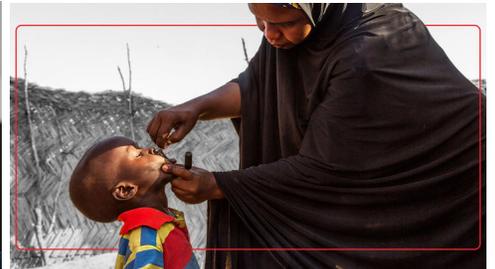




Red Nose Day: Stories of Children We've Helped



Since launching in 2015, Red Nose Day USA has positively impacted millions of children here in America, and around the world.

Here is an opportunity for your students to meet some of the real faces behind the numbers.

Your classroom will learn about the different ways poverty affects children, and how Red Nose Day works with incredible partner organizations to transform lives and communities. We hope these true stories will inspire your students and illustrate the power of coming together to end child poverty.

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Filling Backpacks and Hungry Tummies

One in six American children may not know where they will find their next meal.* Kitiana, a ten-year-old from Springfield, Missouri, is one of these children who face hunger.

“When I was really young I walked in the kitchen thinking, ‘what’s for breakfast?’ But there was nothing in the cabinets, and I thought, ‘oh no,’” recalls Kitiana. “My mother caught me digging in the cabinets and said ‘Sorry, we can’t have anything for breakfast, lunch or dinner today.’ So we just snacked a little. It made me feel so hungry. It felt pretty bad.”

Now Kitiana and her brother Thomas, a first-grader, live with their grandma. Their grandmother used to work but had to stop after adopting her grandchildren. Kitiana and her brother take food home every week through a Backpack Program, one of the many child hunger-focused initiatives that Red Nose Day helps to fund through Feeding America®.

“My favorite thing in the backpack is the spaghetti and chocolate milk,” Kitiana says. “It makes me feel fantastic to bring the backpack home!”



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Kitiana explains that because her grandmother sometimes gets sick and can't cook a lot of food, she has the children grab something from their backpacks to help when they're hungry.

"I'm glad this is here [the BackPack Program] because we have enough now, but one day we could run out of money and run out of food, but at least we'll have things from our bags."

The Feeding America network is the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, working to connect people with food and end hunger. A donation of a single dollar helps provide at least ten meals secured by Feeding America on behalf of local member food banks. Money raised through Red Nose Day helps to support programs that specifically feed children who struggle with hunger in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

*According to the USDA, Household Food Security in the United States in 2016

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Health Springs From Clean Water

Thirteen-year-old Manita* is one of many kids in Ambote who has witnessed the impact of clean water firsthand.

“It’s easier now than it was before,” Manita shared. “The taps are much closer.”

Three years ago, life was very different for this community in southeastern Nepal. Before they had access to clean water, families had to rely on streams and springs located high in the mountains. Not only did it require difficult climbing, but the unprotected water sources were also often the cause of illness for nearly everyone in the community.

In 2010, the local health clinic in Ambote was seeing more than 700 patients per month. But not anymore.

Today, that number is down to 60-65, thanks to you. Money raised through Red Nose Day is helping to fund charity: water and their local partner, Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH).



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In 2013, NEWAH began constructing a massive, gravity-fed, piped water system in Ambote that would capture the natural spring water high up on the mountain and deliver it down to tap stands located throughout the community.

Instead of having to climb and search for water, families now have access right next to their homes. And because it's a protected source, the health of the community has transformed.

"Before the water project came in, we had more sick people in the village" Manita shared. "Now we know the importance of using toilets, keeping clean, and drinking clean water."

The resident doctor, Ram, who has been in Ambote for 18 years, went from treating over 2,220 cases of diarrhea in 2010 to fewer than 200 today.

For kids like Manita, restored health has meant the freedom to go to school. To study math, science, English, and Nepali with other 9th graders. To dream a little bigger.

Today, Manita is working to make sure that her community stays healthy for years to come. "I want to be a scientist," Manita boasted. "I want to make medicines to cure the ill."

* Name has been changed to protect privacy.

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Escaping Child Labor in Peru

When we first met Julieth* in 2016, she was engaged in back-breaking child labor at an outdoor brick making factory in Huachipa, Peru.

Julieth is now 9 years old, and still lives in Huachipa with her mother and two younger siblings. She is a beneficiary of a new project launched by CESIP called 'Promoting the rights of children and adolescents in Huachipa,' a project supported by a grant from the Red Nose Day Fund.

Thanks to generous donations from the American public on Red Nose Day, Julieth is no longer engaged in child labor.

As you might imagine, Julieth's family continues to struggle financially. Her mother Dina works in landscaping, sowing grass, and sometimes the family cannot participate in school activities that require extra fees. Julieth's father abandoned the family four years ago and does not have contact with his children. Dina has begun a legal process in the hope that Julieth's father will take financial responsibility for his children.



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Educating and engaging parents is a key part of breaking the cycle of child labor. Dina learned about the consequences of child labor and the rights of children through CESIP's project, and does not want her daughter to suffer the way she did from child labor. When CESIP first began to work with Julieth, she was a timid, quiet girl. She was often tired from working and didn't want to play. Her mother has seen a major change in Julieth ever since she entered CESIP's project. She is now a playful, happy and affectionate little girl.

Julieth is in the third grade now, and she received good grades last semester. Her favorite class is math. She has a great big sister, and she is very protective and loving towards her two younger siblings, José (age 8) and Flavia (age 5). Julieth also enjoys the art classes offered through CESIP. At the end of her school day, Julieth goes to the second-grade classroom and picks up José so that they can walk home together. After they finish their homework, they like to play soccer.

Julieth's life has been radically transformed. She goes to school, plays with her siblings, and even participates in classes to educate children about their rights, increase self-confidence, and improve social skills.

Instead of making bricks, Julieth is now laying the foundation for her own future.

* Name has been changed to protect privacy.

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A Home at Covenant House

Children and teenagers don't choose to be homeless. They take to the streets because adults have failed them or because circumstances beyond their control have left them no other choice.

In 2017, the number of homeless people in America increased for the first time in seven years,* and more than two million children in America will face a period of homelessness in their young lifetimes.**

Covenant House is using money raised through Red Nose Day to move young people from poverty and homelessness to a place of hope. While each young person served at Covenant House is unique, many of their stories are not unlike that of George.***

George was raised in the Bronx by his father and grandmother. He never knew his mother. His father was abusive, hitting him sometimes with his hands, sometimes with his belt. Unable to cope, George started acting out, getting in trouble, finally dropping out of school. When his grandmother died, George was kicked out of the house by his father.



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He had no place to go, and no one to help him. While he did have a job, he did not have a place to live. He slept anywhere he could find: on the subway, in parks, and even on sidewalks. Because he had nowhere to shower, he used wipes to wash, so no one at work would notice the dirt. He did not want anyone to know that he was homeless. He felt very alone, and was distraught about where his life had led him.

After a month on the streets, a friend referred him to Covenant House. When he arrived, he was given food, clothing and safe shelter in a caring environment. He felt supported and secure. At Covenant House, George participated in the Job Readiness employment workshop, learning essential skills to find and retain employment. He landed a job while working on his high school equivalency diploma, and moved into Covenant House's longer-term transitional living program, Rights of Passage.

"I am so thankful to the staff at Covenant House," says George, "because without their love and support, I don't know where I would be right now. It's been a really hard, long road, but I finally feel like I have a chance at being something great and accomplishing my dreams."

George is on his way, hoping to attend college and become a firefighter.

* According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

** According to Covenant House

*** Name has been changed to protect privacy.

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Giving Girls a Sporting Chance

Thirteen-year-old Latifa* lives in Afghanistan, a country that has experienced more than 30 years of ongoing conflict and disruption. But Latifa is beaming, because she has discovered her own leadership potential through a program called Skateistan.

In Afghanistan, 68% of the population is under the age of 25, and 50% is under the age of 16.** With a population this young, it is vital that development efforts in Afghanistan engage with youth - something that is often overlooked. Access to education is severely restricted, especially for young girls, who are also often barred from participating in sports.

“I come to Skateistan because I believe that the things that I love I can find and learn here: skateboarding, basketball, soccer and other sports,” says Latifa. “There is no place like this Skate School, because I can do and play things that I can’t do and play in other places.”

Skateistan uses innovative, youth-led programming that builds confidence, trust, and social capital among children. Using the hook of skateboarding and other sports, they connect children with education to help break the cycle of poverty and exclusion amongst youth who would otherwise not have these opportunities.

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“The most important things for me in my life are education and also basketball! The education and sports that I get at Skateistan are very useful for my life,” agrees Latifa. “I do skateboarding because it’s a new sport in Afghanistan and it’s the first time that it takes place here. I want to look good when I am doing it and I want to learn the tricks of this sport!”

Some of Skateistan’s greatest success can be seen among the youth who have become volunteers or staff, and who now play an active role in supporting their peers. Laureus Sport for Good is using money raised through Red Nose Day to fund Skateistan’s Youth Leadership program, which gives exceptional or motivated students the opportunity to be the teachers and role models for the younger students.

One of those role models is Latifa. She first started with Skateistan as a student and is now a Youth Leader, helping to teach the younger students in Mazar-e-Sharif how to skate while exploring her own passion for basketball. She is an inspirational example of a motivated student who has used the Youth Leadership program to pass on what she has learned to the wider community.

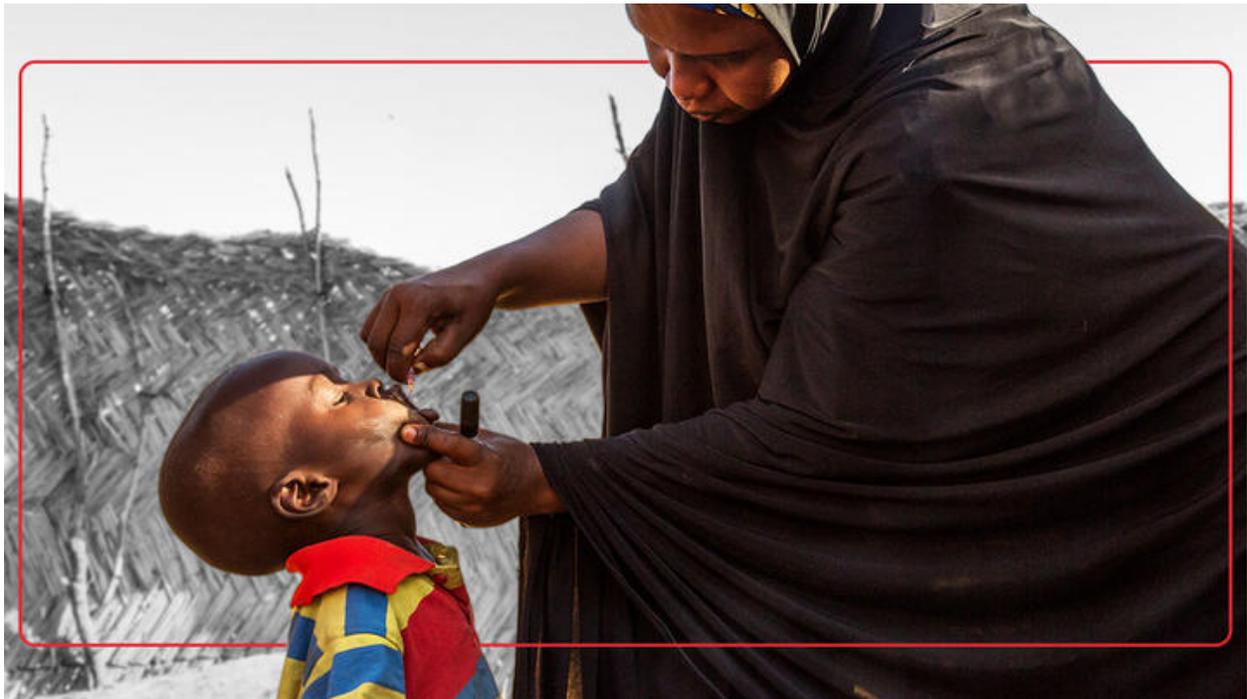
“Skateistan stands for helping children and teaching them skills, and I am an example of that,” says Latifa. “My message to other kids is to study hard and do sports that they love.”

* Name has been changed to protect privacy.

** According to Skateistan

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Protecting Children from Polio

In most parts of the world, children will never have to worry about being paralyzed by polio. But in Nigeria, wild poliovirus is still considered endemic.

Parts of the country have been mired in conflict since Boko Haram launched attacks against ordinary Nigerians and many families have been forced to live in Internally Displaced Persons camps.

Children are especially vulnerable, not just to violence but also to disease.

One of those children is Aminu*. He lives in a camp called the Muna Garage in Maiduguri, Borno State in Nigeria. Thanks to the generosity of people like you, Aminu was able to receive the oral polio vaccine.

Rotary uses money raised during Red Nose Day to fight polio in Nigeria. The organization's work to end polio has a direct impact on children. If reached in time, they will never face the threat of this vaccine-preventable disease.

As recently as 2008, Nigeria reported nearly half the polio cases in the world, with 800 children paralyzed by the disease**. Though Nigeria managed to bring its wild poliovirus case count to zero in 2015**, the country experienced an outbreak the following year as insecurity prevented health



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workers from reaching children in some parts of Borno State. Thanks to continued vaccination campaigns by Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), that outbreak was contained, and Nigeria has gone two years without a case of wild poliovirus.

To make sure the most vulnerable are protected from an easily preventable disease, Rotary and its GPEI partners have strengthened surveillance methods to better detect the virus in areas of conflict.

Today, Rotary and its partners are focused on reaching families not just at home, but in the places where hard-to-reach children live and play. For example, a recent campaign** in Nigeria immunized more than 5,000 children in markets; more than 10,000 children in camps for internally-displaced persons; and 2,500 children in nomadic camps.

Polio mainly infects children under the age of 5. It can't be cured but it can be prevented. People all around the world have come together to beat this terrible disease, and it's working. Polio rates have decreased by 99.9% in the past 30 years, from 350,000 cases of wild poliovirus in 1988 to 22 reported cases in 2017.*** Due to sustained efforts and support from people like you, we are close to eradicating this disease, and ensuring a world in which all children are free from polio's paralyzing impact.

* Name has been changed to protect privacy.

** According to Rotary International

*** According to the World Health Organization

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About Red Nose Day USA

Red Nose Day in the United States is a fundraising campaign run by the non-profit organization Comic Relief USA. Red Nose Day is on a mission to end child poverty – one nose at a time. Since launching in 2015, we’ve raised over \$145 million, positively impacting nearly 17 million children, here in America and around the world.

Money raised goes to the Red Nose Day Fund, which supports programs that keep children in need safe, healthy and educated. Our partners include the Boys & Girls Clubs of America; charity: water; City Year; Children's Health Fund; Covenant House; Feeding America; International Rescue Committee; Laureus Sport for Good; Save the Children; The Global Fund; and UnidosUS.

Red Nose Day USA has received generous support from millions of Americans, hundreds of celebrities and many outstanding partners, including Walgreens, NBC, Mars, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Visit [RedNoseDay.org](https://www.rednoseday.org) for more information about Red Nose Day and its impact and follow @RedNoseDayUSA on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

About Red Nose Day in School

Red Nose Day in School provides resources to help students understand the issue of child poverty, develop empathy, and inspire them to create positive change — one nose at a time. We believe that every child can make a difference, no matter how young. Visit [RedNoseDayinSchool.org](https://www.rednosedayinschool.org) for lesson plans, educational videos, and Red Nose Day fundraising resources and inspiration.