

*Think BIG. Think GLOBAL.*

# Global Leader Today

SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

## Natalie Hampton

### Nobody Eats Alone

#### Also Inside:

Two Sisters  
Help Impoverished  
Artists

Fighting Agricultural  
Drought

Clean Hands  
Save Lives

Tyler Perry  
The Power of  
Forgiveness

*Empower Yourself*

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**STAR**  
THE LAST JEDI  
**WARS**  
DECEMBER

# Global Leader Today

Volume 1, Issue 4

Spring/Summer Issue

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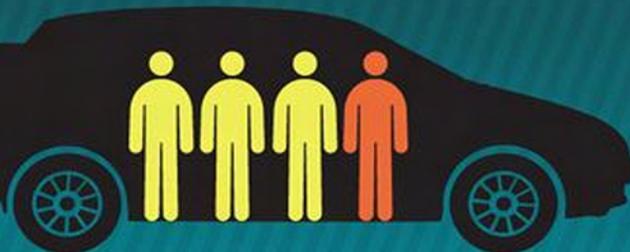
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# Teen Drivers Risk Death with Young Passengers

A 16- or 17-year-old driver's **RISK OF BEING KILLED IN A CRASH** increases when there are young passengers in the vehicle.

**QUADRUPLES** when carrying 3 or more passengers younger than 21



**DOUBLES** when carrying 2 passengers younger than 21



**INCREASES** by 44% when carrying 1 passenger younger than 21



**DECREASES** by 62% when an adult age 35+ is in the vehicle



Passengers under 21



Teen Drivers (ages 16 or 17)



Adult 35+



[TeenDriving.AAA.com](http://TeenDriving.AAA.com)

# Letter from the Publisher



Dear Readers,

As we get older, time seems to go by even more quickly. It is hard to believe that this year will be over soon. That said, it is important not to get so distracted by social media, or other forms of electronic entertainment that you forget what's really important. Consider that for a moment. Why are you here? Not reading this issue, but in life, who are you? What are you meant to be? The truth is, if we had asked that to a young Abraham Lincoln or Leonardo da Vinci, I doubt they would have really known what they would eventually accomplish. Einstein, as a boy, didn't know he would change the world. Nor did Gandhi. Nor did Florence Nightingale. What each of them shared in common is that they used their early lives to prepare for the future. When opportunity presented itself, they stepped through the door and seized it. In that moment we discovered their greatness and they each became global leaders.

When we launched this magazine, it was our intent to find amazing young people around the world who are doing things that matter and bring you their stories in the hope that you, the reader, would find inspiration from them and perhaps do amazing things yourself. Everyone has different skills, different natural abilities, and different environments. Most young people who go away to university don't make their mark in life at school. It is usually after that when they excel at something. For those who skip school, or leave school early, those who make a difference usually go down a path driven by passion. If you want to really do something that matters, if you want to become a global leader, you need to find out what it is that you are passionate about. For each of you, that will be different. The key is to use what you have and to spend some time thinking about how you can make a difference where you are.

If we can help to inspire you in some way to do that, then we have succeeded in our mission.

Regards,  
Dr. Harry Hwang  
Global Education Vision  
California, United States



UN  
VOLUNTEERS

# VOLUNTEERING FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



*Volunteering fosters creativity, draws strength from our passions and connects us to those who need us most. Volunteerism is a global phenomenon that transcends boundaries, religions and cultural divides. Volunteers embody the fundamental values of commitment, inclusiveness, civic engagement and a sense of solidarity [...] The newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals offer another opportunity for individuals to show solidarity through volunteerism. All of us can contribute to realizing the 2030 Agenda's vision of ending poverty.*

*UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message on International Volunteer Day, December 2015*

Find out how you can volunteer at: [www.onlinevolunteering.org](http://www.onlinevolunteering.org)

*To The Parents...*

# Getting In To The Ivy League

For the Class of 2012, the eight Ivy League schools had over 280,000 students who applied for admission. Those eight schools: Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton and Yale, make up the best of the best for many parents when it comes to choosing where you will send your children. The fact is, though, that of those who applied, less than 10% made it. For Harvard, only 5% of the applicants were admitted. For four years before that, each of applicants had done what they thought they needed to do to prepare, but obviously that preparation wasn't enough. What was it that really mattered? What set the new Freshmen apart from those rejected?

## **GRADES**

For those wanting to enter the Ivy League, two of the most important factors are your grades in high school and your entrance exam test scores. Applicants are competing with the best. Admissions Counselors in the Ivy League schools start by looking at the numbers. Who stands above everyone else? Grades and test scores are a simple indica-

tor, not just of past success, but of future potential. The key to getting in is to put in the extra work during high school and then make sure you get the highest test scores possible. The reality is, though, that top grades and test scores aren't enough. Most of the applicants with top scores still get rejected. What else is there, then?

## **PASSION**

Besides academic merit, admissions people also look to see what will the student bring to school with them? How did they show that they were special before applying? According to Logan Powell, the dean of admissions at Brown University, "Have they learned time management skills, leadership, teamwork, discipline? How have they grown as a person and what qualities will they bring to our campus?" Kat Cohen, the founder of admissions consulting firm IvyWise tells students that the Ivies are looking to "admit specialists who focus on a few core interests for all four years of their high school careers." So she tells students to focus on what they love instead of joining a bunch of random clubs that they



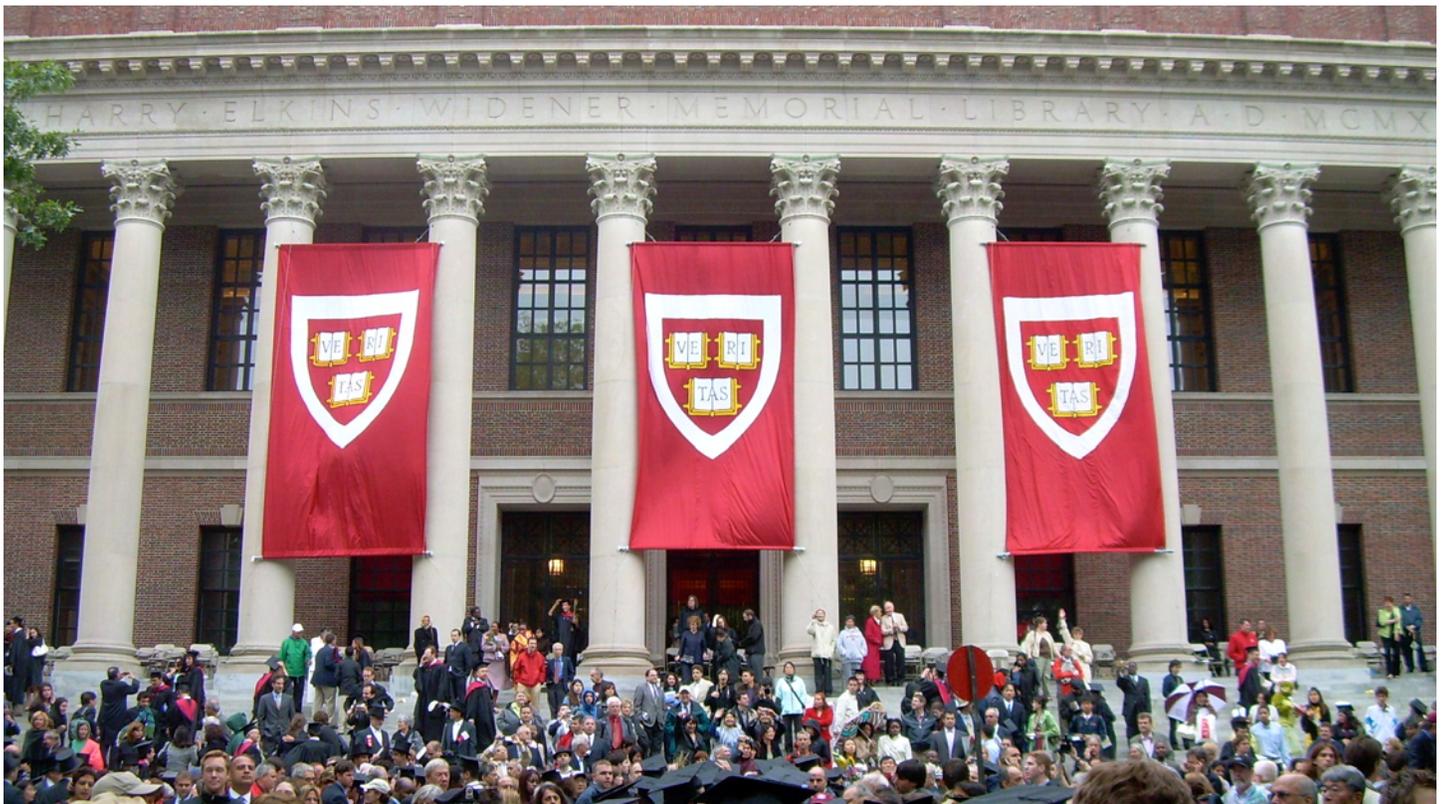
*Harvard University*



*Columbia University*



*Stanford University*



don't care about because admissions readers see right through that. "Being genuine is what will make them stand out," she says.

### **BE GOOD FOR GOODNESS SAKE**

Another factor that seems to matter to the Ivy League schools is what kind of a person you are. Cohen said that over the last 10 years or so, more and more universities want the students they admit to be good people who give back. In that regard, letters of recommendation can be a big factor, if they show that you have in some way helped your community. The thing is: don't do nice things just to get into an Ivy League school, though — you should do them because you feel that it's the right thing to do, even if no one else is watching. The key factor in all of this is to be genuine.

### **APPLY EARLY DECISION / EARLY ACTION**

For many applicants, they stand a better chance if they apply early, but you must be ready to enroll if accepted. Also, you can only select one school this way, so choose carefully.

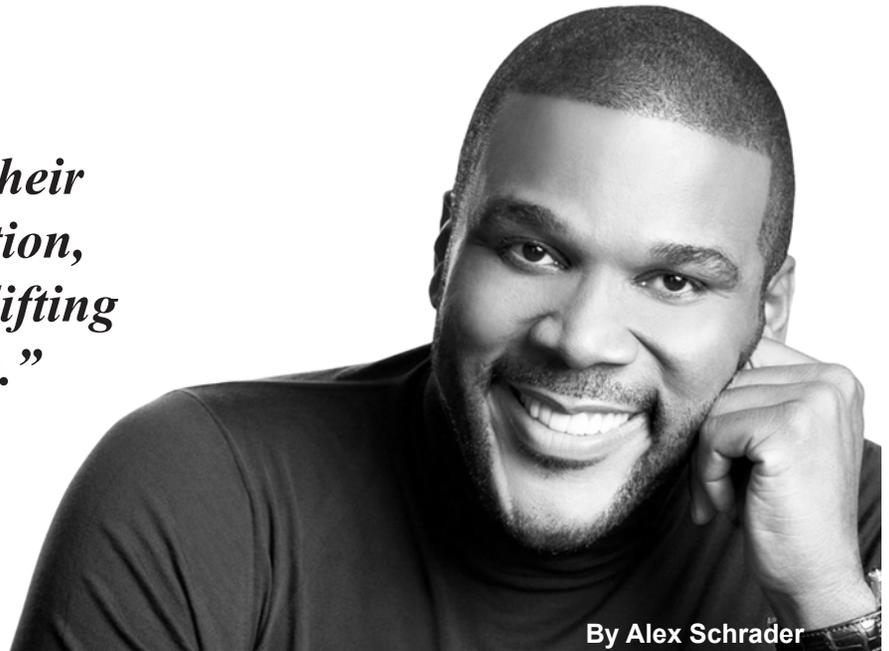
### **ESSAY MATTERS**

Powell advises students to write about something not found anywhere else in the application. It's a chance to show what you're interested in, what your passions are and what's important to you. "Be yourself," Powell advises, but keep it simple, too. "In many cases, the best essays are the simplest."

### **PREP SCHOOL**

Many of the successful applicants attended prep school before applying. With this in mind, our parent, Global Education Vision, has launched its first prep school in southeast Asia. The goal is not only to ensure a larger percentage of the graduates get into an Ivy League school, but to better prepare them for entrance in any of the top fifty universities in the world. Regardless of where your children attend prep school, if you want them to attend the best universities, a prep school will help them stand above many of the other applicants, and ultimately standing out is better for any future you and your children should choose.

*“So many people use their films for self-gratification, but for me it’s about uplifting and inspiring people.”*



By Alex Schrader

## Tyler Perry... And The Power Of Forgiveness

Eugene Emmitt Perry Jr. or “Tyler Perry” as he is known to the world, is one of the most acclaimed stage and theatrical showmen of the 21st Century. He is a showman in the classical sense in that he creates, occasionally finances, stages, films, and or distributes his own content – acting much like a studio. A vast majority of his success is owed to the Medea character, a tough elderly black woman who has served as the lead in a franchise that has spawned nine feature films, starting with 2007’s “Diary of a Mad Black Woman.”

It’s difficult to believe that such creative passion was forged in the crucible of violent physical abuse suffered at the hands of his father, but it was...

Tyler once said that his father’s answer to everything was to “beat it out of you.” Things went far enough for Tyler to contemplate suicide as a teenager. By 1990 he had moved out of the shadow of his parents and to Atlanta, where he spent the next two years developing, writing and staging the musical “I know I’ve been changed.” Though initially a flop that cost Tyler most of his life savings (\$12,000 USD), it didn’t discourage

him in the least. He astutely believed that he was onto something special and continuously re-wrote the material.

The play included Christian themes of forgiveness, dignity, self-worth and abuse – a subject he knew all too well. After subsequent re-writes, the play earned a devoted following on the “Chitlin Circuit” – a network of clubs and theatres in the South where African-Americans perform to mostly African-American audiences. By 2005, the success of that play and others earned Tyler a windfall that enabled him to finance “Diary of a Mad Black Woman” for \$5 million USD and the rest is history. Now worth over \$600 million USD, Tyler is an empire all to himself.

Tyler had long-ago forgiven his father, in the mid-90’s, a moment that he said contributed greatly to success, and now, finally, he re-pays the man who abused him so violently by paying his rent, car, food, and anything else he needs. Besides forgiveness, he does it out of respect. “My father was not a great father, but he was a great provider to me and my mother, and he had a great work ethic, and those lessons stuck with me.”

Refugees would like to have the same problems you have.  
Enter now. [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)



## Spotlight



Courtesy of NBC4 News

# Still Dreaming

Five years ago, nine-year-old Caine Monroy became a viral sensation online after building a cardboard arcade in the corner of his father's auto parts shop in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles. After local news and a documentary filmmaker covered his story, hundreds of people stopped by to show their support. The resulting non-profit, Imagination Foundation, now has chapters in over 130 schools with weekly entrepreneur and creativity sessions. They are also in the process of launching a pilot program to bring Chapters to children in refugee camps. For more information about Caine Monroy and his inspiring success story, visit [www.imagination.org](http://www.imagination.org).

## New Ideas

### University Developed A New 3D-Printing Method

Students studying Biology should know about the recent article in *Scientific Reports* wherein scientists at the University of Oxford have developed a new 3D-printing method for laboratory-grown cells that can form complex living tissues and cartilage to potentially support, repair, or augment diseased and damaged areas of the body.

Printing high-resolution living tissues is currently difficult because the cells often move within printed structures and can collapse on themselves. This new method improves the survival rate of the individual cells and allows for building each tissue one drop at a time to mimic the behaviors and functions of the human body. The patterned cellular constructs, once fully grown, can mimic or potentially enhance natural tissues.

"We were aiming to fabricate three-dimensional living tissues that could display the basic behaviors and physiology found in natural organisms," explained Alexander Graham, PhD, lead author and 3D Bioprinting Scientist at OxSyBio (Oxford Synthetic Biology).

The researchers hope that with further development, the materials could have a wide impact on healthcare worldwide and bypass clinical animal testing.



Courtesy of Sam Olof / Alexander Graham / University of Oxford

# The Traveler



## SEIZE THE DAY

“Carpe diem” or seize the day is one of the oldest and most popular mottos in western history. First uttered by Horace in his play “Odes” over two millennia ago, it has been used in hit films such as “Dead Poets Society” and “Collateral”, and by musical artists as diverse as “Green Day” and “Metallica.”

But let’s be frank...

It’s popularity is due mostly to the fact that life waits for no one. That’s the truth. So enjoy the moment, every moment. Dissenters may say that in our current society with our iPads and iPhones – that we constantly seem to be checking – that the potential for us to transform our lives is rapidly slipping away...

Hogwash!

That application to your dream College isn’t going to fill itself out, that business plan you’ve been thinking of isn’t going to write itself, neither is that



AP PHOTO

**Alex Schrader**

novel, your brilliant app sure needs a coder and last but not least... though Bitcoins and Ethereum are only getting more expensive, there’s always Litecoin... and the Internet of Things. You see?

Let’s switch gears and look at it another way... what do you have to lose by going on that “once-in-a-lifetime” trip to Angkor Wat...?

Money? If you can afford to go, go.

Friends? If they’re not

going to follow, maybe they were never friends to begin with.

The choice is yours... the clock is ticking...

As a final note, don’t let “tomorrow” become your enemy. Tomorrow is a wonderful word full of hope. Hope for a better future, hope for a better you, hope for a better world. Try your best not to use it as an excuse. Putting things off ‘til tomorrow can become habit forming... and only the disciplined can overcome it. Now that you are ready to take that first step, I leave you all with a quote... or perhaps a warning, from former World Heavyweight Champion Mike Tyson, “Everybody has a plan ‘til they get smacked in the mouth.” Stay vigilant.

**Find Us Online!**



**GlobalEducationVision**  
**@GibIEducationVsn**



# Renaissance Now

By Lindsay Shaffer

**R**itwika and Radhika Mitra of Fremont, California are passionate about empowering young artists. With remarkable determination and drive, Ritwika and Radhika provide artists all over the world with the tools, training, and resources they need to create thriving businesses. While still in high school, the two sisters started a nonprofit organization called Renaissance Now that raised over \$150,000 to help struggling artists in India. Today, Renaissance Now continues to expand and now reaches artists in Romania, Bangladesh, and Vietnam.

On a trip to India, sisters Ritwika (14) and Radhika (16) Mitra witnessed an injustice that would propel them into action. Now age 23, Radhika explains how “when we were driving in a taxi this little boy came to peddle a handmade art necklace thing. We didn’t even know quite what it was. But before we even got a chance to respond to it, this auto-rickshaw came and literally trampled him, just ran him over. And nobody did anything, they just shouted some curse words. They were just upset that the boy was there. And we could not believe what had just happened. My sister and I both witnessed it.”

Radhika recalls the helplessness they felt as the taxi they were in sped away from the scene. “I felt extremely angry and upset about it,” she explains. “First of all I couldn’t do anything about it. We were in the car and the car drove off.” Yet, she admits that she wasn’t sure what they could have even done to help, even if the car had stopped. Radhika and Ritwika realized that the problem ran much deeper than the one incident they witnessed with the boy and the rickshaw driver. They knew they wanted to do something to help artists living in poverty, but they also knew that they needed to understand

the bigger picture before taking action.

Once they arrived back home in the United States, Radhika and Ritwika reached out to one of their mentors, Nancy Lublin, who was the



*Courtesy FamilyCircle*

Radhika and Ritwika organized a fundraising dinner and art auction in Fremont that drew 150 people and raised \$11,000. “We don’t want to throw money at the problem,” Radhika says. “Our goal is to help people become more financially independent so they don’t have to put themselves in harm’s way for the sake of making money.”

CEO of an organization called DoSomething.org. Radhika had become involved with DoSomething.org as part of their youth advisory board and Ritwika volunteered for them as a blog writer. According to Radhika, “DoSomething.org is a group of amazingly talented, young,

motivated people. They would show you how to start a 501c3 nonprofit, how to start a club at school, and how to get involved in community service.” Through talking with Lublin, they were able to clarify their ideas and set up goals for what they wanted to accomplish.

After a second trip to India, which gave the sisters a deeper understanding of the problem, Radhika and Ritwika launched a nonprofit that they named Renaissance Now. From the beginning, they decided against simply donating money to the artists. They disliked the idea of the artists feeling dependent on Renaissance Now for their livelihood. “We don’t give money directly,” Radhika explains. “We donate tools and machinery to help artisans. We give them proper, hands on training on how to get started building a financially stable business. And we ultimately give them the marketing tools to market the products to their community. That’s where

Renaissance Now started.”

Although Ritwika was only 14 years old at the time, she was instrumental in coming up with creative fundraising efforts. To kick-off the fundraising for Renaissance Now, Ritwika recorded her own CD and sold copies to raise awareness for



their cause. She also started her own YouTube channel where she shared high quality tutorials for aspiring photographers and filmmakers. The unique tutorials, which showed filmmakers and photographers how to make homemade versions of expensive equipment, gathered a large following on YouTube. At the end of each video, Ritwika would request a \$1 donation for Renaissance Now.

Starting a nonprofit while still in high school wasn't an easy process for Radhika and Ritwika. Yet, both of them shared how the experience changed their life for the better. When asked to share her thoughts on encouraging other young change-makers, Ritwika emphasized "don't let the fact that no one else is doing it stop you, or make it seem impossible. Maybe none of your friends in your immediate vicinity are doing it, but there are definitely people in the world who are as passionate as you are about this topic. If you think you are incapable of doing it, reach out to other organizations. If ever you feel like you can't, know that you can and find resources that will help you."

You can learn more about Radhika and Ritwika's story and their nonprofit Renaissance Now by checking out the website: [www.rennow.org](http://www.rennow.org).





*“No more thirsty crops, I wanted to minimize the effect that drought has on the community and the main thing it affects is the crops.”*

## **16-Year-Old Science Prodigy Creates Organic Polymer to Fight Agricultural Drought**

By A. A. Francis

**T**he southern African drought conditions of the past few years have been considered the absolute worst since the concept of weather record keeping was introduced well over a century ago. Vast areas of the southern African continent were virtually bereft of rainfall relative to other time periods. Some weather forecasters and experts theorized that the advent of global warming was to blame for the aggressive drought. Other weather experts are more likely to blame El Niño. No one really knows for sure.

The aggressively minimalist rainfall amounts of the 2014 – 2015 and 2015 – 2016 rain seasons caused the deaths of innumerable and irreplaceable livestock, destroyed vast swaths of crops and cropland as well created mas-

sive blackouts in several African countries. It was the most brutally abbreviated rainy season ever experienced in over 30 years in the region. 80 percent less precipitation than average fell on the south African continent during this time.

Mozambique lost almost half of its crops. There was crippling energy blackout in hydroelectric-dependent Zambia.

South Africa was hit very hard as well by the drought. The country experienced the lowest amount of precipitation in over 112 years. Out of the nine

It is a crisis of a magnitude unheard of and unexperienced by people in the modern era. It is also a crisis that has inspired a South African 11th grade student to brainstorm ideas and solutions to solve it. The 16-year-old has so far grabbed the science world's attention with

won the \$50,000 Google Science Fair's Community Impact Award for the Middle East and Africa scholarship prize. Kiara will also work with a Google-related scientist on a scientific mentorship basis to further fine-tune her proposal and explore its viability in the real world and on the open market. "I wanted to minimize the effect that drought has on the community and the main thing it affects is the crops," is Kiara's reply explaining how she came up with the idea for her proposal.

The premise of Kiara's scientific proposal involves using the rinds and peels of vegetables and fruits to create a hyper-absorbing polymer substance that can absorb hundreds of times its own volume and weight in water. Kiara's intent is to create a substance that can act as natural reservoirs that will keep crops hydrated in periods of drought. After 45 days of intense trial and error, Kiara developed a system whereupon she mixed sun-dried avocado and orange rinds in a formula she developed herself.

The end result is a reservoir-like substance that farmers and the agriculture industry can use to store in soil as a protective dam against drought. The experimental organic polymer should in theory be able to absorb and store over 300 times its own weight in water. Kiara's hyper-absorbent polymer substance will also be infinitely more affordable to use since its main ingredients, produce rinds and peels which are generally thrown away, can be sourced from the waste stockpiles of agricultural concerns. When Ki-



official South African provinces, five had to declare themselves as disasters area zones. South Africa will have to begin importing corn. This is a startling and amazing fact to take in when you consider that one of South Africa's main export crops is corn. Farmers in the South African agricultural sector are estimated to be hit with over \$600 million dollars in crop losses.

her ideas and secured herself a \$50,000 scholarship to develop her ideas. Meet Kiara Nirghin, a 16-year-old Johannesburg, South African schoolgirl and prospective scientist. Kiara endeavors to one day solve the massive problems of severe drought conditions and food insecurity in her country.

Her scientific proposal entitled, "No More Thirsty Crops,"



ara's hyper absorbent polymer substance is perfected, it could have the potential to insure the agricultural industry up to 73 percent in food security concerns during natural disasters.

Agricultural unions in the southern continent of Africa have in recent years made formal requests to their respective government for over \$1 billion dollars in agriculture-based loans, grants and subsidies to grapple with drought-induced issues. Hyper absorbent polymer mixes that are sold in the agriculture-related commercial marketplace can cost up to thousands of dollars per metric ton. Kiara's hyper absorbent polymer formula would mainly require the use of agriculture industry waste products, leftover produce rinds and peels that are usually thrown away, which would cost anywhere from \$30 to \$60 per metric ton.

Kiara's polymer formula is designed to keep soil and crops thoroughly hydrated throughout periods of natural crises, like drought, without a need for regular intervals of irrigation or watering. After Kiara has finished her mentoring period she will then proceed to a finalist program with 16 other finalists, aged 13 to 18, in the Google Science program.

Kiara is currently considering whether to pursue future studies in the fields of engineering or health sciences after she graduates from high school in Johannesburg. It is obvious that, whatever field of study that she chooses, the world will be all the more better for it.



## ON THE MAP



Courtesy Getty Images

### 1. A Hurricane Named Harvey

In late August, an estimated 27 trillion gallons of water rained down on Texas and Louisiana in the United States after Hurricane Harvey made landfall, making it the most damaging natural disaster in United States history. And while billion-dollar hurricanes haven't been growing more frequent, Harvey and other super damaging weather and climate disasters are part of a continuing, costly trend. Many scientists are torn in analyzing the data, knowing that weighing in on the side of climate change as being an attributing factor is potentially risky ground for future funding. In countries like the Philippines that are hit with weather-related disasters nearly every year, the challenge remains in predicting when and where. For many parts of the world, the reality isn't if they'll be hit in the future, but when?



Courtesy Nicolas Carvalho Ochoa / Getty Images

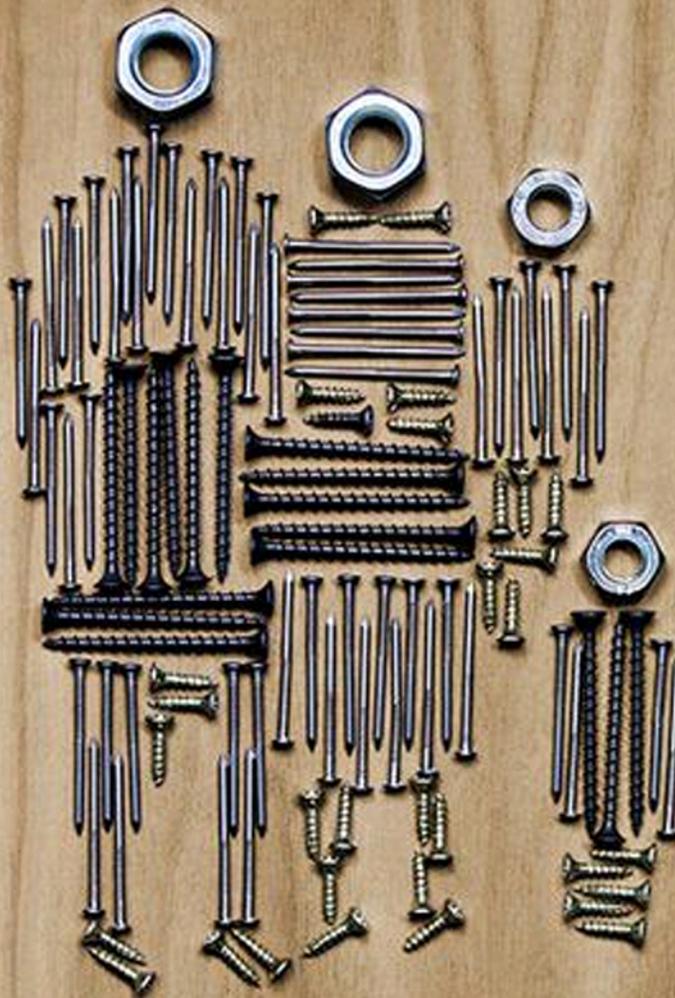
### 2. Learning from Past Mistakes

On August 18 in Barcelona, a van veered from the street into Barcelona's famed Las Ramblas strip. Thirteen people were killed and about 100 others were injured. Those responsible claimed to be supporting the Islamic State. Students around the world see attacks on civilians, almost on a daily basis. Our challenge, going forward, is to not only find ways to design safe urban spaces so as not to take away from the historic setting, but to educate young people who will be dealing with cleaning up after such occurrences. Certainly there will always be a need for certain professions, but in pursuing education, let's not forget those who deal with crisis. There is, and will be, no shortage of crisis. Preparing for crisis is one way that we can learn from our mistakes.



### 3. Becoming Global Leaders

In the fall of 2016, our parent organization, Global Education Vision, a non-profit that was launched in southern California, opened a new prep school in the capital city of Cambodia. While there are many international schools in Phnom Penh, American Global Prep School [AGPS] was founded with the mission of preparing students to go to the top 25 universities in the United States. In addition, AGPS aspires to inspire students to become leaders in their chosen fields of study, positioning themselves after graduation from college to be global leaders. For more information about AGPS, visit: [www.ags.school](http://www.ags.school).



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**GIVE YOUR TIME TO  
BUILD THEIR FUTURE.**

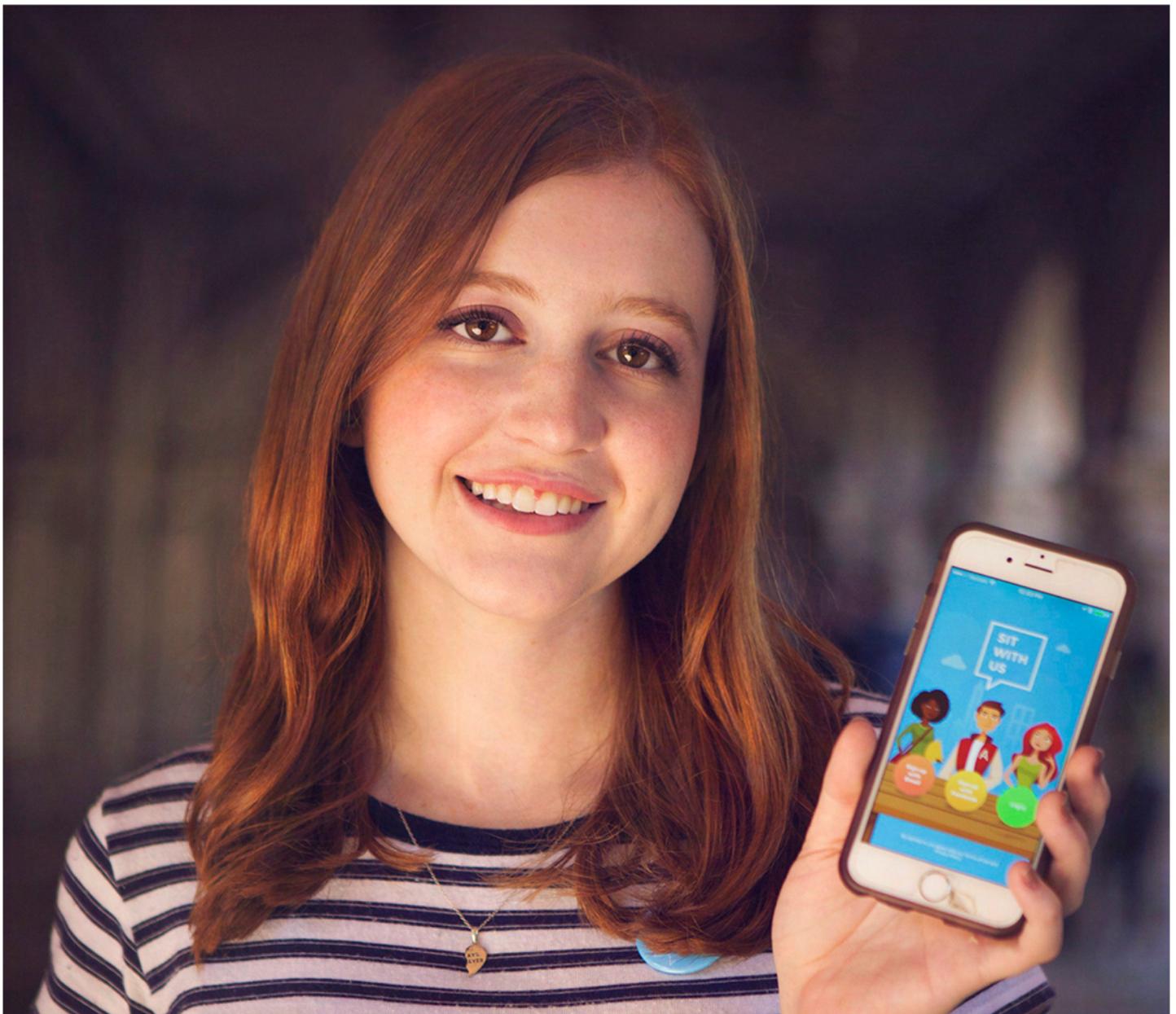
VOLUNTEER YOUR  
TIME FOR THOSE IN NEED.

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[WWW.HABITAT.ORG](http://WWW.HABITAT.ORG)





# Nobody Eats Alone

By Randy Gold

**A**t just sixteen-years-old, Natalie Hampton is the Founder/CEO of her own 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is a recognized TEDxTeen in 2017. The application “Sit With Us” that she created, “was inspired by a miserable experience of being bullied in middle school. Apart from the verbal taunts and violence, one of the worst things was having to eat lunch alone, and the embarrassment of having others see me eating lunch alone.”

**GLT:** *On behalf of Global Leader Today magazine, thank you, Natalie Hampton, for spending some time with us here today.*

NATALIE: Yeah, of course.

**GLT:** *Can you tell our readers about your*

*application “Sit With Us” and what led to its development?*

NATALIE: I created “Sit With Us” because in seventh and eighth grade I went through a pretty horrible bullying experience. I was at my



old school and I was being physically attacked and verbally abused and cyber bullied. All-the-while I was eating lunch alone, and I really felt so isolated from everyone around me. Once I was able to switch schools I wanted to make sure that no kid ever felt the way that I did. That's why I started working on the app, and then ten of months later we finally had a workable version and we released it. It's called "Sit with Us." It's a free lunch-planning app. The way it works is that it helps bullied kids, or pretty much any kid find allies in their school to sit with at lunch.

**GLT: You've been all over the media, Natalie, but with all the other people out there developing applications, why do you think the media has paid so much attention to your story?**

NATALIE: I'm not exactly sure, but I think that right now people are really looking for some good news, and this app is good news. I mean, it is helping kids out there make friends. That was my biggest hope when

I was creating this is that people would really care about this story, because bullying is such a huge and wide-spread problem with such an easy fix. I know that if I had at least one person to talk to at school, it would have saved me from so much suffering. It only really takes one person in each school to start making a difference, and it's really easy to just log onto the app and start helping kids. That's why I think a lot of people have

been paying attention to it.

**GLT: How daunting was it going down the road to developing your app? I mean, developing an app isn't something that comes naturally to people.**

NATALIE: When I first presented the idea to my parents, they probably thought I was a crazy person, because I was fifteen, knew barely any coding, and wanted to create a global app, but this was something that was really important to me. I knew that no matter what odds I was facing, I had to persevere through them. It was really tough getting through all the versions. We had a million different typos and bugs, but after months and months of that we finally were able to release it, and it's just gone uphill from there.

**GLT: Did you have a mentor to guide you through the initial process before you connected with a coder?**

NATALIE: No. It was mostly just me. I knew exactly how I wanted the app to look, and so I



basically got a bunch of sheets of paper and then wrote phone screen rectangles on them and then started drawing out every page of the app and exactly how I wanted it to look; the colors and the systems and everything. Then I was able to hand that over and work side by side with a coder to make it a reality.

**GLT: When you say “side by side,” what was the process after you started working with your coder?**

NATALIE: It was a really long process. Kind of going back and forth. Creating what was our first version. We wanted to make sure that we had every page, and we had to talk over every function. Then we went through a bunch of different types of apps that were similar. Once we had a workable version, we spent pretty much the entire summer of last year Beta testing. I was working in a psychology and neuroscience lab, so I got a lot of my lab mates to help us Beta test it. That took months, because we kept finding new bugs and new typos and everything. After months and months of that, we released in September.

**GLT: As far as the development process itself: how long was it from the time you first thought of it to when it was available online?**

NATALIE: I started thinking about it very, very early last year [2016] and I presented the idea to my parents in February. Then we worked all the way until the beginning of September, because we wanted to release it with the new school year.

**GLT: What words of encouragement would you like to share with the person look-**



**ing to make or develop their own app?**

NATALIE: Just know that what seems impossible at first can truly be possible if you put in the work to make it succeed. I really thought that at first creating an app would be impossible, but I worked at it, and I worked at it, and I put my everything into it and now it's something that I am proud to support and I'm proud to have created. I think that anyone has the capacity to make a difference if they put in the effort to make it

succeed. It doesn't have to be about bullying. It's whatever cause makes you angry about the world, whatever injustice you want to face and whatever need your community needs, anyone has the capacity to work on that.

**GLT: How did you market your app once you were finished? Today there's over 100,000 people just in the USA using your app. How did you get the word out about it?**

NATALIE: We were very lucky. We just released to Apple





we started hearing from adults that are using the app already. At UCLA hospital, we found out that the entire nurse staff has downloaded the app and they are using it to coordinate lunches during their long shifts and they're using it in different offices and places of worship and conventions, so people are already adapting it to completely new ways without us even saying anything.

**GLT: We have noticed a lot more activity around the world for girls who code. What would you say to girls out there who may be interested in coding or developing their own apps but who haven't really explored it yet?**

NATALIE: I think that coding is such a powerful tool. I mean, a lot of us when we are little we say that we want to be super heroes, and learning coding, you really can. It's like a super power because you can take a bunch of numbers and letters and turn it into something, turn it into whatever you want. Turn it into an app, or even something better. I think that girls getting into STEM is such a powerful thing and that it's exactly what our future needs.

**GLT: And, what's next for you? Are you working on anything new that you'd like to share?**

NATALIE: We're going to keep continuing working on the app. Our big-

gest thing is getting it into new countries. Right now it's being used in the seven countries that it's available in, but if you were to try and download it in China, it wouldn't let you because of strict data collection laws. So, we're trying to get around that and bring it to more countries in the world. We also want to make it more accessible by creating it in different languages, as well.

**GLT: Thank you, Natalie, for taking time out of your busy day to talk with us. It is very much appreciated.**

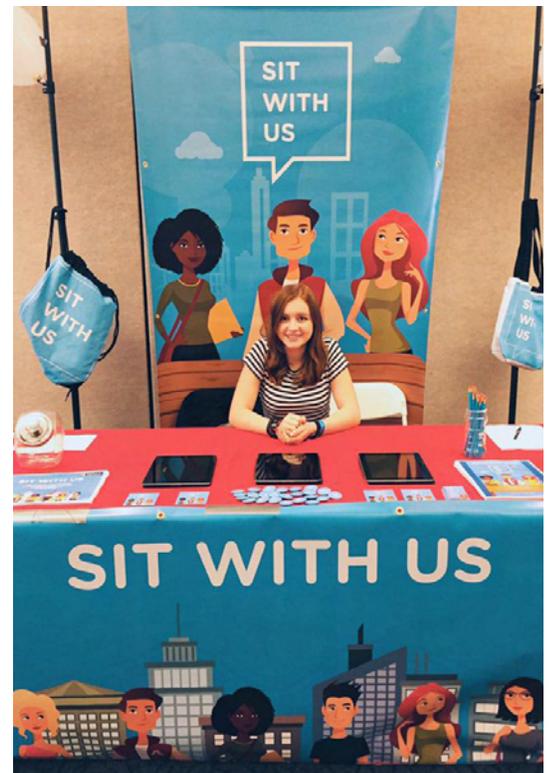
NATALIE: No, thank you so much for having me.

To download the "Sit With Us" application for free, search the App Store or Google Play, visit their website at: <http://sit-withus.io> or Like their page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sitwithus.io/> or Follow on Twitter at: [@nobodyyearsalone](https://twitter.com/nobodyyearsalone)

and the only press we alerted was my local paper, and we just said, "Hey, can you run an article in the Daily Release and we released that article and the app at the same time. I just thought that it would just be a small pet project that I would release at my school, maybe to my best friend at school, then someone from NPR saw that article and then three days later I was on All Things Considered with Aidie Cornish and then it just kind of exploded from there. We didn't do any sort of press and we didn't push for any articles or anything. They all just kind of found us. We've been extremely lucky because of that.

**GLT: Did you ever consider adapting your app for the workplace for new employees at large corporations?**

NATALIE: Yea, we did think about that but before we could actually get in a full thought,



# Clean Hands Save Lives

By Eileen Weber

**W**hen a bar of soap shrivels from use, you throw it out. Seems simple enough. Yet, when you think of all the soap that's used in hotels, guesthouses, and resorts—bars that may have been only used once—they get thrown out, too. It all ends up in landfills. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans create a little over 4 pounds of garbage daily. Multiply that by the millions of U.S. residents and that's enough to fill 63,000 garbage trucks. While we're busy tossing it out, soap is a luxury in other areas of the world.

In 2014, Samir Lakhani, then a student at the University of Pittsburgh, spent the summer building fishponds in Cambodia through a non-governmental organization (NGO). He saw a mother bathing her child with the only thing she had—laundry detergent. Because detergents often contain toxic chemicals that can be absorbed through the skin, the incident spurred Lakhani to create the Eco-Soap Bank. The company sanitizes leftover soap from hotels and guest houses in Siem Reap, Phnom Penh, and Sihanoukville. They make fresh bars from a monthly collection and distribute them in those locations. It helps those in need and saves the environment.

"We started slowly," Lakhani explained. "It was a very humble initiative going hotel to hotel



to get them on board."

A tutorial in hand washing is given with the distributed products. Many residents have never even seen soap, let alone know how to use it. According to Eco-Soap's web site, 75% of Cambodians still lack access to soap, which means many of them get sick or even die by simply not washing their hands.

"Diarrhea and dehydration are the biggest killers and one of the leading causes for hospital visits," Lakhani said. "Everything is connected to clean water, hygiene, and sanitation."

Eco-Soap Bank has received nearly 190,000 soap donations, recycles over 25,000 pounds of waste, and serves over 666,000 people. With global sponsors and partners like Soap-



Box Soaps, Sealed Air, and the Peace Corps, they make a significant impact. Sure, there are larger companies like Clean the World and Global Soap that operate all over the world. But, Eco-Soap Bank started small and still runs because of one 24-year-old man.

Lakhani is not alone in his efforts to rid third world countries from communicable diseases. After graduating from the University of Michigan in 2013, Erica Zaikis, now 27, headed to Thailand working with an NGO on child-sex trafficking. Because of the rural area, she always had a bottle of Purell on hand. When that ran out, she asked the local kids where she could find some soap. They had no idea what she was talking about. She drove to the neighboring community, bought several bars, and promptly gave a tutorial.

“I had assumed soap was universal,” Zaikis exclaimed. “But it’s not. It’s a privilege.”

She founded Sundara to recycle old soap from the hospitality industry in Myanmar and India, much like Lakhani does in Cambodia. In fact, Zaikis connected Lakhani with Stefan Phang, the Regional Director for Sustainability & Corporate Social Responsibility at Sealed Air, the company that provides the chemicals to sanitize the soap. “Everyone in the soap industry knows each other,” quipped Zaikis.

Sundara’s freshly made, pathogen-free soap is distributed from three separate operations not only in Myanmar but India and Uganda. Both Eco Soap Bank and Sundara

employ women as “community ambassadors” to help distribute and teach effective hand washing skills. The idea is basic: give a child a bar of soap, he has clean hands for the day; teach a child how to use the soap, he is clean for a lifetime.

“People are always talking about clean water,” Zaikis remarked, “but nobody talks about soap. It’s the other side of the equation.”

Certainly in poor, rural areas, sanitation can be a challenge. But when you’re homeless, hygiene can be just as much of a problem. High school student Aric Zhuang had a chance meeting with a homeless man in Great Neck on Long Island about two years ago. The man talked about some of the hardships of being homeless, one of which was obtaining toiletries to keep clean. Stunned, Aric gathered a group of his friends to start collecting combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and shampoo. That started the student-run organization of Hygiene for the Homeless.

“Having lived in New York City for a good portion of my life, I’ve seen countless instances of where people were unable to provide for themselves,” said Zhuang, “Giving hygiene items to the homeless would have a far greater impact than simply giving them a dollar or two.”

Many recipients will duck into a public restroom or a nearby shelter to use the kits they receive. While shampoo

and toothpaste rank at the top for much-needed toiletries, feminine products like tampons and pads can be just as hard to come by.

“They are crucially important for females during menstrual cycles,” Zhuang stated, “and are often not thought of.”

Partnering with Howard



Johnsons and Quality Inn, Hygiene for the Homeless distributes kits throughout New York and New Jersey, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Virginia, Delaware, and even British Columbia.

Soap for Hope, a non-profit student-run social enterprise in Canada, got started by eight students from Simon Fraser University outside Vancouver. They partnered with Mission

Possible Recycling to obtain bars of soap from hotels and liquify it. (Mission Possible is an agency that supports the homeless through “street-level” assistance with nutrition, supplies, and counseling. Their recycling efforts are just one arm of the organization.) Working with this group, Soap for Hope “provides transitional work opportunities” to those individuals challenged by poverty in the Downtown Eastside, known as a low-income, high crime area. They make both bar and liquid forms of the soap, then distribute to local vendors.

“Upcycling soap is a heavily targeted mission because something so small adds up,” said Marilyn Yeo, Soap for Hope’s Program Director and a third-year student at Simon Fraser. “There are millions of hotel rooms in the world and nearly each one has a bar of soap that is used once then thrown away. It creates a large environmental hazard.”

These individuals are helping those in need as well as the environment with something as simple as soap. The saying goes one man’s trash is another man’s treasure. In this case, the trash is the treasure.

“Every night I can go to sleep knowing that I wasn’t just making someone rich richer,” said Zaikis. “This matters. I just don’t want to turn a blind eye to the rest of the world.”

# CURRENT EVENTS

## AROUND THE WORLD IN JUST TWO PAGES

By Randy Gold

### VIRTUAL CONCERTS



Photo Courtesy Resorts World

Have you experienced a virtual [holographic] concert yet? Besides the virtual performances of Michael Jackson, Tupac Shakur and the King himself, Elvis Presley, audiences have shown that virtual performers are just as attractive as the real thing. Over three years ago the K-Pop industry discovered with their K-live holographic concerts in Seoul that audiences actually liked the flexibility of going to see a live concert throughout the day, on demand, as it were. Now K-live has brought the holographic concert experience to the Sentosa resort in Singapore, and audiences couldn't be happier. For more info, visit [www.sentosa.com.sg](http://www.sentosa.com.sg).

### COOLING THE PLANET



Photo Courtesy of Climeworks

With the United States pulling out the 2015 Paris Climate accords, scientists and researchers are now scrambling to look for ways to geo-engineer the global climate. With top universities, like Harvard and Oxford, going to work on solutions, and supporters like Bill Gates stepping in to lend his support, planners have not forgotten the obvious solution of planting more trees. The problem with more trees, though, is with more and more people on the planet, and with an increase in the need for agriculture, trees would take away from valuable land that could be used for farming. According to Reuters, scientists have started sucking carbon dioxide from the air with giant fans and are preparing to release chemicals from a balloon to dim the sun's rays as part of a climate engineering push to cool the planet.

### IOC MAKES HISTORY



In a unanimous decision, the International Olympic Committee decided to announce the location for 2024 and 2028 Games at the same time. "Ensuring the stability of the Olympic Games for 11 years is something extraordinary," IOC President Thomas Bach said later at a press conference with the mayors from Paris and Los Angeles and leaders from the two candidatures. "That is why we say this is a great day for the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement, and it's a great day also for these two wonderful cities, these two great Olympic cities," he stressed. In a mutual agreement between both cities it was decided that Paris will host the Summer Olympics between August 2-18, 2024. Los Angeles will host the Summer Olympics between July 21 and August 6, 2028.

## SCHOOL IN A BOX



In March of 2015, Vodafone Foundation announced its Instant Classroom that worked in conjunction with its Instant Network Schools program. By working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] the program announced that they would be helping 15,000 child refugees ranging in age between 7 and 20-years-old in 12 different schools across Africa to obtain a quality education they might not otherwise receive. In late July of this year, Global Education Vision, the parent non-profit that publishes this magazine, entered into an integration effort with reps from Vodafone Foundation to add our literacy application 321Read+ into the Instant Classroom curriculum. 321Read+ is meant to help beginning readers, aged 2 to 5, learn their alphabet, numbers, colors and an assortment of basic words. The benefit of the integration is that younger students can learn basic reading before they enter the existing material when they reach 7. One benefit of the application that Vodafone reps particularly liked was that there is also an off-line version of the application that will run even when there is no internet. In refugee camps that's an important consideration, in that often there is no internet, and yet, school must go on. In moving forward, GEV will be adding additional features and languages to this and other educational applications. If you are interested in coding or helping in some other way, please contact us at: [info@gevedu.org](mailto:info@gevedu.org).

## FÚTBOL OR FOOTBALL?



In the United States it's Football season again. In February, earlier this year, there were 112 million people watching the New England Patriots battle it out with the Atlanta Falcons in the Super Bowl. The next Super Bowl will be on February 4, 2018 in the city of Minneapolis, Minnesota. It is too early to tell who will be playing or how many people will watch. One thing is for certain, though: for the rest of the world, Fútbol is extremely popular. In 2010 there were 3.2 billion people watching the World Cup. That's nearly half the people on the planet. More and more so that number is increasing in the USA, as well, as the number of Spanish speakers continues to increase. The next World Cup will be in Russia between June 14 and July 15, 2018. Currently there are 32 teams that play in the World Cup, but viewership is slated to increase even more in 2026 when they will expand the number of teams playing to 48.



## One Last Word...

# TAKE ACTION!

By Alex Schrader

In the previous issue I mentioned we were going to talk about money a lot more in future issues. Well, in this issue we looked at the flip side, poverty, or more specifically, Third World Poverty and the kids who are taking action to help combat it. When I first read Ritwika and Radhika's story about the poor boy who was trampled by that auto-rickshaw in India, and how powerless they felt at that moment, I paused to reminisce (which I occasionally do) about a similar feeling I had while on a business trip to Mexico City. On my way to the appointment, my driver drove past mile-after-mile of shanties, and if you haven't been exposed to that type of poverty before, it can leave you feeling quite... helpless.

Bravo to the sisters for taking action and creating "Renaissance Now" that enables struggling artists in these communities to support themselves. The same can be said for Kiara Nirghin for creating a polymer formula to keep crops hydrated



in poor rural communities during times of intense draught. Kudos should be given to Samir Lakhani as well for having the vision and sensitivity to create Eco-Soap Bank, which is providing poor people in Cambodia with the most basic of needs... soap.

The word "app" is a word that has been tossed around our offices at *Global Leader Today* quite a bit as of late. Randy Gold, our associate publisher created an app

called 321Read+ – which was designed to teach basic math and reading skills to unfortunate youths who currently reside in Refugee Camps. He also interviewed Natalie Hampton, the doe-eyed princess on our cover who when bullied at school, took matters into her own hands and created an app called "Sit with Us," that is enabling the bullied to meet and eat lunch with others who may themselves be a victim of bullying. Wow! Mad props to her for having the foresight and guts to see it through. You want to make a change...? Take action!

# FIND YOUR CAUSE

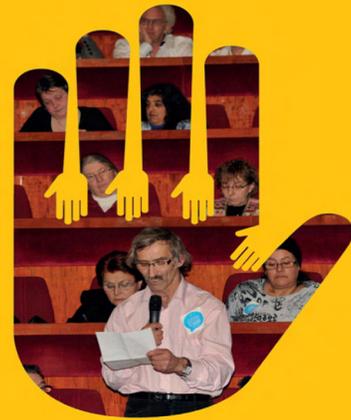
HUNGER • HOMELESSNESS • ANIMALS • EDUCATION • DISASTER RELIEF

## HELP A CHARITY to HELP OTHERS



"Wherever  
you are,  
be all  
there."

— Jim Elliot



17 OCTOBER 2017



INTERNATIONAL DAY for the ERADICATION of POVERTY 17 OCTOBER



25th United Nations' Day since UN adoption in 1992

30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WORLD DAY TO OVERCOME EXTREME POVERTY



FOR A  
WORLD  
THAT  
LEAVES  
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