

## **What About Education?**

### **By Gianna Eager**

Every day, children wake up, head to work under treacherous conditions, or spend hours trudging down a long path just to bring home dirty water instead of attending school and receiving a desperately needed education. Millions of children across the world unfortunately cannot acquire the education they deserve.

We may have the privilege of sending children to school; however, others are not as fortunate. In developing countries, millions of people are denied access to education due to poverty, child labor, race, and even gender. Without an education, children become illiterate and will be trapped in poverty since they didn't receive the education needed for well paying jobs. If we don't send children to school, this tragic cycle will continue. Next time children groan about going to school, they should remember all of the unfortunate people who don't attend school.

This issue may not seem serious, but it is a widespread tragedy. Approximately 130 million girls do not attend school. That is ten times the population of Pennsylvania! In addition to the large number of uneducated girls, over a fifth of children between the ages of six and eleven in Africa are not in school. Many of these children are out of school because they are busy with grueling jobs. One in three child laborers are unfortunately not in school. There are far too many children that can't receive the education they deserve.

Fortunately, there are a variety of solutions to this problem. By making a small donation of ten dollars to organizations like Teach for All or Global Partnership, you can make a positive impact. Contributing money to pay for school fees and buy supplies can also bring us closer to solving this problem. The National Education Association is another group that can assist children in need of an education. All of these groups fund children's education by collecting donations online, so you don't even need to leave your home.

Millions of unfortunate children are unable to attend school. Without an education, these children will grow up illiterate, and they will not be able to find well paying jobs. If we come together to end this tragedy, children will be able to live better, happier lives.

## **Are We Home Yet?**

**By Chloe Ramirez**

A young girl named Giulietta clutches her mother's arm; they are emerging into the bustling refugee camp they live in, struggling to reach the monthly food payment, barely enough to ease the ache in little Giulietta's stomach. This, although depressing, is the reality for countless children around the world. Refugees are struggling to survive all around the world, and they need your help.

Moving to a new state is something many children experience; however, have you considered being forced out of your whole country? This catastrophe happens to millions around the world. Refugees are individuals forced to leave their homes due to civil wars, government issues, racial or sexist laws and more. And they are in danger. Casting aside the treacherous surroundings refugee camps are usually found in, they are owned by the government who could shut them down with the blink of an eye. But that's not all.

Did you know that by the end of 2020, 82.4 million people had been forcibly displaced from their homes? That equals the entire population of Germany. And there are more every year as civil wars erupt and less people are safe. But this is not the end. An estimated one million children were born as refugees in between 2018 and 2020. Without assistance, they might live there forever.

Organizations like World Vision, Refugees International, and UNHCR are fighting the refugee crisis, and it only takes a moment to help them. With a generous heart, a few dollars, and a will to help, you could

transform a life. Forever. So just think: have you got what it takes to be the change?

The holidays are approaching fast, and everyone knows snow on the ground means a time to give. If anyone deserves to be given to, it is refugees. While we have everything that we need and more, they have nothing at all. But if you choose to think of others this season, children like Giulietta would be more grateful than you could ever know.

### **Climate Change: We Got the Heat** **By Celia Vitiello**

While relaxing at home, you turn the news on. You feel a shadow enter the room as you watch a report about an oil spill off the coast of Alaska. Pictures of injured and dead animals scatter the screen as you view the dreadful effects of climate change.

Although you might just watch it on TV now, climate change will progress so quickly in a short amount of time it will be affecting the entire world. The current temperature changes are more rapid than ever recorded in the earth's history. When companies and towns burn fossil fuels for energy, this causes the climate to change to a higher level, which then causes sea levels to rise, forests to burn, and wildlife to die. The overall effect of these happenings will cause a devastating future for earth and the people on it.

At this time gases are higher than any other period in the past 800,000 years. Fires are happening more rapidly and glaciers are melting because we are burning fossil fuels. Large ice sheets such as Greenland and Antarctica are even starting to melt. If people start using renewable energies, riding bikes, walking more, recycling, or just turning off lights as you exit a room we could solve this problem. More individuals need to do simple tasks like these to help out in the world and stop climate change.

Organizations are taking donations too. Climate Change Alliance, Climate Network, and 350.org are also helping to end climate change. These organizations are taking donations of as little as one dollar to help. By using clean energies, banning oil and gas projects, and cutting off social license and financing for fossil fuel companies, these organizations are doing their part to stop climate change. If people could donate to one of these, they can help to turn this around. We need more volunteers to help change our fate.

Animals do not need to die. If people help and pitch in by donating any amount of money, you might see joyous stories when you turn on the news. We would no longer have unclean air and burning forests. Wildlife could thrive and the world could live. All you have to do is be the change.

### **A Pit you Cannot Get Out Of** **By Thi Malesky**

Julia believed that things would get better. Of course, the cold that formed aching blisters on her body would eventually go away, right? The constant cries from her stomach could only be temporary. This hunger could not last her whole life. Maybe even the sickness that consumed her village and father would cease with time. Yet one thing that still remained certain, once poverty hits, you cannot get rid of the scars.

Poverty is the word that is used to describe people who are struggling to accommodate basic necessities. It is everywhere. From the alleyways of a city, to a small road in Egypt, there is no end. To people who cannot pay off the bill that has been overdue, to the people who spend it all on gambling, poverty is usually the end result. Due to any circumstance, one factor could leave you in the depths of poverty.

Poverty is not a disease nor a harmful being, yet it still manages to devour and consume the lives of many. Around fifteen children die every minute due to the effects of poverty; fifteen children too many. Imagine

the children who had their lives taken away from them, unable to do anything about it. To you and me, a dollar fifty is not much. The dollar fifty that could buy you a bottle of soda or a pack of gum is the income that 702 million people get per day. This amount of money can barely cover food costs, let alone the other basic life necessities. An issue like this still thrives in many parts of the world, and its pursuit will not stop until all of us make the change.

There is no definite solution to poverty, but there are many ways we can help. Simply donating ten dollars to an organization like Global Citizen can feed a starving family. Global Citizen directly distributes your money to the people who need it, already impacting 1.09 million lives to date. If you want to actively participate in solving this problem, then Oxfam is for you. This organization strives to solve poverty by distributing necessities to communities. Little acts go a long way in solving the global menace named poverty.

Being bored is a privilege. There are many people in the world that work so hard to keep their families alive that they could only wish that they had “nothing to do or worry about”. Don't let poverty stand over a child's dead body. Be the change before it is too late.

## **Every Sip Could be Your Last**

**By Evan Adler**

Eight year old Sasha awakens in the morning to trudge, through rough terrain, three miles just to collect filthy water. The many people of Africa

are affected just like Sasha. Poor water conditions affect people all over the globe.

When we want water we can turn on the faucet, but can everyone do that? No! In developing countries, residents struggle with getting the necessary items for their people, including clean water. Many girls and women, every day, have to walk miles a day to get water and then do it all over again the next day. These people can get countless diseases from drinking water that is unsanitary. Every sip could be a killer! Just be fortunate that you don't have to walk countless miles to get water that could kill you with every sip

Just how deadly can water be? Half of the world's hospital beds are taken up due to water related diseases. That is a lot because if you think about it, there are only so many hospital beds in the world. The fact that half of them are taken up is astonishing. Approximately four billion people are facing water scarcity. There are only 7.9 billion people in the world, and if 4 billion are facing water scarcity, that means that more than half of the world is experiencing water scarcity. The water crisis can be extraordinarily dangerous to mankind.

This water crisis is solvable, however. There are many charities that help, including The Water Project and Kiva. The Water Project assists by supplying water pumps full of clean water to people who need it. Kiva is a lending institution that can help people get water and sanitation needs to their households. The best thing about Kiva is that when you donate, over time, you will get your money back, so you are not really losing anything. Only donating fifteen to twenty five dollars will change an individual's life. Forever.

There are millions of adults and children who walk countless miles each day to get water that could make today their last. Just take some time to look at what is happening around our world, and could you be the change!

## **Our World's Problem with Poverty**

### **By Mabel Buben**

The world is not as happy as it seems. It is dark and bleak, and many cannot afford the luxury of obtaining their essentials. Ten percent of our sad world that struggles through world poverty, an extremely worrisome and problematic issue that occurs everywhere. However, you can be the change that our world needs.

World poverty prevents 10 percent of our population from buying food and clothing. There are about 16 million children living in poverty, with and without families to protect and provide for them. Most people experiencing poverty do not have access to a good education. About 689 million people living in poverty live in Africa, where poverty rates can reach 60-80 percent of the population. For about 35 years, the rates of poverty have decreased, until Covid-19 prompted the rates to shoot back up.

Imagine a family living in a slum. Their house barely has a roof, and old tarps cover the gaping hole in the ceiling. The floor is dirt, and the residents of this ruin have dirt covering their faces. Their clothes are too small and ripped. They are cold and hungry. This is the terrible fate for many people in our world, living in a horrible home or no home at all, with little to no food.

Although this is a terrible threat, there are still ways we can help. There are lots of resources you could use. World Vision is an organization that allows people to sponsor a child. Worldbank is a good source for learning about world poverty and how you can help end it, and they also accept donations. With the information you learn, you could start your own donations and drives. Those organizations are great ways to get involved, and there are many more that you can explore.

One of the most troublesome problems that our world faces is world poverty, but you can change that by being the change you want to see.

We may be happy, but much of the world has been living in pain, with no money, food, shelter, or clothing. But together, we can add our own contributions and lend the helping hand that can save those in poverty.

## **Global Warming** **by Siena Pendergast**

We have the worst water shortage in 1200 years. It is one of the many effects of global warming, but if we all helped the world little by little, maybe we could do something about it! Global warming is a devastating issue and it needs to be taken care of.

Because of global warming, more and more people are living in hazardous conditions. Global warming's pace has increased in the last hundred years because of the burning of fossil fuels. Greenhouse gases increased by 70 percent from 1970 to 2004. Extreme weather is getting more common and weather patterns are becoming much more intense. In the Southwest, droughts and heat waves have fallen upon their area.

Antarctica has lost 148 billion tons of ice sheets each year from climate change. The animals who live there are slowly being pushed away from their homes. Biodiversity and fragile ecosystems are at risk and many animals could go extinct or have their homes ripped away from them, but it doesn't only affect animals; it also affects humans. The number of climate refugees is increasing. Their crops and water are lost, along with the people they may know.

We can end global warming if we all work together. There are many things you can do to help, whether it be with a group or by yourself. To fight against the wrongs others have done, we can do small things that make a difference when we all do them together. You could use a reusable water bottle, bike or walk to school, turn off lights while they're not in use, or save water and cut food waste. You could also donate to

organizations like Rainforest Action Network, which protects millions of acres of land. They can make a big impact if they continue this work.

As global warming continues to make everyone's lives worse, we can fight it with all our might. After reading this, hopefully you'll think once or twice about using plastic water bottles or driving in cars when you could do something else to help. You could make the change. No matter how big or how small, doing something, anything, helps. After thinking about this, I'll hope you'll take the other route, the better route.

### **Lack of Education** **by Meghan Armstrong**

Imagine not being able to go to school, and instead having to fetch water or go work for little money. For more than 600 million kids, school is a dream and a privilege. In order to end poverty and give children a better future, children need to get a good education.

About half of all children don't get a good education. In sub-Saharan Africa, less than 20 percent of children attend school. The reason these children don't get the education they need is because they live in poverty or are not allowed to go to school. If they are taught by untrained teachers, they might not get the necessary education either.

If children can't get education, then they will have a harder time being able to get basic needs. They can't get better paying jobs and then they can't get basic needs. If families can't get basic needs, then they can't send their children to school, and the cycle repeats. In some countries, girls are denied access to school. In poorer countries, disabled children also may be denied access to school. Even if children do get to go to school, they often have to be in a cramped and poorly built building. More than a hundred children could be squished into a one-room school with no bathroom. Some schools might not even have a building!

You can help children get the education they need in various ways, including by donating food, money, clothing, school supplies, and/or any

other basic needs. You could help children and families out of poverty so they can then send their kids to school. Additionally, you could sponsor a child to help them get food, clothing, education, or possible money. You could possibly help build or renovate poor school buildings.

Organizations that can help are Children Incorporated, UNICEF, or Peace Corps. Their goals are similar: to help children in need around the world. With Peace Corps, you could even go to different countries to help teach children. There are various ways to help all children get proper education.

After what you have learned about children who lack education, do you see how important quality education is? This is why millions of children need help so they can get a good education.

## **Help With the Water Crisis!**

**By Zachary Jiang**

Did you know that millions of people around the world suffer from lack of clean water? The water crisis is a worldwide problem that affects millions of people. Luckily, you are able to help in multiple different ways.

According to Water.org, 785 million people in the world live without access to clean water. Water.org also states that every 2 minutes, a child dies from a water-borne disease, whether that is cholera or dehydration. Women in these areas spend up to 200 million hours collecting water for their families, just for the water to be unclear. By 2025, World Wildlife Federation says, two-thirds of the population will face water shortages.

Now, imagine that you wake up. Your mother asks you to walk with her to get some water. On the 10 mile walk, your mother falls down. You try to help her, but she dies in your arms. Crying, you continue the journey, only to die of dehydration. This may seem like a reality far from yours, but it is, unfortunately, a reality for millions of children and adults around the world. They are defeated by disease. They walk miles, not for

fun, but for the survival of their family. And some of them don't make it back. The water crisis is real. And it affects more people than the entire population of the U.S.

The water crisis is an issue that seems like something too big for one person. Luckily, there are billions of people around the globe, and you can be one of the first to start taking action. You can donate money raised to many different water charities. Or, organizing events to raise awareness helps your friends and family recognize the dangers and the problems associated with the water crisis, which will motivate them to donate as well. Do not worry that you will never be able to solve this, because you are not alone.

As you can see, the water crisis is a serious issue. However, we can help it by donating money, raising awareness, and conserving our own water. The water crisis cannot be solved by one individual. It is solved by people banding together and raising up against the problems that crowd our society. You must help the people suffering. You must help now.

## **World Poverty**

### **By Cara Ibinson**

689 million people live off of \$1.90 or less each day. This is twice the population of the United States. World poverty is a big problem in many different countries, but if we try hard enough, we can stop poverty altogether.

Countries all around the world have too many people in poverty from earthquakes, hurricanes, climate change, and other complex reasons. In the world, 644 million children are experiencing poverty right now. Also, 87 percent of the population lives on less than \$30. Two-thirds of the people who are struggling live on \$10 or less each day. This is far too many people.

Imagine having to live on the street and walk hours just to make enough money for only one food item a day. Well, that's what a lot of people have to do. Most children and women have to walk hours upon hours to get the tiniest amount of money. How would you feel if you had a child, but couldn't afford to send them to a good school? This is just yet another example of what families struggle with. Some people even get blisters on their feet from walking so far for dirty water. No one wants that to happen to them.

You can help end poverty. Anyone can donate to a charity or organization that is assisting people in poverty. You can also sponsor a child. Sponsoring a child is when you give them money or supplies to help them stay alive and healthy. Another example of helping people is you can get online and donate money to Oxfam.org. They have a website you can go on and easily donate money to help someone in need. If you can't donate anything, you can always create a social media post about global issues like poverty. This will bring awareness and might encourage others to donate. If you help stop poverty, you will be a part of the people who change the world.

World poverty is a huge problem and is getting worse each year. Even though you may not be one of the people affected by poverty, it still is something we should worry about. Poverty can affect us all, it just might not affect you in the way you think it will.

## **Horrifying H2O**

**By Josh Wukitch**

Every day while you are working, approximately 1.1 billion people are fighting to find clean water. Let me put that in perspective. It would take you 30 years to count all these people if you counted one number per second, non stop, without a break. Which leads to this: water quality is a world-wide issue that needs to be addressed.

Millions, if not billions, of people world-wide lack clean drinking water and are forced to hike for hours on end, just to walk all the way back. These distances are long and agonizing. Clean drinking water is a world-wide problem that is mostly concentrated in Africa and Europe, but it affects all of us from news to prices, all because people must waste time walking countless miles. When you are thirsty, you simply grab your water bottle or you go to a water fountain, but others do not have that luxury. They are stuck in the blazing heat searching for clean water. So the next time you have to get up and grab a glass of water, just be thankful you are not walking countless miles to find it.

Numerous millions of people worldwide have to deal with the demise of their loved ones who have fallen from waterborne diseases that are a result of drinking unclean water. This even includes pets. It is estimated that 884 million people globally lack clean drinking water. To put that in perspective, it would take you 11 days, 13 hours, 46 minutes and 40 seconds to count to one million. But you are still only 1/888th of the way there! So if we could get a clean water system globally, we could significantly reduce the amount of people who are taking up hospital beds.

This is a grave crisis that needs to be addressed. One charity called “The Water Project” is a charity that raises money to help children and families worldwide. Even something as simple as a dollar could change the lives of a family because the money will add up and make a huge difference. If we do not take action, then think of the lives that will be wasted.

So every day when you drink a crystal clear glass of water, think of the convenience of being able to access it easily, and think of the clean quality. Simply donating a dollar or even some spare change will add up and save thousands of people.

