



THE WORLD CHANGES BY A CHILD

Can any of us really make a difference in the world? Well, that is Jesus' call to us as Christians. Each of us is called to make a difference in the world. As parents, we need to encourage our children to consider the needs of others and find ways we can make a difference in the lives of those in our communities. Young teens today are leading the way. Here is an example of one such teen.

Stephanie was a young girl I knew from Girl Guides. She was watching television one day and saw a commercial about children suffering from poverty. She noticed these children didn't have any shoes. She thought that every child should have shoes! With a friend at school, they managed to collect over a thousand shoes for children in Malawi, a small country in southeast Africa.

On her first trip to Malawi, Stephanie not only delivered all of those shoes but, nearly four hundred pounds of antibiotics and vitamins, as well as sports equipment for the children. Stephanie's commitment to helping these children inspired the beginning of the group *It All Started With The Shoes*. Stephanie connected her group with the Montreal-based Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception, who already had a group of Sisters serving in Malawi. With the help of these Sisters, Health Partners International of Canada, and many more people, Stephanie and her group have provided over the years enough medicine to treat over a thousand people, assisted in providing for a nutrition center, and supported many schools.

Recently, Stephanie spoke to our youth group. She inspired our teens to live out their mission to make a difference in the world. The teens took to action almost immediately by taking up a free-will offering for Stephanie's group. The teens also began planning for food collections and ideas to help support a community in Peru. Truly each one of us can make a difference in the world.

IDEAS FOR YOUR FAMILY TIME

- Part of the mission Jesus gave us is to care for people who are living in poverty. Pope Francis continually sets an example for all Catholics. Recently he renovated the public showers in Saint Peter's Square and added a barbershop for the homeless. Share with your children some of the many stories of how the Church cares for the poor.
- *Be My Disciples* gives us examples of organizations that help the poor. In Chapter 20 of Grade/Level 5 we learn about the organization Habitat for Humanity, which brings together volunteers to build affordable housing. Find out which local organizations help those in need. Discuss as a family how to make a difference in the world.