

# The 2012 SEGL Graduate Social Venture Project Fair

### Gabriel Fekete & Chelsea Majoros - Hands of Rwanda

SEGL Fall 2011 & Spring 2011 | Millbrook School, NY & DePaul University, IL Chelsea and Gabriel are graduates of different SEGL semesters; they met during SEGL in Rwanda in the summer of 2012. After studying the 1994 Rwanda Genocide for two weeks, they stayed to work on a video project at Gisimba Orphanage in Nyamirambo, Rwanda. The two became increasingly friendly with Jean, a seventeen-year-old boy who is one of three deaf children at the orphanage. After visiting his school for the deaf,



attending his all-deaf soccer team's games, and learning some Rwandan sign language, they were motivated to found *Hands of Rwanda*, an organization that supports the education of deaf youth in Rwanda. Since their trip, Chelsea and Gabriel have fundraised—in part, by selling Rwandan-made bracelets—to help cover tuition costs of two deaf boys at Gisimba. Currently, the pair is developing a website and working on obtaining non-profit status. As a long-term goal, *Hands of Rwanda* wishes to open the first clinic for the deaf in Rwanda.

### Anna Fountain – Shining Promise

SEGL Fall 2011 | Kent Place School, NJ

When Anna went on an 8th grade school trip to Kenya, her eyes were opened to an entirely different life. While volunteering at a school in the Maasai Mara, Anna learned the great lengths children will go for their



education. When the trip volunteers promised the school that they would raise money to buy solar panels, Anna was excited to work with the others toward that cause. Unfortunately, that promise has remained unfulfilled—until now. *Shining Promise* is Anna's response: a social venture with the goal of providing solar panels for energy to African schools. Since SEGL, Anna has examined the logistics of buying, transporting, and installing solar panels and has spoken with the CEO of a solar energy company. She has also considered other sources of energy, including wind and water. Anna hopes to connect with her first recipient school soon.

# Reeves Hart - New American Mentor Project

SEGL Spring 2012 | Burlington High School, VT

Reeves plans to start a program that works with Vermont Refugee Resettlement to pair students from his school with refugee families who are new to Burlington. Working as mentors, students will enable these families to connect with the community as well as practice essential English communication skills. As someone who has been on soccer teams with refugees from DRC, Somalia, and elsewhere, Reeves recognizes how unique an opportunity it is to learn from other cultures. He hopes that mentors can expedite the refugee families' transition into Burlington and that these families will enrich the town with diversity and culture.

# Jilly Horowitz – [P(+)SITIVE GRAFFITI]

#### SEGL Fall 2011 | Dalton School, NY

Before Jilly attended SEGL, she and a few friends drew on the sidewalks of Times Square. When random people walking down the street started adding to the art, an idea was born. Drawing is such a simple form of self-expression and enjoyment, and that is something that people seem to forget during their everyday lives. While at SEGL, Jilly was reminded of the importance of this project. She now goes into



different areas of New York City, writes the one rule of the project [P(+)SITIVE GRAFFITI], leaves a few pieces of chalk nearby, and lets everyone walking down the street participate as they please. People walking down the street tend to look down at what they are passing and smile, and others dive in and add their own words or art to the collaborative piece. This project is meant to be as inclusive as possible, so if you feel inspired by this positivity, start it up nearby your home, school, or work! STAY P(+)SITIVE!

► CHANGE YOURSELF. CHANGE THE WORLD.



# Hebah Khan – Hoodistan

SEGL Spring 2012 | Greenhill School, TX

Blogging and the Muslim community have had a consistent influence on Hebah's life over the years. She wanted to bring these two things together to fill an apparent void of fresh and youthful Muslim art, culture, and ideas on the Internet. After a summer of planning and building infrastructure, Hebah launched a collaborative blog: Hoodistan. Hoodistan is an online community comprised of young individuals from all over the US and Canada who collectively share their own work and that of others. Blog posts to date have included a spotlight on the new Malaysian indie artist, Yuna, the original artwork of Canadian slam poet/graphic designer Ahmed Saleh and Harvard-bound activist Halah Ahmad, and the stylings of student-gone-fashionista Winnie Détwa. Hebah will continue to administer blog and hopes to expand the online audience and to begin introducing guest bloggers and merchandise.

Lindsey Majoros - Believe in Cleveland

#### SEGL Spring 2012 | Laurel School, OH

After returning to her home city of Cleveland, OH, Lindsey set out to start Believe in Cleveland, dedicated to revitalizing the struggling, urban areas of the city. Believe in Cleveland takes old, abandoned homes owned by the city (and some that are not) and renovates them. After completing this, the organization rents these houses out to people who are also dedicated to cleaning up outer urban communities in Cleveland, using this income to renovate more houses. To accomplish this, Lindsey is starting a Believe in Cleveland club at her school to find volunteers who are interested in getting Cleveland back to its original stature. Through this, Lindsey will build a bridge between the Laurel School community and people living in the urban areas of Cleveland. With the help of a dedicated uncle, Lindsey is currently working to find the first house to purchase and renovate. We believe Cleveland can be as great as it used to be, and we are not alone in this!

### Siri McGuire – Think Global, Act Local

SEGL Spring 2012 | Concordia High School, KS



Siri started her social venture project aimed at engaging her local community in global issues through an organization she started in 9th grade. Through this, Siri organizes events for students at her school to participate in service and fundraising opportunities that have a local and global reach. So far this year, Siri has organized a river clean-up and has secured school funding for recycling bins around the school and its sporting arenas. Currently, she is organizing a trip to take students to a homeless shelter in a nearby city and a fundraiser to help put a young Tanzanian woman through nursing school. Additionally, Siri has gained approval to start a middle school program wherein students are taught the importance of cross-cultural understanding and service. The middle school program is set to start next semester; it will include a weekly class on world issues and cultures and local services trips and projects.

# Maddie Rawding – Lady Blazers

SEGL Spring 2012 | Bush School, WA

Maddie's social venture project connects upper school girls with middle school girls through a variety of activities to foster a mentor-like relationship as the girls transition to high school. Maddie began this summer. Each day, she and the other captains of the soccer team led the middle school soccer team in practice. Mentors learned leadership skills and saw a marked improvement in confidence on and off the field. Middle school players practiced with more experienced players and received great advice. Although the coaching stopped when school began, the girls still see each other regularly in school and share stories about their respective seasons. This winter, Maddie is taking the group in another direction: she has arranged for her school to offer community service credit for a class she created with a teacher. In this all-girls outdoor leadership class, each student will be required to co-lead a middle school wilderness trip, such as crosscountry skiing, winter camping, snowboarding, snow-shoeing, and indoor rock-climbing.

► CHANGE YOURSELF. CHANGE THE WORLD.

HOODISTAN