

*Can  
Compassion  
heal the  
Problems  
of the World?*





America is really good at  
Selling Things

We are capable of giving the world  
so much...

# *Compassion*

could be our

greatest export

History shows that **small steps** can  
lead to **meaningful results**.



With a \$1000 micro-grant from the Fund for the Future of Children, high school senior **Jonathon Kesten** has helped to organize two benefit concerts which have raised nearly \$5000, enough to support over **80 young women in Mali, Africa to attend school for one year**.

Jonathon Kesten, currently attending Georgetown University, a 2007-2008 Micro-grant award recipient, Montgomery Blair High School, MD.



Diana Jeang created a high school-based carbon offset program ([greentradingnow.com](http://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 Jeang, currently a senior at Montgomery Blair High School, MD, a 2008-2009 Micro-grant award recipient.



Andrew Franklin will use 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 will serve as an urban agricultural center and as an educational center for the immediate community.

Andrew Franklin, currently a junior attending Glenelg Country School, MD, a 2008-2009 Micro-grant award recipient.



With her \$1000 micro-grant FFC, high school junior **Priya Agarwal-Harding** started a girls' empowerment project in India to help **fight child trafficking**. She raised a total of \$8,500 over two years, and continues to work with the projects' parent organization, PRAYAS.

Priya Agarwal-Harding, currently studying at Wellesley, a 2006-2007 Micro-grant award recipient, Glenelg Country School, MD.



**Melissa Mergner** produced “Forgotten War, Unforgettable Aftermath: The Legacy of Conflict and Compromise in the Korean War”, a **film** about her Korean grandfather and the issue of **reunification in Korea**. She also worked with Priya Agarwal-Harding to produce “Rebuilding Broken Lives – My Story with PRAYAS”, a **film about child trafficking in India** and the work that Priya has been able to do.

Melissa Mergner, currently attending NYU, 2006-2007 Micro-grant award recipient, Montgomery Blair High School, MD.



Devika Jaipurkar created a comic book called “Earth Girl!” that teaches children the basics of environmental awareness. She has 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**. Now the students in India want to start their own environmental program!

Devika Jaipurkar, currently a senior attending Glenelg Country School, MD, planning to attend the University of Oregon next year, and a 2007-2008 Micro-grant award recipient.



Laila Handoo used her grant to work with the Human Effort for Love and Peace (H.E.L.P.) Foundation to identify and give aide to children and mothers suffering from mental illness, which has increased dramatically due to conflict in the region. Through her work, broken families are being reunited and children are finding healing and hope.

Laila Handoo, currently a senior attending Glenelg Country School, MD, planning to attend Brown next year, and a 2008-2009 Micro-grant award recipient.

Danny Roza, winner of a 2009-2010 micro-grant, will bring together groups of Palestinian and Israeli youth to plan and share a meal, as part of his “breaking bread together” project. “This act of *zakat*, this act of *tzedakah*, will in some way, repair the world.”



Danny Roza is a senior at Mercersburg Academy, in Mercersburg, PA.



Rishab Khatri



Victor Crentsil

Both **Rishab Khatri** and **Victor Crentsil**, were awarded micro-grants that will enable them to realize their compassionate vision for orphans in Haiti.

Crentsil's ***Help to Orphans (H<sub>2</sub>O)*** project will use micro-grant funding to construct a water system at a Haitian orphanage. Khatri will work with **the Build Haiti Foundation** to construct a health clinic.

Rishab Khatri and Victor Crentsil are both seniors at Glenelg Country School.

Fahad Ahsan plans to assist individuals with birth deformities by providing them with direct medical care. Working through Ecuadent, a Maryland-based organization, his micro-grant will be used to raise funds for operations for people in Ecuador suffering from either cleft pallet or cleft lip.



Fahad Ahsan is a senior at Glenelg Country School.

Ezra Wexler and Sarah Schwartz, seniors at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, Maryland, and Shayna Solomon, a junior there, have teamed up to bring Muslim, Christian, and Jewish teens together. They will use their micro-grant to enable their fellow students to participate collectively in practical projects such as making sandwiches to donate to a food bank. “Such projects teach compassion towards less fortunate people, and also aid those in need in the short term by providing them with food and other necessities.”



Veronica Ferris plans to use her micro-grant to involve teens in the issue of homelessness. They will begin by **cooking food** for those in a homeless shelter, making the meal elegant, and by **listening to their stories**. This experience will give teens a better idea of how to serve the homeless, how to educate others regarding their plight, and how to strive to end homelessness. Working with St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the project will develop into a cooperative network to alleviate the causes and consequences of homelessness.



Veronica Ferris is a senior at Washington International School.

These are but a few examples of  
how young people can lead.

We can start a **compassion surge** with **youth** as the energy behind the movement...



The young can mobilize a larger community – reaching out to parents, teachers, and friends.

People welcome the opportunity to support youth, especially when they see they want to serve a good cause.

Young people have not yet  
developed a  
“self-interest” perspective  
on the world.

Investing in this group  
goes a long way.

facebook



twitter



Young people today have access to **resources undreamed of** by their parents.

Cell phones, texting and an array of internet communication tools make it possible for them to be in **constant contact** with their **peers around the world**.

What if our youth applied their time, talent and technology to work for a bigger cause?

**What if** young people decided to expand the work of compassion to more countries?

To more high schools and elementary schools?

To individuals, communities and governments?

**How many lives could be touched?**

What could the world look like if we support  
**youth** in the work of **compassion**?

~~Corruption?~~

~~Violence?~~

~~Climate  
change?~~

~~Economic  
turmoil?~~

~~Depletion of  
natural  
resources?~~

~~Loss of ethnic  
and social  
identities?~~





Tapping into the  
**Power of Youth**

may be what the Universe is  
asking of us.

This power, founded upon  
**love and compassion,**  
can move mountains!



Selfless compassion is the most effective means of  
**cleansing society**  
of intolerance, violence,  
and hatred.

Fahad Ahsan, Grade 11, Glenelg Country School, Ellicott City, MD  
2009-2010 essay contestant

The hardest forms of compassion  
arise when we dive into  
**the unknown**  
and choose to care  
when others simply don't.



Constanza Bartholomae, Grade 12, Hudson High School, Hudson, MA  
2009-2010 essay contestant



Compassion is what leads to  
**change** in people's lives,  
and is what ends their  
**suffering.**

Claire Boston, Grade 10, Montgomery Blair High School,  
Silver Spring, MD  
2009-2010 essay contestant

Compassion is the act of kindness,  
**caring for someone,**  
and demonstrating love.



Michelle Cook, Grade 11, Hudson High School, Hudson, MA  
2009-2010 essay contestant



The ultimate aim  
of compassion in religion  
is the **positive**  
**transformation**  
of one's life.

Victor Crentsil, Grade 10, Glenelg Country School, Ellicott City, MD  
2009-2010 essay contestant

It's all too easy in current times  
...to avoid the **hands-on**  
aspect of compassion that truly  
makes compassion what it is.



Veronica Ferris, Grade 11, Washington International School,  
Washington, DC  
2009-2010 essay contestant



The act of forgiveness depicts **compassion** through the **understanding** and **sympathy** it takes to do so.

Allen Jo, Grade 11, West Springfield High School,  
Springfield, VA  
2009-2010 essay contestant

**Compassion**  
is the key which will  
**harmonize society**  
so peace immortalizes.



Rishabh Khatri, Grade 10, Glenelg Country School, Ellicott City, MD  
2009-2010 essay contestant



**Compassion** is not merely intellectual, but rather a **selfless emotion** that responds **without judgment** to a person's need.

Rebekah Lizotte, Grade 11, Hudson High School, Hudson, MA  
2009-2010 essay contestant

God's children are rich, poor,  
devout, and occasional attenders of  
services, but their bond as  
**brothers and sisters**  
should allow them to respect  
and care for each other.



Maria Motta, Grade 11, Hudson High School, Hudson, MA  
2009-2010 essay contestant

Compassion drives us  
to unite as one  
to master our divine purpose – the  
**betterment of humanity.**



Adarsh Pradeep, Grade 11, West Springfield High School,  
Springfield, VA  
2009-2010 essay contestant



Compassion is like an  
**illuminating** light,  
and everyone who witnesses it  
**feeds from**  
its bright glory.

Muaz Rahman, Grade 11, West Springfield High School,  
Springfield, VA  
2009-2010 essay contestant

Like our feelings of joy and sorrow,  
compassion is something that  
**everyone**  
can experience, but  
few can put into words.



Anthony Rousak, Grade 12, Sussex Technical High School,  
Georgetown, DE  
2009-2010 essay contestant



Compassion is  
**paramount** for peace.  
Without compassion, the world  
would be **consumed**  
by its problems

Daniel Roza, Grade 11, Mercersburg Academy,  
Mercersburg, PA  
2009-2010 essay contestant



The texts of the

## **Abrahamic faiths**

– no matter what language,  
no matter what origin –  
all share the same message:

**practice compassion.**

Sarah Schwartz, Grade 11, Montgomery Blair High School,  
Silver Spring, MD  
2009-2010 essay contestant



Everyone is someone  
else's 'I'.

Shayna Solomon, Grade 10, Montgomery Blair High School,  
Silver Spring, MD  
2009-2010 essay contestant

Even if **force**  
can help achieve goals,  
the **gentle path**  
is always the correct one to take.



Ezra Wexler, Grade 11, Montgomery Blair High School,  
Silver Spring, MD  
2009-2010 essay contestant



Compassion  
is the  
Radicalism  
of our time.

The Dalai Lama