

**The Fund for the Future of our Children
Essay and Project Topics**

2005-2006

Understanding the Roots of Peace in
the Abrahamic Traditions

2006-2007

A New Leadership Model Inspired by
Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad

2007-2008

Abrahamic Lessons in Overcoming Corruption

2008-2009

The Environmental Role of Peace
within the Three Faiths

2009-2010

Compassion in Action as Exemplified by the
Leaders of the Three Abrahamic Faiths

2010-2011

Welcoming the Stranger

2011-2012

Present at the Beginning: Celebrating
Three Women and Three Faiths



Fund for the Future of our Children (FFC)
5101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 230
Washington, DC 20016
202.364.2606
ffc@futureofchildren.net
www.futureofchildren.net

...that our children may be peacemakers

**7th Annual Children of Abraham
Youth Leadership Award Ceremony**



***“Present at the Beginning:
Celebrating Three Women
and Three Faiths”***

**Fund for the
Future of our Children (FFC)**

and

**The Office of Campus Ministry
Georgetown University**

Sunday, April 15, 2012, 3-5pm
Riggs Library, Healy Hall
Georgetown University

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Colors – Three Women (2003)
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About the Fund for the Future of our Children

The next generation of leaders will face daunting challenges in striving to secure peace, establishing social justice, caring for the environment, demonstrating compassion, welcoming those who are unknown to us or different from us and appreciating the roles and leadership of women. Since 1993, the Fund for the Future of our Children (FFC) has taken as its mission the support and encouragement of leadership qualities in today's youth. In the past, FFC promoted its vision through a variety of projects, including a national tour of the Copenhagen Boys' Choir to raise awareness of children's issues, and a series of peace workshops in area schools by Israeli and Palestinian youth and the display of their art in Washington, DC.

As its vision has evolved, FFC has adapted its strategies. Since the first Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest in 2005, FFC has invited high school students to explore aspects of the Abrahamic faiths that unite us all. In 2010, we expanded the program to include not only an essay but also a youth-led community project which brings to life the deep teachings of the Abrahamic faiths.

FFC believes that the idealism of young people can spark a multitude of needed changes and that it is well worth investing in their vision, energy and compassion. For that reason FFC awards leadership grants to qualifying applicants. Additional \$1,000 matching grants are also available to students who raise \$1,000 toward each project.

Our work would not be possible without the dedicated commitment of our friends and supporters, the students, parents, teachers, school administrators, clergy, scholars, and other professionals who have given so freely of their time, support, and encouragement.



Children of Abraham Award Ceremony

Musical Offering

Lena Seikaly and Tom Lagana

Welcome

Rev. Kevin O'Brien, S.J., Vice President for Mission and Ministry, Georgetown University

Avideh Shashaani, President, Fund for the Future of our Children

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Jorge Romero, Chair, FFC Board

Keynote Address

Marian Wright Edelman, Founder and President, Children's Defense Fund

Faith in Action Award

Mrs. Mary Campbell Cosby

Introduction of 2011-2012 Grant Recipients

Shayna Solomon, 2009-2010 Essay Award and Grant Recipient, Montgomery Blair High School Senior

Introduction of Past Grant Recipients

Dana Alsaadi, 2005-2006 Award Recipient and Undergraduate, School of Nursing & Health Studies, Georgetown University

Presentation of 2012 Grants and Grand Award

Emily Gantz McKay, Vice Chair/Treasurer, FFC Board

Closing Prayers and Candlelight Ceremony

Sister Helen Scarry, Rabbi Rachel Gartner & Avideh Shashaani

Lena Seikaly and Tom Lagana, Musical Offering

Reception Immediately Following



On behalf of the Fund for the Future of our Children (FFC), welcome and thank you for joining us at the seventh annual Children of Abraham Award Ceremony. With great pride and pleasure we welcome the grant recipients who have devoted so much time, energy, and thought to the exploration of the roles and lives of Yocheved, Mary and Khadija.

The seed for this year's topic was planted seven years ago at our first Award Ceremony when Cokie Roberts, in her keynote address, said, "What about the women in these traditions?" With Rev. Kevin O'Brien's wise guidance, it has come to fruition today.

A special thank you and welcome to Marian Wright Edelman. We are grateful she is here to share in this celebration of youth leadership and interfaith dialogue. We also celebrate Mary Campbell Cosby for her life of service.

This project is possible because of the support of our generous patrons, Mrs. Josephine F. Ammerman and Mr. Andrew R. Ammerman, the Office of Campus Ministry, Georgetown University, the members of our Board, Advisors, staff and our panel of Kick-Off presenters, whose gifts of time and knowledge has been invaluable.

This program would not be possible without the encouragement of the teachers of the student applicants. Thank you. And to all of you reading this, your continued encouragement of the young leaders we honor today contributes greatly to the interfaith dialogue and understanding we all envision.

Peace, Shalom, and Asalam alaikum,
Avidah Shashaani
President, Fund for the Future of our Children

Thank you, Mr. Andrew R. Ammerman

Andrew is the CEO of his family business, Ammerman Investment Partnership, and a member of multiple boards in the Washington, DC area. He graduated from the University of Rochester with a degree in Asian American Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor in theology. Post graduation, Andrew became a teacher of technical and procedural English for a government agency located in Thailand.

Andrew has served on the Georgetown University Board of Regents, Mission and Ministry and Law Affairs Committees, since 2004, and 2008, respectively, and was elected to the Mercersburg Academy Board of Regents in 2005.

Andrew and his mother, Josephine, have endowed the Ammerman Family Lecture Series and the Ammerman Distinguished Teaching Award for Religious and Interdisciplinary Studies at Mercersburg. In addition to the endowed gifts, he provides financial aid for current use scholarships each year.

Through his participation on the boards of Georgetown University and the Arena Stage, Andrew and his mother Josephine have been instrumental in forging a partnership between Georgetown University, the Arena Stage, and the Ammerman Investment Partnership. He is an Advisors to the Fund for the Future of our Children, as well as a board member of the Washington Jewish Historical Society, the Arena Stage, and Foundation for Jewish Studies.

Andrew divides his time between Washington, DC, where he is engaged in a family company office specializing in financial planning, and his home in Florida, where his godsons and other family members reside. His interests include meteorology, mineralogy, gardening, and travel.

**Our Heartfelt Thanks to
Mrs. Josephine F. Ammerman and
Mr. Andrew R. Ammerman
for Their Generous Patronage of FFC**

Thank you, Mrs. Josephine F. Ammerman

Born at home, in Washington, DC, in 1912, Josephine is now in her 101st year. The youngest of eight girls, she worked for various government departments, including Congress. In 1936 she left government service upon marrying her teenage sweetheart, H. Max Ammerman. She was a Civilian Ward Neighborhood Deputy in World War II.

Married 52 years, the Ammermans traveled to Europe, Africa and Asia and pursued many interests including attending overseas performances of stage and opera; seeing Maria Callas at the opera in Milan, and theatre performances in London. These travels and the appreciation of theater led to an interest in supporting local arts entities and naming a rehearsal hall at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater.

Josephine and Max had two sons, Stephen and Andrew, who both had teaching careers in Thailand. Josephine survives her husband by 25 years and Andrew survives his brother.

At 85 years of age Josephine started painting and painted for ten years with acrylic on canvas and on ivory. She became a juried artist and is a member of the Oldest Inhabitants of Washington, DC. Still living in the house the family built in 1951, she maintains a keen interest both in her garden and also in attending local performing arts events.



**Announcing the Josephine F. Ammerman
Young Visionary Fellowship**

FFC is proud to announce a \$10,000 Young Visionary Fellowship in honor of Josephine F. Ammerman on her 100th birthday. Her life exemplifies an incredible depth of compassion, beauty and creative vision. This fellowship will be given to a former FFC award recipient now in college.

MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

Keynote Speaker



Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans for her entire professional life. Under her leadership, CDF has become the nation's strongest voice for children and families. The Children's Defense Fund's Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

Mrs. Edelman, a graduate of Spelman College and Yale Law School, began her career in the mid-60s when, as the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar, she directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1968, she moved to Washington, D.C., as counsel for the Poor People's Campaign that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began organizing before his death. She founded the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm and the parent body of the Children's Defense Fund. For two years she served as the Director of the Center for Law and Education at Harvard University and in 1973 began CDF.

Mrs. Edelman served on the Board of Trustees of Spelman College which she chaired from 1976 to 1987 and was the first woman elected by alumni as a member of the Yale University Corporation on which she served from 1971 to 1977. She has received over a hundred honorary degrees and many awards including the Albert Schweitzer

Rabbi Jack Moline, Rabbi of Agudas Achim Congregation, Alexandria, VA

June Murray-Crawford, World Cultures Teacher, Hudson High, Hudson, MA

The Rev. Elizabeth Orens, Rector, St. James Parish in Parkton, MD

Judy Rodgers, Founding Director, Images & Voices of Hope

Zeina Azzam Seikaly, Director of Educational Outreach, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University

David Weeks, Civic Leadership Director, Glenelg Country School

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Grace Ogden, Grace Productions LLC

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Rachel Solomon, Outreach Volunteer

Shayna Solomon, Outreach Volunteer

Aishini Thiagarajan, Social Media Volunteer

Special Thanks to....

Georgetown University

Reverend Kevin O'Brien, S.J., Vice-President for Mission & Ministry

Rabbi Rachel Gartner, Jewish Chaplaincy Director

Imam Yahya Hendi, Muslim Chaplaincy Director

Sister Helen Scarry, R.J.M., Director of Ignatian Retreats and Roman Catholic Chaplain

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Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz, Faculty, Theology Department, Georgetown University

Roberta Baskin, Award Winning Investigative Journalist

Lansing Freeman, Government, Middle East Studies, Peace Studies Teacher, Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, MD

Maura Casey, CaseyInk, LLC, former member, NY Times, Editorial Board

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Luby Ismail, Founder, Connecting Cultures

Alex Kronemer, Writer, Lecturer and Documentary Producer

Rob Lehman, Chair, Board of Trustees, The Fetzer Institute

Ken McNeil, Partner, Susman Godfrey LLP

Humanitarian Prize, the Heinz Award, and a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship. In 2000, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award for her writings which include: Families in Peril: An Agenda for Social Change; The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours; Guide My Feet: Meditations and Prayers on Loving and Working for Children; Stand for Children; Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors; Hold My Hand: Prayers for Building a Movement to Leave No Child Behind; I'm Your Child, God: Prayers for Our Children; I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire Our Children; and The Sea Is So Wide and My Boat Is So Small: Charting a Course for the Next Generation.

She is a board member of the Robin Hood Foundation and the Association to Benefit Children, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Marian Wright Edelman is married to Peter Edelman, a Professor at Georgetown Law School. They have three sons, Joshua, Jonah, and Ezra, two granddaughters, Ellika and Zoe, and two grandsons, Elijah and Levi.

Faith in Action Award

presented to

MARY CAMPBELL COSBY



Mary Cosby, now 89, grew up in Lynchburg, Virginia, daughter of a Baptist minister. At age 9 she met Gordon Cosby and they enjoyed a childhood friendship. As young people they helped with children's ministries of their church.

Mary, along with Gordon and her sister, dreamed of belonging to a church that not only believed in Jesus, but lived what Jesus taught. As young people they imagined starting a different kind of church that would invite in all people who wanted to show their love for God by loving and serving people. After graduating from Randolph Women's College in Lynchburg, she married Gordon, who then served in World War II as a chaplain in the 101st Airborne division.

Following the war, their shared dream of starting a church would send them on an inward journey with God and one another and an outward journey to help God mend broken places in the world. In 1947, together with 7 other people, Mary and Gordon launched The Church of the Saviour. Very quickly, the church became widely known for its commitment of trying to live what Jesus taught.

Mary became a well-loved speaker across the country as well as a teacher for the Washington, DC church. She has a special eye for "ambiance" and has always felt that beauty is especially close to God's heart. One of the church's first missions is the Potter's House coffeehouse in Adams Morgan, where the art gallery is named for Mary.

2006-2007 Grant Recipients

Priya Agarwal-Harding worked with an organization in India called PRAYAS, which offers shelter and other aid to victims of child-trafficking. Priya was able to spend some time during the winter of 2007-2008 working with PRAYAS. The organization has launched a project they are calling "Girls' Empowerment" (G-Power for short) in honor of her effort. Priya raised a total of \$8,500 over two years, and continues to work with the project today. Priya is attending Wellesley College.



Melissa Mergner is a Martin Luther King Jr. scholar at New York University, where she attends the Tisch School of Film & Television. She has written and directed several short documentaries, including: "Legacy of Peace" about Japan's atomic bomb victims, "Woody Guthrie: Voice of the Common Man" about the legendary singer-songwriter, "Invisible and Invaluable" about the plight of farm workers, "The President as Commander-in-Chief" about the importance of foreign affairs in the presidential election, and "Speaking Truth to Power" about farm labor activist Baldemar Velasquez. Her films have won awards or have been shown at over 50 film festivals across the U.S. Her grant permitted her to produce "Forgotten War, Unforgettable Aftermath" about the Korean War. She also worked with Priya Agarwal-Harding to produce "Rebuilding Broken Lives – My Story with PRAYAS," a film about child-trafficking in India.



2007-2008 Grant Recipients



Devika Jaipuria created a comic book called “Earth Girl!” that teaches children the basics of environmental awareness. She traveled to many elementary schools, including the Ryan International School in Delhi, India, sharing Earth Girl’s message of healthy social living and responsible environmental stewardship. Devika is now a student at SUNY Binghamton University in New York.



Jonathan Kesten worked with School Girls Unite (SGU), a non-profit organization that seeks to prioritize global girls' education by raising funds to educate underprivileged girls and spreading awareness within their communities about girls' lack of education worldwide. With his FFC grant, Jonathan helped to organize two benefit concerts that raised nearly \$5,000, enough to support over 80 young women in Mali, Africa, to attend school for one year. Jonathan is a student at Georgetown University.

Over the next 60-plus years, Mary’s work has become legendary. There are now nine small faith communities (independent churches with their own unique visions) and 40-plus ministries growing from the Church of the Saviour. From transitional housing and adult education to hospice for the homeless, job placement, child development and education, these ministries put into action the faith, spirit and, at its heart, the social justice component of the Church of the Saviour’s founding mission.

Their activities are a national model for translating spiritual values into work with the poor. The Festival Center trains people from all over the US who learn how to adapt these programs in cities across the nation.

Mary and Gordon have defied the traditional model of building a big organized mega-church. They have carried out faith-based social justice initiatives with small groups of no more than 15 or 20 dedicated people. Full-time employees work for modest salaries.

Always on the cutting edge, Gordon and Mary’s faith-based social justice model serves as an inspiration to us all. Mary is the living model of how faith is demonstrated through action. Through their faith, sacrifice, and relentless commitment to serve the least served, they demonstrate the truth of the proverb of the “mustard seed.”

2011-2012 Topic

“Present at the Beginning: Celebrating Three Women and Three Faiths”

The 2011-2012 Youth Leadership Grants topic centers on three women from the Abrahamic faiths: Yocheved, mother of Moses; Mary, mother of Jesus; and Khadija, wife of Muhammad. While the lives of these women were quite different, each faced great hardship while exemplifying the qualities of patience, strength and enduring faith. Each was important in the lives of the founding fathers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Yocheved was the mother of Moses and two other children, Miriam and Aaron. Facing a significant threat to Moses' life when he was an infant, she developed a creative strategy to save him. Then, she entrusted Moses to the Pharaoh's daughter to be raised in the Pharaoh's household. Yocheved remained a significant part of Moses' life by serving as his nursemaid, and therefore was able to quietly influence his life with her own positive outlook and respect for his background. Because of her inner strength when faced with personal hardship and her quiet way of influencing the development of her son, she serves as a model of compassionate strength.

Mary was the wife of Joseph and the mother of Jesus. Throughout her life, Mary exemplified great patience and faith in all of her actions. It took great inner strength for her to return to Joseph, prior to their marriage, and tell him that she was with child. Mary's great faith in God's plan supported her when she traveled to Bethlehem while pregnant, then later to Egypt and on to Galilee where she raised and nurtured Jesus. She was a pillar of support as Jesus carried out his ministry to others despite

2008-2009 Grant Recipients

Andrew Franklin used his micro-grant to construct a sustainable rooftop greenhouse and a garden in a vacant lot near The Baltimore Station, a homeless shelter and recovery/ rehabilitation center for former drug addicts. The greenhouse serves as an urban agricultural and educational center for the immediate community. Andrew is studying at Duke University and received the Bentley Tomorrow 25 Service Award in 2010 from Bentley University in Massachusetts.



Laila Handoo used her micro-grant for her work with the Human Effort for Love and Peace Foundation (H.E.L.P. Foundation) to make a difference in the lives of Kashmiri women and children suffering from the mental illness, hopelessness, and depression that results from the conditions of war. Her work includes opening a dialogue in schools that will increase awareness of the problem of mental illness and reduce estrangement from their communities. Laila is currently studying at Brown University.



Diana Jeang created a high school-based carbon offset, greentradingnow.com. Students' carbon footprints are calculated for each school break, and the students are asked to contribute a dollar-for-tree equivalent to the Arbor Day Foundation, an organization that plants one tree in an American national forest for every dollar it receives in donations. Diana is now a student at Johns Hopkins University.



JAMmARTt, a Jewish-Muslim interfaith artist organization, to make felt butterflies to hang in the offices of local non-profits.



A 2011 graduate of Mercersburg Academy, **Danny Roza** attends Yale University. His main academic interests include Chinese, English and History. Danny is a member of the Independent Party of the Yale Political Union (a debate society) and of the Yale International Relations Association. He is also a student guide at the Yale Center for British Art. He has been awarded a Richard U. Light Fellowship to participate in an intensive Chinese language immersion program at the Harvard-Beijing Academy in Beijing during the summer of 2012. Through his participation in FFC, Danny has developed and matured as a thinker, writer and organizer.



Sarah Schwartz (center) is a freshman at Princeton University.

Shayna Solomon is a senior at Montgomery Blair High School where she attends the Communication Arts Program, a magnet program for students who excel in the humanities. Shayna participates in several school-related organizations. She co-captains the debate team. She also is co-president of a social activism group called Students for Global Responsibility, which educates about and advocates for various international and local issues. At her synagogue, she also takes a very visible role in many activities, particularly in teaching younger children. She is the co-leader of Junior Congregation and tutors students individually. Next year, Shayna plans to attend Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. Although she is entering college as an undecided major, she plans to adopt an intensive, humanities-centric academic schedule and remain involved in social action groups.



having to watch her son suffer. Yet throughout such hardship, Mary never wavered in her faith and never doubted her role in fulfilling the work of God.

Khadija was the first wife of Muhammad; mother to his children, and played a pivotal role in his life. During their 25 years of marriage, she was his only wife, closest confidant, spiritual counselor, and the person with whom he shared decision-making. She was a successful businesswoman prior to her marriage to Muhammad, and it was she who proposed to him. She was the first to accept Islam and gave her entire fortune to support Muhammad's mission, which included improving the plight of the poor, the rights of orphans, and equality for women. Steadfast in the faith she had chosen, Khadija passed away in poverty after she and her family suffered through years of persecution, economic sanctions and political oppression.

These three women were selected because of their uniquely different ways of influencing the founding of their faiths, and the way they lived their lives when faced with injustice, prejudice and persecution.

2011-2012 Panel of Kick-Off Speakers

We are grateful to the Kick-Off speakers who shared their wisdom, knowledge and helped launch this year's program.



Rabbi Rachel Gartner, is the Jewish Chaplaincy Director at Georgetown University. She is a graduate of Barnard College and of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Before turning her sights on campus work, Rabbi Gartner was a pulpit rabbi for four years, served as a chaplain for Jewish aging and elderly, and was part of a rabbinic team at New York City's Conservative synagogue B'nai Jeshurun.



Sister Helen Scarry, R.J.M. is the Director of Ignatian Retreats and Roman Catholic Chaplain at Georgetown University. She is responsible for ministering to the spiritual needs and programs related to the students, faculty and staff of the School of Nursing & Health Studies and the Medical School, coordinating various ministry and liturgical programs for these schools; representing Campus Ministry on designated student affairs committees, service projects and activities of the entire campus faith community.



Dr. Zahra N. Jamal is the Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow on International Women's Rights at the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality at the University of Chicago, the Director of Strategy and Research at the Isma'ili Tariqah and Religious Education Board USA, and a Fellow at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding. Dr. Jamal received an M.A. and Ph.D. in Social Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University, and a double B.A. in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies and in Slavic studies from Rice University.

Rishabh Khatri is a senior at Glenelg Country School and started the Health for Haiti campaign. He raised \$1,100 in response to the January 2010 earthquake to build a new health clinic in Camp Coq Haiti and to the renovation of a school. Rishabh and other students organized an "International Food Night and Glenelg's Got Talent" event with donated cuisine and raised an additional \$2,000 for his effort.



Through the partnership with the Build Haiti Foundation and his school, the Camp Coq health clinic opened last May. FFC will be recognized for its contribution to this project on the dedication plaque at the Build Haiti Foundation Mediatrice Health Clinic.

Social Action for Everyone (SAFE) was by started by **Daniel Roza, Sarah Schwartz** and **Shayna Solomon** to bring Muslim, Christian, and Jewish teens together to participate in practical projects such as making sandwiches to donate to a food bank. All of SAFE's events address a social need, such as hunger or sickness, and involve different religions and cultures.



Their first event, "Breaking Bread, Building Bridges," included students making Middle Eastern food for the homeless. In fact, this event was so successful it caught the attention of Washington Jewish Week and was featured in an article in September 2010. Their second event centered on the approaches of Christianity, Judaism and Islam in health and healing. Students made over 30 cards and care packages for the NIH (National Institutes of Health) Children's Inn's "Thoughtful Treasures" project. At another event, SAFE partnered with Bikes for the World, an organization that collects donated bikes and sends them to people around the world in need of transportation. Most recently, SAFE worked with

2009-2010 Grant Recipients



Fahad Ahsan is attending George Washington University and is a graduate of Glenelg Country School. He received a grant from FFC in 2009-2010 and a matching grant in 2010-2011. He initially raised over \$2,600 for Edcuadent, an organization which funds the repair of birth defects in Educador. In the summer of 2010, disastrous floods struck his parent's homeland of Pakistan, so he focused his efforts on raising money for displaced Pakistanis. The funds he raises will be donated to The Special Education and Training Centre in Lahore.



Victor Crentsil will graduate from Glenelg Country School this spring. He initiated the Help to Orphans (H2O) project to assist an orphanage in Haiti with clean water. With an FFC grant in 2009-2010 and a matching grant in 2010-2011, he has raised close to \$4,000 to fund the construction and implementation of a clean water system.



Veronica Ferris attends The College of William and Mary. She is involved with Amnesty International, Oxfam, Project: Clearwater, Invisible Children, and the Lutheran Student Association. She plans to double-major in Environmental Science and Economics, and pursue a career in Environmental Policy. With her 2009-2010 grant and her 2010-2011 matching grant, she started Youth Dinners with the Shelter Residents (YDSR). The program continues to have lasting impacts on the lives of the men in the St. Paul's Lutheran Church homeless shelter, and to forge meaningful relationships between those preparing the dinners, and those receiving them. Through the dinners, youth develop important communication and leadership skills. For more information email: vjferis@email.wm.edu

Emily Gantz McKay is an independent consultant who until December 2011 was President/CEO of Mosaica: The Center for Nonprofit Development and Pluralism, a Washington, DC-based multicultural nonprofit consulting entity she founded in 1994 to provide tools to nonprofits to build just, inclusive, and thriving communities and societies. Mosaica's special commitment is to strengthen and support entities that serve and represent populations whose voices are least likely to be heard when policies are made and resources allocated. Mosaica uses a multicultural team model and helps prepare individuals and nonprofits to work successfully in multicultural societies. Emily has spent her entire career in work related to civil rights and social justice, domestically and internationally.



Shayna Solomon is co-founder and co-leader of Social Action for Everyone (SAFE), a group formed after receiving a grant from FFC. SAFE's goal is to bring interfaith teens together to do social action projects, both forming strong connections among people of different faiths and giving back to the community. In addition to her interfaith work, Shayna is also a senior at Montgomery Blair High School where she attends the Communication Arts Program, a magnet program for students who excel in the humanities. She co-captains the debate team. She also is co-president of a social activism group called Students for Global Responsibility, which educates about and advocates for various international and local issues.



For complete biographies of the Kick-Off Speakers, please visit www.futureofchildren.net/11_12_kickoff.html

ABOUT THE 2011-2012 GRANT RECIPIENTS



Nike Awotunde is a first-generation American and a sophomore at Glenelg Country School. Both her parents were born and raised in Nigeria. She loves math and science and she aspires to be a pediatrician. Nike loves sports and plays field hockey on her school team. She likes to travel and explore different cultures and people. One of her interests is learning different languages like Spanish, Twi, and her native language, Yoruba. Nike also enjoys music and has played the violin for six years. One of her goals is to make an impact on the lives of others. Her essay and project are about helping a high school in Nigeria that needs laboratory equipment for the science department.

Nike's reflection - I have learned that whenever presented with the opportunity one should step out of his/her comfort zone and help as much as one possibly can. It's important to help because you don't know how great of an impact you have on another person.



Sarah Ashiqueali was born in Miami, FL. She has visited various countries within Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Through her travels, she has encountered numerous cultures and has witnessed the hardships faced by the underprivileged throughout the globe. Sarah is a resistance training fanatic and frequently exercises. She enjoys participating in a wide range of sports including basketball and varsity soccer at school. Sarah aspires to become a neurosurgeon and desires to establish an organization dedicated to early child development. With her God-given talent of writing, she has been given the magnificent opportunity to

Kikanae Punyua, originally from Kenya, graduated from Glenelg Country School and now attends the University of Maryland, College Park. Kikanae is a member of the Maasai tribe with a family of ten siblings, seven brothers and three sisters. In the Maasai community women are discriminated against and Kikanae hopes to improve the educational opportunities for women in his tribe. Kikanae's project is the Osiligi (Hope) Foundation.



Aleena Warich attends Glenelg Country School. Visiting Pakistan every year, Minahil developed a compassionate feeling toward people suffering in poverty. Aleena's project is A Better Future for the Stranger. She is working with the World Education Foundation to improve educational opportunities in Pakistan.



Schools for Sudan is an initiative started in 2010 by the students of World Cultures Latin America/Africa Class at Hudson High School in Hudson, MA.

During the 2010-11 school year, students raised over \$10,000 to support the building of a secondary school in Leer, Sudan. This year Schools For Sudan inspired students to document their lives through words and photography in an effort to capture their experiences and share them with others. World Cultures students responded to writing prompts related to 15 Words (a project initiated by Every Person Has a Story (EPHAS), a non-profit that "shares stories and connects people around the world through the power of photography" (ephas.org.)



2010-2011 Grant Recipients



Tala Ahmadi attends Glenelg Country Day School. Her project, The Uniting of Strangers through the Enjoyment of Soccer, completed in November 2011, was a “mini world cup.” Her project united strangers and decreased common prejudices amongst the teammates by promoting diversity, peace, and acceptance through a universal sport loved globally: soccer. Tala received the Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream Award from the Howard County Human Rights Commission for her work on this project.



Hannah Ball-Brau attends the Washington International School. She is a member of the Luther Place Church in DC where she often shares the food she makes. Hannah’s Essay project is Hospitality by the Homeless.



Minahil Choudry attends Glenelg Country School and has lived in both the United States and Pakistan. There she was as deeply influenced by her grandmother and her school. Minahil’s Project is Opening Doors with Open Minds.



Clara Eder completed her project, Act for Autism, in the summer of 2011. By offering a summer drama class which helped autistic and non-autistic students with their social skills, Clara fostered greater understanding of autism among non-autistic teens. Clara plans on using the remaining grant money to help launch an autism awareness campaign with her school’s special education department. She attends James Madison High School.



Lital Firestone attends Walter Johnson High School. Her project is Teens Unite for Troops.

write, through requests, for the Executive Editorial Producer of CNN, Maria Ebrahimji. Sarah firmly believes that to better oneself, one must enrich the world. Sarah’s project is Empowering Motherhood: Health to Future in Pakistan.

Sarah’s reflection - At the quintessence of the three Abrahamic faiths, lies the stronghold of motherhood. Motherhood has not only defined religion, but it has transformed civilization. To preserve the significance of this universal responsibility, society must work to teach female figures the essential components vital to cultivating the globe.

Lanre Faderin was born in Baltimore, MD and is currently a junior at Glenelg Country School. From a young age, compassion has led her to help others and make a positive difference in her community. Inspired by the humanitarian works of her church, at the age of 12 Lanre began seeking volunteer opportunities with organizations which supported causes she felt strongly about. Her first volunteer opportunity was with Athelas Institute, Inc. in Maryland, a non-profit organization that inspires and enriches the lives of adults with intellectual disabilities. At the time she was too young to serve as a full term and independent volunteer within the organization, so instead Lanre aided the Athelas Institute in another way: she served as an assistant to the event coordinator. From Athelas Institute, Lanre moved on to volunteer with other organizations such as the St. Barnard Project, the American Red Cross, Grass Roots and Restoration Center. With many more projects to come, the future looks bright for Lanre as she will continue to share her service with, and beyond her community.



Lanre's project is a Fruit and Vegetable Stand at Food Bank Gardens in Howard County.

Lanre's reflection - Writing about the importance of women in the three Abrahamic faiths and how they emphasized compassion in the foundation of each of the religions was a learning experience for me. Once I began my research, I was astonished by how much impact Yocheved, Mary, and Khadija each had on their religions.



Ogechi Nwodim is a 16-year-old junior at Glenelg Country School. The moment she transferred to Glenelg, she knew that she had to take each opportunity laid out before her. She joined the volleyball and basketball teams, began to perform in numerous musical performances, was inducted in the National Honor Society and has been a leader of the BAC club. She plays the piano at her church and also volunteers at the children's Sunday School. Through all these various activities, she learns to become a better world citizen. These influences encourage her to share her ideas and opinions with the world. Ogechi's project is Volleying the Turmoil of Females.

Ogechi's reflection - The idea that women are treated as substandard citizens around the world became very real to me. It became apparent that society sees what it wants to see. If reality is harsh, then it is often ignored or at least not given any spotlight. This research helped me to question the basic ideas about the world that society accepts as true.

Rachel Solomon is a junior in the International Baccalaureate program at Rockville High School. She is Jewish and is involved in many programs at her synagogue, including teaching children how to chant from the Torah. Rachel is co-leader of the interfaith social-action teen group (SAFE) founded by her sister, Shayna, funded by a grant from FFC in 2009. Rachel is captain of the girls' Cross Country team and runs year-round. She enjoys reading, singing, and making jewelry. She is proficient in Spanish and will be traveling to El Salvador this summer to help empower poor villagers to improve their communities. She is also fluent in American Sign Language and works as an interpreter for Montgomery County Recreation summer camps. Rachel's project is The Female Potential.



Rachel's reflection - Women are valued for their compassion, but it is impossible to be compassionate without the means to do so. It is my obligation to relieve the suffering of those with potential for good, so no one has to save the world alone.