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Lil' MDGs makes mark during national event



The New Hampshire-based Lil' MDGs mobilized its network of youth in 40 states to take part in generationOn's "Make Your Mark Week," an initiative that inspires and mobilizes kids of all ages to use their energy, ingenuity and compassion to "make their mark on the world" through hands-on service.

Celebrated during the third week of October, Make Your Mark Week encourages young people to do small acts or service projects that together make a big impact on their lives, their communities and the world. The week culminates on National Make a Difference Day, the largest national day of community service.

Lil' MDGs activities for Make Your Mark week included a "Stuffed with Hugs" event to make stuffed toys for refugee children, a "Stitched with Love" event to knit or crochet comfort dolls for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, a "Time to Clay" event to make and donate pottery to local soup kitchens and the "Go Without Shoes Challenge" where teens were asked to kick off their shoes and join on a walk barefoot to spread awareness about kids who walk miles on barefoot for basic necessities.

"Community service and engagement in civic activities has been shown to positively impact the development of moral character, purpose and identity for youth, which is why organizations like generationOn are such an important resource for young people," said Marilyn Price-Mitchell, psychologist, educator, researcher and advocate for generationOn. "Make Your Mark Week is a wonderful opportunity that encourages youth to get involved in service and volunteering and to make a difference on their world."

"It is usually a challenge to find volunteering opportunities to engage little children. This year, for Make Your Mark Week, Lil' MDGs activities were carefully crafted to engage families as a whole," said Dylan Mahalingam, founder of Lil' MDGs. "The goal is to provide a fun way for families to make fond memories while making meaningful contribution to their communities."

Lil' MDGs is an international development and youth empowerment organization with a mission to leverage the power of the Internet, digital, and social media to educate, engage, inspire, and empower youth in all corners of the world to forward the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. To date, Lil' MDGs has unified the efforts of over 3 million children worldwide to work on a variety of issues to make a tangible difference in the lives of over 1 million individuals.

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