



## April 2026 Newsletter

### Student-led Initiatives

TGUP was founded at a high school, in California. We challenged our students that if everyone put in just \$1, we would build a classroom for them, in Africa. The school had 1,771 students at the time. They put in \$1,851.



Well, \$1,851 wasn't enough, so we hustled around to four other schools with the same story: "Let's do something great for the world. It's \$1. What do you say?"

In the spring of 2007, we raised \$9,000 from 9,000 teenagers. That summer, we built this classroom in Naro Moru, Kenya. It blew everybody's mind, because nobody had ever done something so noble before, and nobody was in for more than \$1! That's how it all began.

This month, we celebrate that spirit—young people with idealism who do something about it. Here are four amazing stories. We're thankful for the contagion.

### Desks for children in Cameroon

Stockdale High School in Bakersfield might be the most generous high school in California. Maybe even in America.

It became a TGUP school partner in our second year, 2008, just after we did that first school in Kenya, up above. Stockdale students have contributed every year since, for 18 YEARS!





They have funded classrooms in Nicaragua and Guatemala, science labs in Uganda, medical clinics in Nepal, latrines in Kenya and other countries...

This year, they funded desks for the 544 students at the Mukuya Secondary School in Muea, in the east African country of Cameroon.

Ask yourself, how well can you learn if you don't have a desk, if you're sitting on the floor? The answer is "Not very well," which is why WE were given desks in our classrooms. Remember?

THANK YOU STUDENTS OF STOCKDALE HIGH SCHOOL! You are the model for all teenagers, everywhere! And thank you to the staff and administration of Stockdale for modeling for your students how mature citizens of the world act.

## School supplies for children in Indonesia



Izzy is a 7 year-old from northern California. She likes hamburgers and ice cream. She's reading pretty well and loves to color.

She noticed her mom looking at a new playground TGUP had built for children in Indonesia. She was surprised that they hadn't already had one. How could they swing? She asked her mom if they needed anything else.

It turns out the children didn't have school supplies—you know; notebooks, pencils, etc. so they could practice their ABCs (or the Indonesian equivalent.)

Izzy couldn't believe they didn't have any. "How can they learn if they can't practice?" she asked. (Such a smart kid.)

So, she set about raising \$100 to buy the children basic school supplies. She asked everybody she knew in her family, including everybody her





mom knew, too. She ended up raising just over \$200, which bought a set of supplies for 35 children.

Now that she's a savvy international philanthropreneur, she says she wants to do a bigger project next year. We're working to find one worthy of her aspirations.

THANK YOU, IZZY! The world is a better place because of you.

## So many projects!



Sofie is 15 years-old. She lives in Maryland. She could pass for the average American teenager. But she's actually a secret bundle of humility, grace, and action.

The humility and grace part? She says, "I know I'm fortunate. I have things so many others don't, like clean water, books, shoes, and the ability to go to school."

How many American teenagers have that kind of awareness, and appreciativeness? And the action part?

Beginning when she was 10 (!), she began raising money to help with TGUP projects. It started small, first with family, then friends. Since then, she's grown into a one-girl altruistic whirlwind.



She helped fund books for a library at a school in Nepal. She funded 80 pairs of [\*Shoes That Grow\*](#) for children in Uganda who had none. Last year, she raised enough to cover the cost of a playground for children in Madagascar. Multiple water purification systems in multiple countries. It boggles the mind



She says, "We take our good lives for granted. But most of the people of the world don't have what we have."

We need about 10,000,000 more teenagers like her, don't you think? THANK YOU, SOFIE!

## Soap for children in Uganda



Siri is a sophomore in high school. She lives in Washington state.

In fourth grade, she travelled with her family to Uganda. She noticed that there was no soap in any of the schools. She and her brother figured out how to make soap from simple ingredients. Then came the magic step.

They taught the process to a chemistry class at a Ugandan high school. The school adopted the process into its standard curriculum and began making soap for the surrounding primary and middle schools. Then came the second magic step.

When Siri returned to the U.S., she and her brother, Haakon, began making soap at home and selling bars to classmates and friends. The goal was to raise enough funds to cover the cost of materials so the Ugandan school could keep making its soap.

That was five years ago. The two not only kept the program alive, they've raised enough funds so the Ugandan school could provide soap to local medical clinics, where it is given to patients free of charge.



Siri's bootstrap project is now [a formal TGUP project](#). It needs to raise \$700 a year to stay at its current level. A \$10 donation provides a month's worth of soap for 150 children. If more is raised, it will help expand the program to other areas, schools, and clinics. To donate to help Siri's project, [click here](#).

THANK YOU, SIRI. And, whoever your parents are, THANK YOU to them, too. Good job.

## Final Word

It's easy to get immobilized about how messed up the world is, and how hard it is to change. That psychic lock-up *in our own heads* is precisely the biggest barrier to actually changing things.

These children are proof that change is actually not that hard. It just takes simple action. Not heroic action. Simple action. But action. Our motto says it all: "Even the greatest waterfall starts with a single drop of water." Isn't it true?

Do YOU want a better world? [Over to you](#). TGUP