

Learning from others

We have tried to make these case studies accessible for Key Stage 2 pupils. Please feel free to edit for your own pupils. The children need to be able to elicit the skills and attitudes these inspirational people are demonstrating.

If you have a large world map, you could place the images onto the map to show how people all across the world are trying to make a difference.

Alfredo Moser—Inventor of the Bottle Light



Alfredo Moser. (Photo: BBC) <https://www.pri.org/stories/2013-08-13/developing-world-innovation-cheap-light-bottle>

Brazil



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-23536914>



Learning from others

Alfredo Moser is a mechanic from Brazil.

He designed the Bottle Light to light up his house, during the day, without electricity. Many people around the world live homes where electricity is not available all the time.

The Bottle Light is a plastic bottle filled with water and a tiny bit of bleach.

Alfredo makes a hole in the roof with a drill, then pushes the bottle into the hole. The sunlight shines on the bottle and fills the home with light.

He got the idea during a power cut in his city in Brazil. The only place that had energy were the factories, not people's homes.

Alfredo says *"God gave the sun to everyone and light is for everyone. Whoever wants it saves money. It doesn't cost a penny."*

Alfredo first installed the lamps in neighbour's houses and the local supermarket. While he does earn a little bit of money installing them, his invention hasn't made him wealthy. What it has given him is a great sense of pride.

"There was one man who installed the lights and within a month he had saved enough money to pay for the essential things for his child who was about to be born. Can you imagine?" he says.

Carmelinda, Alfredo's wife of 35 years, says her husband has always been very good at making things around the home, including some fine wooden beds and tables.

The lamps can now be found in millions of home in 15 other countries around the world.

Julius Ibrahim— Second Shot café supporting the homeless



<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2015/jul/ucl-student-initiative-second-shot-coffee-tackles-homelessness-one-espresso-time>



<https://uclpimedia.com/online/inside-the-new-cafe-that-gives-londons-homeless-a-second-shot>

Learning from others

Julius is a young entrepreneur [a person who sets up a business] who has set up Second Shot Coffee in London. The café helps people who are homeless.

Julius studied Economics at University.

“When I moved to London to study in 2013, I was shocked by the huge number of people living on the streets”, he explains. “Walking around somewhere in Central London...homelessness is hugely visible. I thought ‘how can this be the financial capital of the world, when there are so many people on the streets?’”

He bought his coffee shop through fundraising. He asked people to help pay for the coffee shop.

Second Shot Coffee offers homeless people training and full time employment. It’s not just coffee and cakes customers are able to buy. Customers can also use the Pay it Forward scheme. They buy their own meal and then also pay for a meal or a drink for someone who is hungry and in need.

All food left over at the end of the day is given to people living on the streets

Julius says: *“Ultimately, I want to be a flag-bearer for social enterprise. I want to get to a place where customers demand social impact from their businesses, because there’s no reason why every business can’t be a social enterprise.”* This means that Julius would like all businesses to think about how they can make a positive difference to people who need it in their communities.

<https://secondshotcoffee.co.uk/>

Winifred Selby— Building bikes from bamboo



<https://www.happenings.com.ng/personality/2015/04/14/meet-winifred-selby-the-brain-behind-ghana-bamboo-bikes-initiative>



<https://daftap33blog.wordpress.com/2016/01/29/ghanas-eco-friendly-bamboo-bikes/>

Ghana



Learning from others

Winifred started the Ghana Bamboo Bikes project when she was 15 years old because she saw that people needed cheap transport in Ghana.

Many children walk several miles to school and farmers often walk long distances to take their produce to market.

“But I was 15, a student, and didn’t have any money. I can’t make cars – they are too expensive. But I kept thinking, what can I do to add value to bring a change in Africa? And then I realised what to do because I [remembered] my country is blessed with many things.”

One is bamboo, a plant that grows quickly and is strong and which is everywhere in Ghana.

With the help of two older students, Winifred discovered they could turn the bamboo into sturdy bicycle frames.

And the Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative was born. The company now employs 12 people and makes 60-100 bikes a month. Winifred says:

“There were so many friends who laughed when they heard about the bamboo bike idea. Some people will definitely discourage you, but one thing I’ve realised in life is that you have to be focused.”

<http://ghanabamboobikes.org/>

Denis Estimon—‘We dine together’ club



<https://expressdigest.com/teens-form-lunchtime-club-so-no-one-has-to-eat-alone/>



Florida, USA

<https://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/high-school-senior-creates-group-dine-student-eat/story?id=46172969>



Learning from others

In Florida, Denis Estimon is on a mission to make sure no one ever eats lunch alone at school.

He's at Boca Raton Community High School, and the founding member of We Dine Together, a club that makes sure everyone in the school has someone to sit with at lunch.

Members of We Dine Together walk through the lunch area looking for students who have no one to sit with at lunch. They invite them to eat lunch with them in a classroom nearby. They sit, they talk, and they make friends. Friendships that last beyond the lunchtime.

"Every single day at lunch I walk around, I look for kids ... I shake their hand," says Denis. Each 'We Dine Together' lunch session ends with an activity focused around maintaining friendships.

Denis started the club because he knows what it feels like to eat lunch alone. When he in primary school, he moved to Florida from Haiti and didn't know anyone. Now he's a senior with lots of friends but he's committed to making sure no one has to feel the way he felt over a decade ago.

The thing that makes the club so powerful is that Denis and the rest of the 'We Dine Together' are the popular kids.

They have people to eat with and could easily turn their backs on the students who don't. But instead of using their popularity to make people feel excluded, they are using it to make people feel included instead.

Denis and his team are hoping to expand their club to schools across the country.

<https://www.wedinetgether.org/>

Hannah Brencher—The World needs more Love - Letters Project



<http://www.moreloveletters.com/our-team>

New York, USA



Learning from others

In 2011 Hannah Brencher started to leave letters around New York City for strangers to find.

She felt lonely in the big city and used the letters to help ease her feelings of sadness and prevent others from feeling the same way.

She left notes all over the city, tucking messages such as “Don’t give up on your dreams” and “I believe in you” in all sorts of places. She left them in books in cafes or in between the slats on a park bench, or on the seat of a taxi.

What started as a comforting habit turned into a full-scale operation and soon enough, The World Needs More Love Letters project was born. Now there is a team of volunteer letter writers and Hannah’s idea is spreading around the world.

Hannah told us : *“My letters were filled with honesty and encouragement and words of love. I wanted the recipients to know love wherever they were standing.”*

There are now approximately 13,000 people involved, from more than 50 countries: young and old, men and women, from all walks of life. The website has a ‘found letters’ section where people who have found the letters can post their notes.

Loneliness is one of the biggest problems in our lives and the Mental Health Foundation has suggested that loneliness is more common among the young than the old. But research has shown that performing acts of kindness can actually help people suffering from social anxiety to feel more positive. Even small acts like visiting a sick friend or giving someone a small gift, can make people feel so much better.

Hannah Says *“It has certainly changed what I think is possible and how very much my little hands can do within this world. I would have been the first to tell you that letters could not make a difference and I have been proven wrong over and over again. There is a very real need for this project. It fills me with great joy and purpose and it allows me to connect with people all over the world and inspire them.”*

<http://www.moreloveletters.com/>

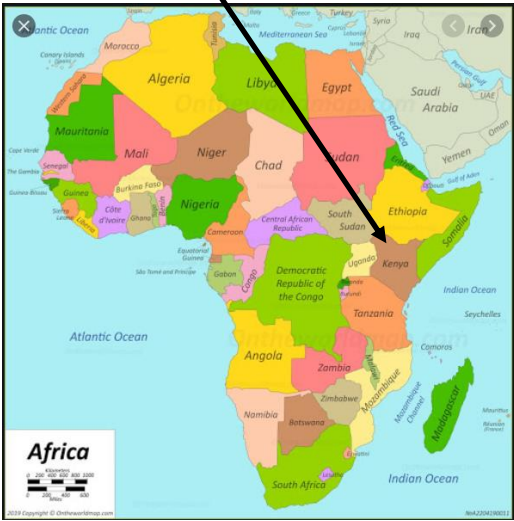
Lesein Mutunkei—Trees for Goals



<https://wwf-kenya.medium.com/trees-for-goals-ce92776cd4e0>



Kenya



Learning from others

Lesein, is a 15-year-old from Kenya. He is one of the thousands of youngsters around the globe who is fighting against climate change.

He has been planting trees for every goal he scores since 2018, as his way of contributing to the fight.

Lesein uses football and social media to educate people about deforestation and climate change.

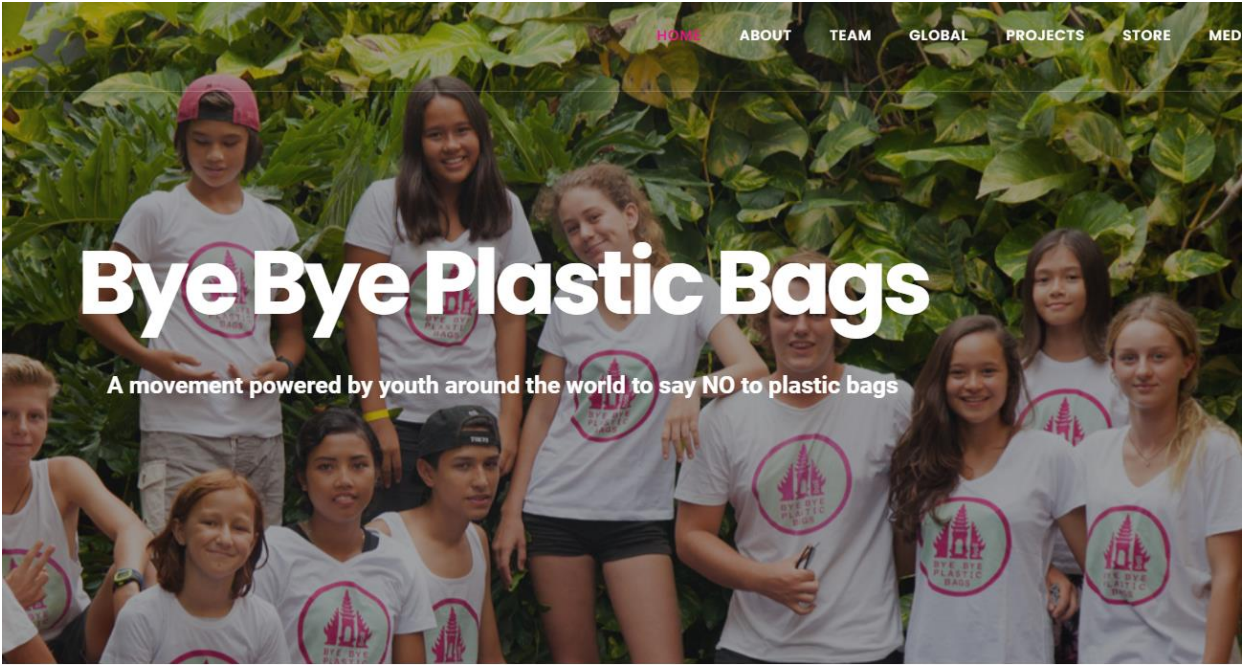
“I learnt about deforestation and climate change with sadness and started planting trees for every goal I score as I am a football player,” the teenager said in a statement after coming second in the Green Kids Award in Kenya.

The young player has tied his passion for sports to his determination to fight deforestation. *“Everyone should do their little thing and mine is planting and playing football,”* he said in a post on his Instagram account.

Lesein wishes to see his project copied in other areas of Kenya and beyond and encourages his school mates, as well as the members of his team, to follow him and plant trees too.

He is using his social media channels to raise awareness on climate change. Lesein promotes the use of reusable materials and phasing out single-use plastics and advocates for a change in politics to better protect the environment.

Melati and Isabel Wisjen – no more plastic



Bali

Learning from others

In 2013, when she was just 12 years old, Melati Wijsen started a social project called [Bye Bye Plastic Bags](#) with her younger sister, Isabel Wijsen, who was 10 at that time. Their goal? To help Bali residents say no to plastic bags.

Bali is one island of many in Indonesia.

‘The problem with plastic in Indonesia is that it was introduced too quickly, without first educating people on its polluting effects’, Wijsen said.

From shampoo sachets to a handful of peanuts, Indonesians often buy items that are contained in plastic packaging, Wijsen added.

Wijsen’s passion to fight plastic pollution started when she was in school. She remembers learning about inspirational leaders — such as Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi — and thinking to herself: *“What can we do as kids living on the island of Bali?”*

Together with her sister, Melati started Bye Bye Plastic Bags. They petitioned to get people to support a ban on plastic bags, raised awareness and created educational materials for primary schools in Indonesia.

They eventually went on to set up other organizations, including Mountain Mamas, an initiative which teaches women living in the mountains of Bali how to make bags from donated and recycled materials. The social enterprise also gives the women additional income through the work that they do.

<http://www.byebyeplasticbags.org/>

Jaylen Arnold—anti-bullying



<https://worldofchildren.org/people-jaylen-arnold-bullying/>

Florida, USA



Learning from others

Jaylen Arnold says some people call him the “Alphabet Kid” — because he has a lot of letters associated with his name.

They are TS, OCD and ASP and represent Tourette Syndrome, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Asperger Syndrome — conditions he deals with that have resulted in bullying since he was a young boy.

But the 16-year-old from Lakeland, Florida, has found the strength to turn his experiences into fighting bullying nationwide.

“I want to be a voice for the kids who don’t have one,” he says.

He won an award from the Diana Award Charity for his work.

Arnold’s campaigning began early. *“I started to begin getting bullied when I was 8 years old because of Tourette’s, which is a disability that I have that causes me to twitch and make weird noises,”* he says.

“I was a huge target for bullies. The things that they would say and do to me – and some other friends in that class – opened my eyes. All of us were too scared to tell anyone and it only got worse. Thousands upon millions of kids are being harassed each and every day and are too scared to say anything about it.”

So, supported by his parents, Arnold set up Jaylen’s Challenge, an online resource for support and information.

He now tours the country, giving talks about bullying and his condition and has spoken to around 200,000 kids in school assemblies. *“Victims have come to us and told us we were inspirational, and that we have really helped them not being bystanders and to stand up for their friends. We have had bullies come up and say they have been affected in a good way.”*

“We try to talk to the young kids when they start school in the autumn to start the school off right. We hope that we shine a light on everyone and show that kindness is the most important thing.”

The campaigning has also helped him. *“I was unsure about who I would be able to reach, but there are so many people around us who have helped me be more confident in my disability. Hearing the stories of other kids I am inspired by them, just as they may be by me.”*

<https://www.jaylenschallenge.org/>

Mikaila Ulmer—Me and the Bees



Stung by a bee



Granny Helen



Major retailers



Shark Tank



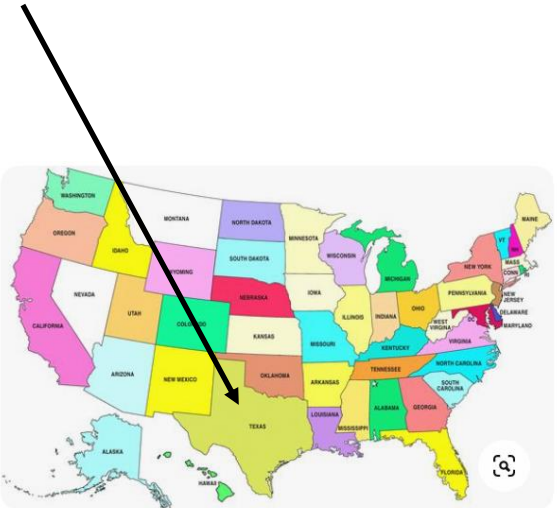
New name, new brand



Bee advocacy



Texas



Learning from others

Mikaila Ulmer started Me and the Bees Lemonade when she was 15 years old. Some of the money she makes from her business goes to support bee conservation.

It all started when she set up a lemonade stand for a children's competition when she was in primary school.

Mikaila's lemonade is now sold in 1,500 shops in the USA.

She says, "I don't think there's a limit on who can set up a business. The perception is that there's like, a certain race or gender or age that you need to be if you want to make it big, or be successful, or grow your company. But me and so many other kids and black-owned businesses are proving that is not true".

Mikaila was 4 years old when she first got stung by a bee and then a week later, got stung again! "I didn't want to go outside after that in case it happened again."

"My parents sat me down one evening and said, Mikaila you can choose to be afraid of bees. But that would mean not going outside and enjoying all the things you love to do. Or instead of being afraid of bees, you could learn about them." So we went to the library and my bee research began.

Even though I wasn't able to fully grasp the effect of bees on our environment, I still realized many things I loved to eat, not just honey, came from bees. Yes, they stung, and yes, they were a little scary for that reason, but they were an important part of our world. I also learned that bees were dying at an alarming rate. So I decided I was going to save them. But how?

Without knowing it, I was doing the first three most important steps in starting a business:
First, I was identifying a problem;
second, I was researching the problem;
and finally, I was starting to do something I felt passionate about.

These first three steps are critical. You always want to clearly identify and research your problem before you get started, and you always want to be involved in a business or product you're passionate about. I can't stress this enough. If you are not passionate about your idea, it will be hard to stay engaged in the work it takes to grow a business. And believe me, there's a lot of work ahead of you when you start a business.

<https://www.meandthebees.com/>

Phoebe Smith and Dwayne Fields – WeTwo Foundation



England



Learning from others

Dwayne Fields

At age six, Dwayne came to North London from Jamaica. All the freedom he enjoyed on his tropical island seemed to vanish overnight. He had to adapt, and in adapting, he gave up on the outdoors. He became depressed and mixed up in the wrong crowd... gangs.

In his early twenties, something happened to change his life. Forever. Someone tried to shoot him, - Twice. He has also been a victim of knife crime when he was stabbed.

Dwayne decided that he wanted to do something that could inspire children living in cities, showing them that this is NOT the path they need to follow.

In 2010, as a protest to gang violence, Dwayne walked to the Magnetic North Pole, becoming the first black Briton to do so. On his return he was invited to Buckingham Palace at a reception to mark the centenary of Scott's expedition to the South Pole in the presence of the HRH Queen Elizabeth II.

Since then he has dedicated his life to helping London's youth by focussing on outdoor activities, such as walking and climbing. Dwayne is a dedicated Ambassador for the Scout Association, the National Trust the Woodland Trust and Ordnance Survey.

Phoebe Smith

In 2014 Phoebe became the first person to camp at all the extreme points of Britain, solo, on consecutive nights.

In 2017 she gave up her Christmas to raise money for Centrepoin, the young people's homeless charity, by sleeping on the 3 highest mountains in Britain.

In 2018 she completed a 10-night Extreme Sleep Out where she slept dangling from 10 UK landmarks for charity and for Christmas 2018 she raised over £16k by walking from Sunderland to Cumbria, solo, sleeping rough and dressed as Wonder Woman.

It's her mission to prove that you don't need to be an outdoorsy, macho-type to have an adventure!

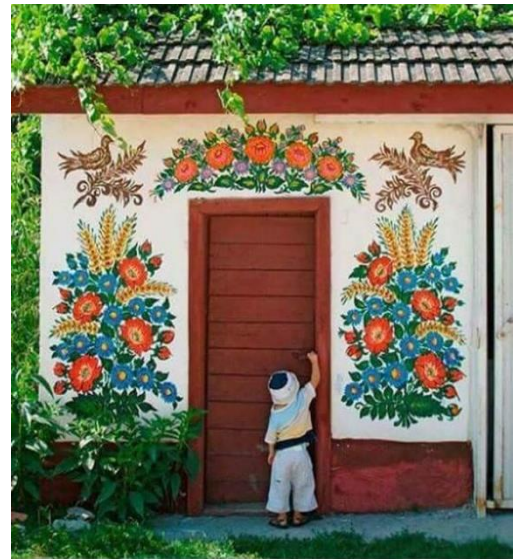
WeTwo

Together, Dwayne and Phoebe have set up the WeTwo Foundation. They will be taking a group of young people on an expedition to Antarctica. These young people will be making a difference in their own communities before they go.

Together #WeTwo can change the world. Because while we can all fight for our corner individually, the only way we make things happen is by working together. So that #WeTwo will eventually become #WeToo.

<http://www.teamwetwo.com/>

Agnes Kasparkova—Street Artist



Czech Republic

https://www.boredpanda.com/house-painting-90-year-old-grandma-agnes-kasparkova/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic

Learning from others

Agnes Kasparkova is a 91-year-old Czech street artist.

Once, she decided to turn her tiny village Luka in the Czech Republic into something incredible and breathtaking. Each spring and every summer for the past 40 years, she draws patterns on houses and adds beauty to her village.

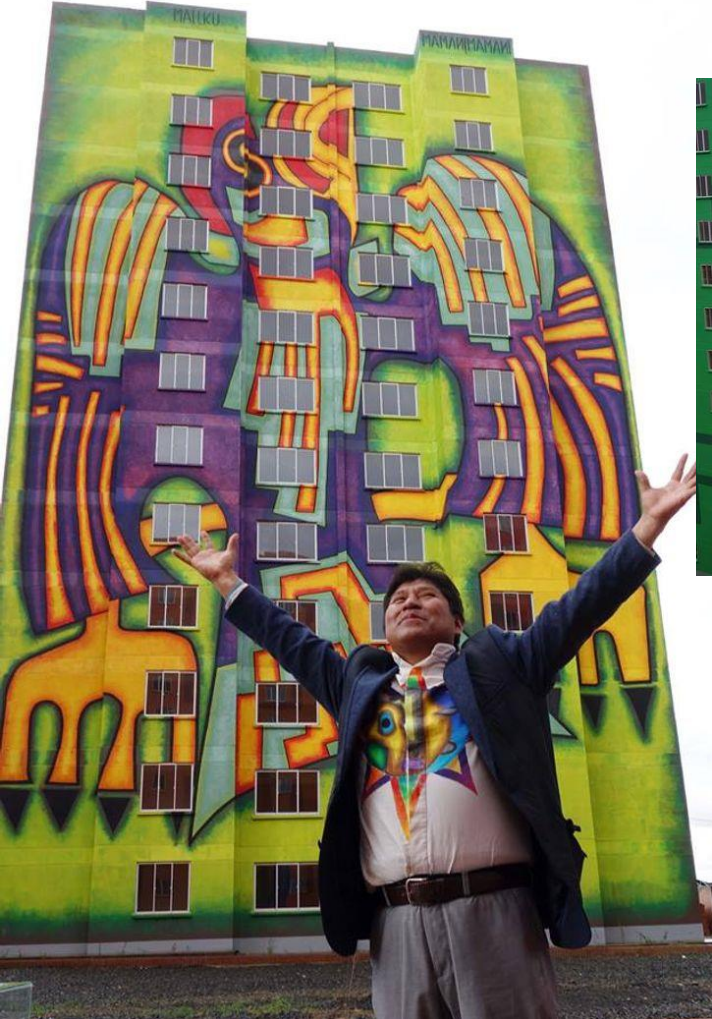
Agnes wanted to transform this place by giving it a national colouring. Her drawings are admired by every inhabitant of the village.

Agnes became a real celebrity!

The most surprising thing is that the artist does not think ahead as she draws and she herself doesn't know what the result will look like!

<https://www.thevintagenews.com/2018/11/14/agnes-kasparkova/>

Roberta Mamani Mamani—Street Artist



<https://theculturetrip.com/south-america/bolivia/articles/meet-roberto-mamani-mamani-bolivias-best-and-brightest-painter/>

Bolivia



Learning from others

Bolivian artist Roberto Mamani Mamani is an Aymara artist and his work uses a lot of traditional symbols.

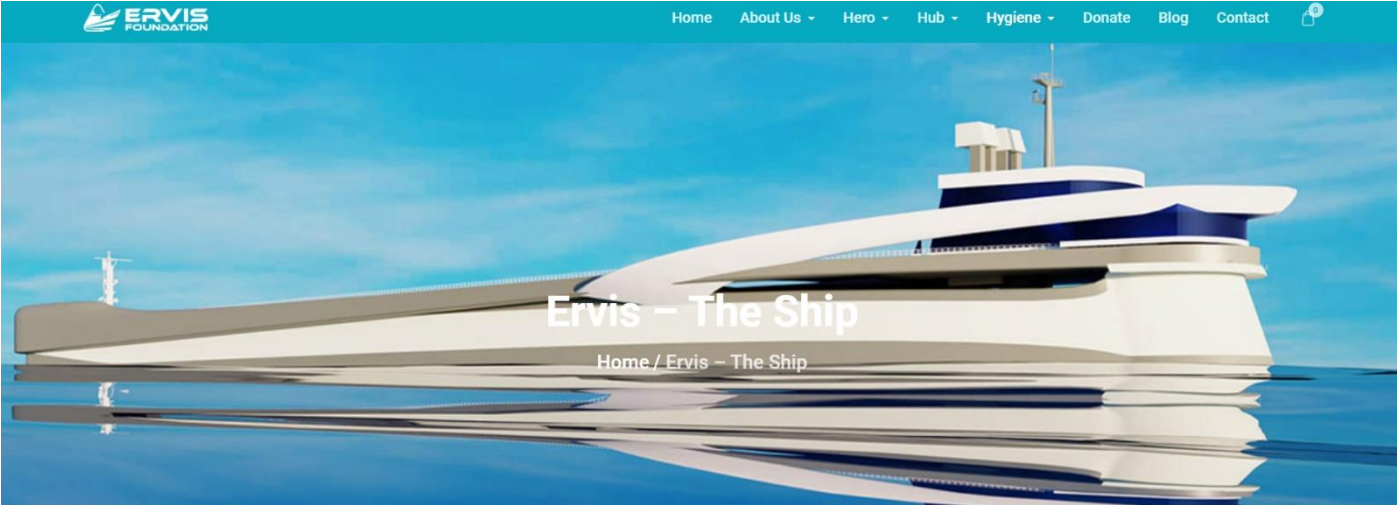
Roberto says that his grandmother encouraged him to paint and explained how important it is to remember his origins and give new life to the culture of the people from the Andes.

The artist painted figures on the walls of buildings built by the state to resettle the poor. The project was created at an altitude of 4,000 m above sea level — this is a record height!

Mamani Mamani says that those people did not have anything at all and now they have such wonderful painted houses and it is important to share something that we are able to give to each other.

<https://www.boliviabella.com/mamani-mamani.html>

Haaziq Kaazi—Cleaning the Oceans



India



Learning from others

ERVIS is an intelligent ship which has been designed by 12-year-old, **Haaziq Kazi**, to capture waste and clean the oceans. The ship is essentially a large boat with various compartments and saucers surrounding the ships.

It was seeing a dead whale in a documentary that moved Haaziq Kazi to act. Washed ashore, the whale had 37 pounds of plastic inside its bloated stomach.

“Two things stuck to me: The first was the magnitude of the problem, and the second was the impact it has on life,” he said.

So when the time came for a school project, when students had to come up with solutions to a problem they felt strongly about, Haaziq chose to work on ocean trash.

“There are about 5 trillion pieces of plastic floating in the ocean,” he said. “This would be enough to stack two-litre plastic bottles from here to the moon and back — twice.”

Haaziq, then 9 years old, attempted to create a device that could help clean the oceans. Finished in three years, the first concept design of the device — called ERVIS — is a ship with saucers and chambers. While saucers would float on the surface of the ocean, creating a whirlpool to suck the waste inside, the chamber compartments would store the waste. The ship would then separate the waste into large, medium, small and plastic particle categories. The waste would be forwarded for recycling on land. It would be powered by renewable energy and have a mechanism to filter out marine life that may get pulled inside.

<https://www.ervisfoundation.org/ervis-the-ship/>

Nick Lowinger—Gotta Have Sole



Rhode Island, USA



Learning from others

“I was inspired to start **Gotta Have Sole®** because at a very young age I saw children in homeless shelters in Rhode Island who didn’t have shoes or had shoes that were used and falling apart.

Some had to share footwear with a family member and missed school because it wasn’t their turn to wear the shoes that day, and others had sores on their feet from wearing shoes that didn’t fit them properly. I was devastated by this and wanted to help the children however I could.

I started donating my gently used clothing and footwear but often didn’t have the correct sizes for the children. I knew that the only shoes that would fit them best would be new, correctly sized ones and hoped someday I would be able to donate these.

Several years later as a community service project for a religious ceremony, which took place in 2010, I started **Gotta Have Sole®** so I could finally donate new footwear to homeless children.

I am proud to say that even though this ceremony has long since passed, I continue this endeavor and have donated new footwear to over 100,000 children in homeless shelters across every state in the US.

My goal is to reach as many children living in homeless shelters as I can.