

People Who Made A Difference

Use these as examples for class discussion or as subjects for a research project.

Kailash Satyarthi

Works for the abolition of child labor in India.

Marcel Marceau

Worked with the French Resistance during World War II to move Jewish children from France into Switzerland where they would be safe.

Helen Suzman

A South African who worked, wrote and spoke against apartheid.

Miep Gies

Hid Ann Frank and her family from the Nazis during World War II.

Nelson Mandela

Fought against South African Apartheid and spent many years in prison for his work.

Jody Williams

Led the international campaign to ban landmines.

Muhammad Yunus

Created the concept of microloans.

Mother Teresa

A Roman Catholic nun who founded the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India in 1950 and for over 45 years took care of the poor, sick, orphaned and dying.

Greg Mortenson

He is the co-founder of the nonprofit Central Asia Institute who promotes community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in remote mountain regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. He is also the founder of Pennies For Peace.

Paul Farmer

He is an anthropologist and physician who is one of the founders of Partners In Health, an international health and social justice organization. He began his work in Haiti providing free treatment to patients and finding ways to get them effective drugs to treat tuberculosis and AIDS.

Sarah Brownell

She is the co-founder and treasurer of SOIL, Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods, a non-profit organization working in Haiti to empower local people to use simple ways to solve environmental and health problems and protect soil and water resources.

Sasha Kramer

She is an ecologist and a human rights observer working in Haiti who is also the co-founder of SOIL.

John Lewis

He is a member of Congress and a champion of human rights. He was chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and has worked for civil rights since the 1960s.

Jeffrey C. Sachs

Sachs is the co-founder of Millennium Promise. This alliance promotes holistic, community-driven economic development initiatives. The strategy is to reduce extreme poverty through investments in agriculture, health, education, roads, electricity and Internet access. Working in Mbola, Tanzania they have helped farmers harvest more food by giving them fertilizers and high-yield seeds.

Alex Hill

Hill helped to bring medical supplies to a Ugandan village.

Blake Mycoskie

Mycoskie founded TOMS Shoes to bring shoes to children who don't have them.

Eric Samuel

Samuel established Community Food Enterprise to reduce food poverty in East London.

Jennifer Staple

Jennifer Staple founded Unite for Sight to improve eye health and eliminate preventable blindness worldwide.

Irena Sendler

Irena Sendler was a Polish Catholic woman who smuggled Jewish children out of the Warsaw ghetto.

Every year the USA Weekend magazine which can be found at www.usaweekend.com publishes a tribute to everyday heroes who helped Americans in need on Make A Difference Day. Your students might want to research some of the people or organizations cited there.

More suggestions and biographies of extraordinary people can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/obituaries/article987279.ece>

<http://thepoormouth.blogspot.com/2008/01/bill-barazetti-local-hero.html>