember to Click, Link to Us) and 'Our Store Helps More' (Fair Trade, Jewelry, Clothing & Accessories, Gifts & Delights, Easter Sale).

Hunger: Do You Know The Facts?

It is estimated that one billion people in the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition. That's roughly 100 times as many as those who actually die from these causes each year.

About 24,000 people die every day from hunger or hunger-related causes. This is down from 35,000 ten years ago, and 41,000 twenty years ago. Three-fourths of the deaths are children under the age of five.

Famine and wars cause about 10% of hunger deaths, although these tend to be the ones you hear about most often. The majority of hunger deaths are caused by chronic malnutrition. Families facing extreme poverty are simply unable to get enough food to eat.

How You Can Help In Mere Seconds — Every Day

The Hunger Site provides a feel-good way to help promote awareness and prevent hunger deaths every day — through easy and quick online activities.

With a simple, daily click of the yellow "Click Here to Give - it's FREE" button at The Hunger Site, visitors help provide food to those in need. Visitors pay nothing. Food is paid for by the site's sponsors and distributed by Mercy Corps worldwide and by America's Second Harvest.

Please remember to click every day to give help and hope to those most in need. Every click counts in the life of a hungry person. The text and photo in this publication are used with permission.

thehungersite.com



Come to this site and click once a day
to give free food to the needy.
No joke, the sponsors pay for the food,
so you can see their advertising.
This site has provided more than
500 000 000 meals
to the needy.

Quotes to challenge us

“The hero is one who kindles a great light in the world, who sets up blazing torches in the dark streets of life for men to see by. But I am not a hero, all I have is a candle’s worth of flame. And yet, does not every raging forest fire start with a single spark?”

-Unknown author

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.”

-Martin Luther King Jr.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

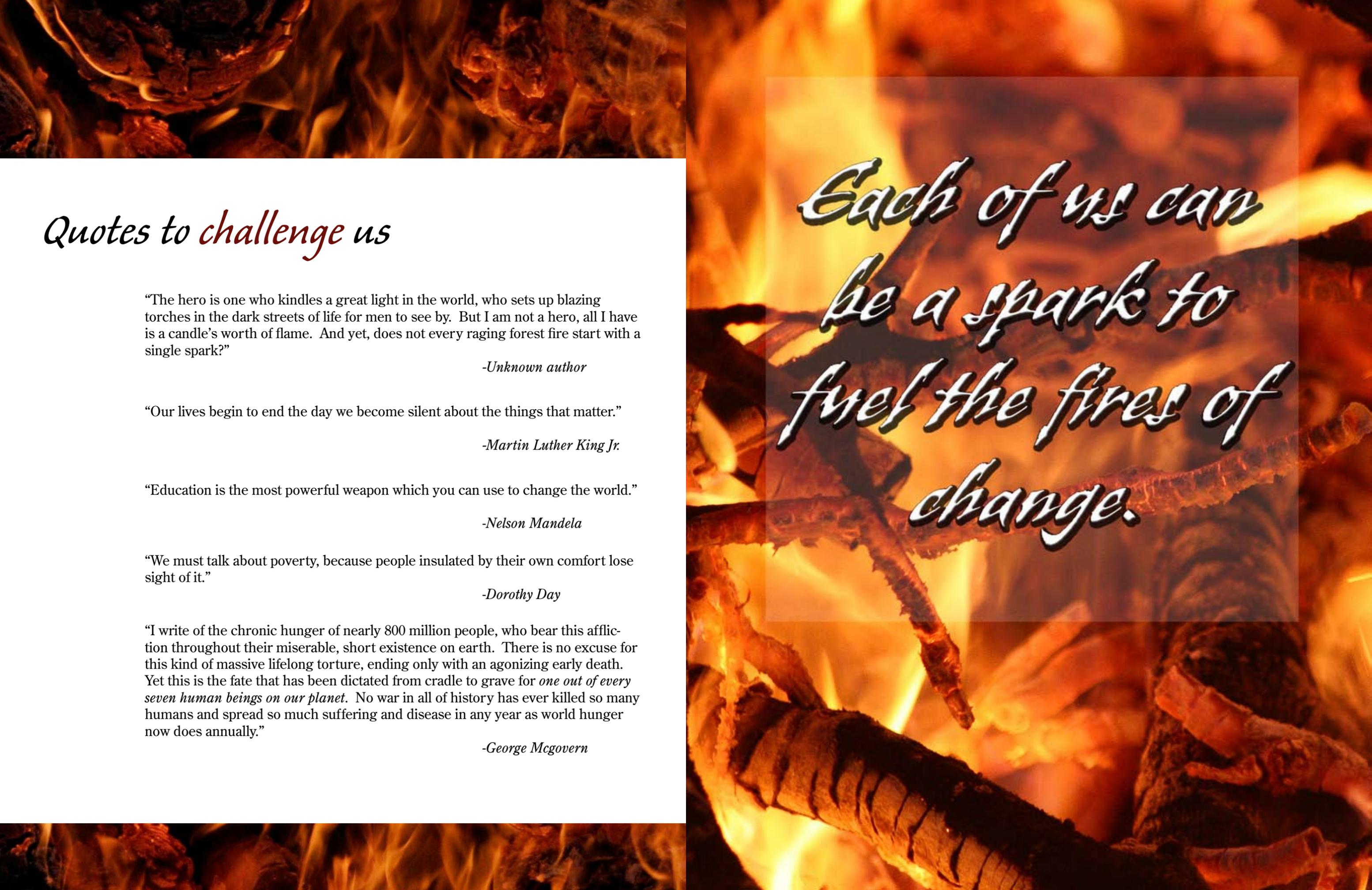
-Nelson Mandela

“We must talk about poverty, because people insulated by their own comfort lose sight of it.”

-Dorothy Day

“I write of the chronic hunger of nearly 800 million people, who bear this affliction throughout their miserable, short existence on earth. There is no excuse for this kind of massive lifelong torture, ending only with an agonizing early death. Yet this is the fate that has been dictated from cradle to grave for *one out of every seven human beings on our planet*. No war in all of history has ever killed so many humans and spread so much suffering and disease in any year as world hunger now does annually.”

-George McGovern



*Each of us can
be a spark to
fuel the fires of
change.*



The World Unites

Imagine a world where millions upon millions are stirred up about poverty. You may believe this won't happen, but it already has. We may not see it here in Canada, and the media may not give it sufficient coverage, but the world is uniting to speak out against this injustice. On October 17, 2007 the world stood up for the millennium development goals and rallied against poverty. There were a massive 43,716,440 participants in 6,540 events around the globe spanning 127 countries. They broke the world record for the largest coordinated mobilization in the history of the world.

The organization behind this event is Make Poverty History. Which is the largest anti-poverty movement ever created. They call world leaders to end poverty by ensuring more and better aid, fair trade, and debt relief. Many experts agree these are the three critical factors to end poverty. To find out more go to makepovertyhistory.org

So how can youth fight poverty? There are many ways, but the one we'd like to share is to wear a white band.

The white band is the symbol of the global fight to end poverty. Many millions have donned the band. For example in an event in 2005, eight million people wore the white band in the UK. It shows our common goal for everyone to see. It can open doors to talk about these issues with your friends. So I challenge you to adopt this fashion trend.



*They thought a person flying was an impossibility, they were wrong.
Many say that extreme poverty will be with us forever,
But now millions upon millions are uniting to fight against poverty.*



Give children credit and they will thrive

Reprinted with permission

CRAIG AND MARC KIELBURGER

Melody Dernocoeur was your typical 14-year-old. Her biggest concerns were friends and clothes – like a lot of teenagers. She couldn't imagine problems much bigger than her own.

But after attending a leadership camp run by our partner organization Leaders Today, Melody's perspective began to widen.

For the first time, she took notice of the world outside her own and met people her age who were interested in social change. When they told her about a volunteer trip to Thailand, Melody jumped at the chance. She spent a month teaching English there with a group of North American students. As it turned out, she was the one learning lessons – about life.

Melody and the other youth were introduced to important social issues such as child labour and AIDS, and seeing the impact of these problems. From orphanages to the infamous Patpong red light district of Bangkok, they saw poverty

and exploitation first hand – things they had only heard about back home.

"I just got completely overwhelmed," Melody says, "Are we really so backward that we actually live in a world where such things happen to children?"

"Are we really so backward that we actually live in a world where such things happen to children?"

I think I needed to see the ugly side of it to really understand it more."

Melody returned to her Michigan home a changed person. She began speaking to youth in her area about social issues and the value of helping those who need it. Together, they raised \$6,000 to help children in the developing world.

"I learned that it wasn't all about myself," Melody says about her trip. "I could be who

I was but be a part of something larger than myself."

Thailand was Melody's coming of age. She is no longer interested in being cool or looking stylish. Her passions, goals and even her friends have changed. Now she wants to make a difference in the world.

But for most youth, opportunities for this kind of personal growth are rare.

That's because they are sequestered from responsibility, instead surrounded by television, malls and video games.

In this sheltered environment, they have few chances to test themselves, learn about who they are or what they want to become.

In our travels we have seen two extremes of child development. In poor countries, millions of young people are forced to work, usually instead of going to school, and often in hazardous conditions. Some support entire families while others fight in wars.

continued...

she can't pick up a phone and help herself

she can't search the internet and find support

she can't contact her government and ask for change



guess who can

Give children credit and they will thrive continued...

This means they are forced to develop – physically, intellectually and emotionally – far too fast.

In rich countries, this development is delayed.

Young people are considered adults-in-waiting and are constantly told they are too young to challenge themselves.

They are often at the receiving end of everything – instructions from adults, homework from teachers, allowances from parents – and are expected to wait until they get older to contribute to society.

This can be incredibly discouraging for a young person.

A recent survey of Canadian high school students found that while three-quarters think they can make a difference in the world, more than half worry they're not taken seriously because of their age.

If they believe no one will listen, they are less likely to try. When Craig began campaigning for child rights at the age of 12, one of his biggest hurdles was convincing people he

wasn't "just a kid." One person went as far as to tell him that "children should be seen and not heard."

But we've met thousands of youth who are full of opinions, ideas and dreams – youth who are making a difference.

Children are capable of so



Free the Children one room primary school in Kenya

much more than they're given credit for.

These young people are idealistic and believe in a better tomorrow. They are not afraid to tackle what once seemed impossible and make it a reality.

Melody, who is now a facilitator at the Leaders Today camp, is constantly amazed by how youth respond when they are taken seriously.

"They light up," she says. "By the end of the week, they don't even need me any more."

The youth become more confident, outspoken and courageous. They volunteer, reach out to others and – like Melody – turn into leaders within their schools and their communities.

They become responsible citizens. Of course, this isn't something that can simply be turned on once a young person reaches voting age. It must be nurtured by allowing youth to take on responsibility, test who they are and even push the limits of their comfort zones.

But this doesn't mean all young people have to travel halfway around the world to experience their coming of age – there is no shortage of opportunities here at home. Whether it's volunteering at a food bank, reading and discussing articles in the newspaper, or becoming involved in a social cause, when young people are challenged, they thrive.

A blizzard develops one flake at a time.

First we see a few flakes in the sky. Then the wind starts to build and before long an unstoppable force emerges.

Can it not be the same with us?

If each high school student were to unite and pull a toonie out of their pocket a one room primary school would arise in Kenya.

There is strength in numbers.

Let us rise up and fight for children.

A silhouette of a person standing on a rocky cliff with their arms raised in a 'V' shape, set against a vibrant sunset sky with orange and yellow hues. The person is facing away from the viewer, looking out over the horizon.

It's time to rise up and change the world. If you haven't already, you should join a group at your local school. If there isn't one then start a Youth in Action Group with Free the Children.

As well we'd like you to join the **Rise Beyond Borders Youth Group**. We will get together to watch socially conscious movies and be transformed by being with other like-minded youth who are hungry for change. As well, if you're inclined, we plan on training you as a public speaker so you can give messages to grade 7 and 8 students.

If interested please email, giving contact info:
Risebeyondborders@hotmail.com

Craig has changed over a million lives

His book will change yours

Free the Children Book Review
by Marie Litalien
Available at Chapters

Children are the future and “Free the Children,” by Craig Kielburger, proves time and time again, that children can change the future; the future of the rights and lives of youth. The novel tells the incredible true story of a young Canadian boy who is dedicated to helping all the children of the world.

At 13, Kielburger travelled to India with his activist mentor, 24-year-old Alam Rahman, with only a backpack and a yearning in his heart. On the streets of Bangkok, Calcutta, Kathmandu, Delhi, Islamabad and Bombay, too name a few, Kielburger and his mentor searched for the forgotten children of the world; the children who work in disgusting conditions and have not a minute to play.

“Free the Children” is a story written about children, through the eyes of a child. A child who, through simple, detailed dialogue brings the reader into a world of unfathomable neglect, inhumanity and poverty. Kielburger’s journeys bring him to children who are exploited and abused. Yet he is sure to add that these children, living in such miserable conditions, still take time to smile. These poor children take

care of each other and hope for a better tomorrow, even when that day will not come for many. Throughout the book, the reader is convinced that Kielburger, if anyone, is able, if even in a small way, to bring that better tomorrow to these children.

“Free the Children” makes the reader feel for these children, such as one young girl who sits on the floor surrounded by used syringes, the floor caked in medical waste, and separates the needles for recycling. No gloves cover her hands and she is pricked repeatedly with needles covered in disease and waste.

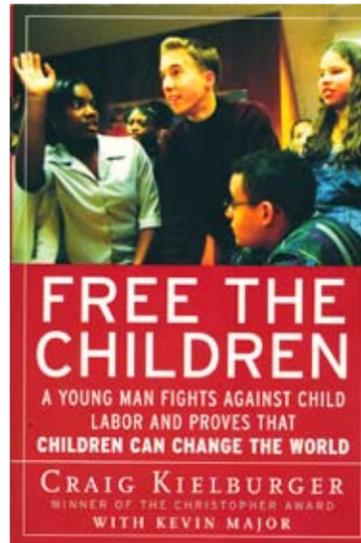
Kielburger also writes about the need for children to be involved in political decisions that affect children. One of the mandates of Free the Children is to have strictly child representation.

“Children are not simply empty vessels to be filled,” Kielburger writes in the novel. “They are people with ideas, talents, opinions and dreams. Children believe they can fly, that there is nothing from stopping their dreams from coming true. Some may call that wishful thinking, or simply being naive. Some people call young people idealists, as if it

were a stage they need to out-grow. But I feel the world could do with more idealists, that there are never too many dreamers.”

Kielburger is an eloquent, intelligent caring person, whose selfless efforts have changed the world. Free the Children has become an internationally respected organization against child labour. It has represented itself at conferences and meetings around the world and has international offices. “Because we are young, full of ideas, and full of dreams, we are not afraid of taking an idea that to some seems impossible and striving to make it a reality,” Kielburger writes. “Because children are dreamers, they are unstoppable. Because they are idealists, they always have faith in a better tomorrow.”

One boy, true to himself and his beliefs, launched an internationally-known child-led and governed organization with one dream; to change the world.



STRIVE TO BE THE
CHANGE YOU WANT
TO SEE IN THE
WORLD.



Hullo my friend,

My name is Nakabugo Kamiad. I live in Kilembo, Nakasongola district in Uganda. I am 8 years.

I stay with my mother, father and two brothers.

My family has very many problems. We lack food, water, clothes, salt and money to go to school.

Our garden is dry because of dry season - it is very bad going to bed with no food in stomach.

I cry until I cannot cry anymore. My mother

then says we will get enough.

me and my brothers go every morning to the bush to look for something to eat but is also difficult getting because everything is dry.

When we get the leaves of plants we eat them or some mangoes which is not ready.

Life in my village is not good for children. We

left school because of no food and money.

But we like to study. For me I was in primary

two but I cannot go to school hungry. I look for food first.

That is my life. I am praying to God to help.

Bye Bye, Nakabugo Kamiad.



**300 MILLION CHILDREN GO
TO BED HUNGRY EVERYDAY.**

The Billionaire's Dilemma

by Steven Ayer

In July 2006, Warren Buffett (then the second richest man in the world) decided to donate \$37 billion to many of the world's poorest individuals. The first instinct upon reading that is to correct the foolish writer: clearly you mean \$37 Million, not \$37 Billion. Oddly enough, this is one of those rare occasions when numbers too large to be true (and writers apparently too lazy to proofread), turn out to be accurate. I'm sure most of us at one point or another have asked ourselves "What would I do with a billion dollars?", or a million, or whatever improbably large sum. Likewise, I'm sure most of us have thought about whether we'd use that money to travel the world, or maybe buy a Ferrari, or perhaps a sweet mansion with a Jacuzzi and an Olympic sized swimming pool next to the arcade.

Occasionally we may also think about donating to those who need it most. Like a single mother in Africa praying that her child will survive past infancy; or a child drinking feces infested water, without proper nutrition, or basic vaccinations. \$37 billion is a lot of money to give away, but don't worry

about Warren, he's still a very rich man, and his children won't starve anytime soon. Now, the majority of his money will go towards providing basic necessities for millions of people around the world, provide jobs for people making dollars per day, and providing essential research towards vaccinations for diseases that affect millions of the world's poorest every year.



Now, when we're faced with such incomprehensibly large donations, one thing we sometimes ask ourselves is what can I do compared to that? At first, it can be very easy to become discouraged. Our resources can seem paltry in the face of the generosity of billionaires; what can we do to really make a difference?

But, fear not, there is much that can be done! Whether we're making minimum wage or millions of dollars per year,

there are several essential goals we need to reach. First, we need to speak out. Even a single person who spreads a message of hope can eventually reach thousands when conducted with passion and dedication. Even billionaires are more likely to give money to a cause they know that everyone thinks is cool. Further, our governments are not doing enough to live up to its promises of helping those in need around the world; calling our MPs and letting them know that Canadians want to help can make an important difference. Finally, give what you can! A dollar might not sound like that much to you, but in many parts of the world, this is a full day of hard labour. And even small donations like one dollar can prevent HIV transmission from mother to child, or provide vaccinations for disease, or provide nutritional supplements that can prevent blindness. So, while you may not have billions of dollars to give away, remember: the important thing is you do something, anything, to help make the world a better place for everyone!

To end World War II nuclear bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. 100,000 to 200,000 people were killed immediately.

Each week approximately the same number of people will die from extreme poverty.

Youth look at the problems in the world and think, “what can I do about it? It’s a horrible place for so many but I can’t change a thing. “ It’s simply not true. As one activist has said, “We must remember that one determined person can make a significant difference, and that a small group of determined people can change the course of history.” In this magazine we offer many ways for transformation. Whether it’s visiting thehungersite.com and just by clicking feed a person. Or wear a white band to show your support for making poverty history. You might even be inspired to take a trip to a Third World country to build a school or teach English. But it is time to make a difference in the world.

So get active in your school social justice group and get involved with us, in our Rise Beyond Borders Youth Group. A gathering across schools of like-minded youth. We’ll watch socially conscious movies, train as public speakers and journalists (if inclined), and have fun events as well. Getting involved will revolutionize your life.

If interested email your contact info to:
risebeyondborders@hotmail.com

In lieu of the fact that much paper is used in our projects, Rise Beyond Borders decided to preserve 2000 square meters of rainforest through the world land trust organization.