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## **three dot dash**<sup>TM</sup>

a We Are Family Foundation®  
global Initiative

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **GLOBAL TEEN LEADERS ANNOUNCED FOR 2011 JUST PEACE SUMMIT**

##### ***Thirty-four Teen Leaders from Around the World Are Selected for the 2011 Three Dot Dash Just Peace Summit***

**New York, NY (January 11, 2011)** -- Three Dot Dash, the highly acclaimed global education initiative of **Nile Rodgers'** We Are Family Foundation (WAFF), will hold its third Just Peace Summit in New York City from **March 25 – April 1, 2011**. The Summit is designed to recognize and support the efforts of extraordinary teen leaders around the world. After an international search and competitive nomination process, 34 Global Teen Leaders (GTLs) have been selected by WAFF's esteemed Three Dot Dash Selection Committee to participate in this year's Summit.

Inspired by the late 13 year-old *New York Times* best-selling poet and peacemaker, **Mattie J.T. Stepanek**, Three Dot Dash selects 25 – 35 GTLs who are doing extraordinary work to help ensure basic human needs worldwide – food, water, health, shelter, safety, education and the environment – in the interest of creating a more peaceful society. The 2011 Three Dot Dash GTLs are between the ages of 13 – 19 and represent 15 countries on five continents. They were nominated by a coalition of more than 45 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and previous GTLs. The 2011 GTLs



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are tackling difficult issues including hunger relief, child rights, pollution, clean water, access to education and many more critical problems faced today.

During the Just Peace Summit, the GTLs will be trained in critical thinking and various forms of media to be applied to their projects to expand the scope of their peacemaking efforts. Prior Summit speakers have included *The New York Times* journalist, **Bob Herbert**; award-winning journalist and author, **Sebastian Junger**; CNN's **Soledad O'Brien**; critically acclaimed war photojournalist, **Teun Voeten** and Mattie's Mom, **Dr. Jeni Stepanek**.

"We know the power teens have to create real change when they feel passionate about difficult issues that have affected them or their communities in some way. Our GTLs have positively affected more than 4 million people worldwide over the past two years. This is an astounding accomplishment and testament to the power of young people when given the tools to amplify their work. We are honored to welcome the 2011 GTLs to our family and look forward to helping them amplify their work this year and for years to come," commented **We Are Family Foundation President, Nancy Hunt**.

Before the Summit's conclusion, each GTL will be paired with a mentor who will help guide the work of his/her GTL over the following year. In addition, each GTL will receive a stipend – funds to be spent on the advancement of his/her project.

For more information on each of the 2011 Global Teen Leaders or to donate funds to any of the current or past GTLs' projects, please visit [threedotdash.org](http://threedotdash.org).

"The biggest takeaway for me was the unique experience of working with children from diverse cultural, religious and geographical backgrounds. Not only does the We Are Family Foundation act as a bridge for such cultural exchanges, but it also dissolves barriers caused by distance, religion, culture, gender, language, race and so on." – **Dylan, 13, 2008 GTL, United States**

"In one week, I met people from different cultures, gained experience in fields of media, planning, marketing and networking that I would have never had in years. The Just Peace Summit helped me to be more focused and committed to achieve my goals. Being in such a diverse environment with young leaders and success stories from the entire world was very inspirational to me - beyond my expectations." – **Amr, 17, 2010 GTL, Egypt**

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### **About We Are Family Foundation**

The We Are Family Foundation (WAFF) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2002 by legendary songwriter/musician/producer Nile Rodgers. Based on Rodgers' world famous song, "We Are Family," WAFF is dedicated to the vision of a global family by creating and supporting programs that inspire and educate the next generation about respect, understanding and cultural diversity – while striving to solve some of our biggest global problems at the same time. For more information, visit [wearefamilyfoundation.org](http://wearefamilyfoundation.org).

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### **About Three Dot Dash**

Three Dot Dash is a global peace initiative of the We Are Family Foundation designed to recognize and support Global Teen Leaders around the world who are dedicating their lives to promote a more peaceful society by addressing issues related to basic human needs. The movement is creating a worldwide network of individuals, corporations and nonprofit organizations to further the efforts of these young leaders by harnessing the power of media, mentoring, and social networking to foster public participation around the globe. Three Dot Dash was inspired by the late 13-year-old poet and peacemaker Mattie J.T. Stepanek, well known from his six *New York Times* best selling "Heartsongs" poetry books expressing universal messages of hope and peace. After Mattie's death in 2004, his last book, *Just Peace: A Message of Hope*, written with President Jimmy Carter, was published and became WAFF's inspiration for Three Dot Dash. For more information, visit [threedotdash.org](http://threedotdash.org).

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### **About Three Dot Dash Coalition Partners**

WAFF thanks the Three Dot Dash Coalition Partners for their partnership and spirit: 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, AFS Intercultural Programs, AINA, Americans for Informed Democracy, American Jewish World Service, Anti-Defamation League, Ashoka, Asia Society, CHINH, Do Something, Echoing Green, Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, Inc., Film-Aid, Girls Helping Girls, Global Kids, Inc., Global Nomads Group, Global Peace Initiative of Women, Global Youth Action Network, iEarn-USA, IMPACT Repertory Theatre, In A Perfect World (IAPW), International Debate Education Association (IDEA), International Youth Council (IYC), International Youth Foundation (IYF), Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop, Journeys for Peace, Lil' MDG – Kids Making Changes, Malaria No More, Mattie J.T. Stepanek King Farm Foundation, Medical & Educational Aid to Kenya (MEAK), Odyssey Networks, One World Youth Project (OWYP), Public-Private Alliance Foundation, Symphonia, TakingITGlobal, THINK Global School, Urban Farming, US Fund for UNICEF, WITNESS, Workers World Media Productions, The Working Group, Youth Bridge-NY, Youth Service America.