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How Students and Educators Can Get Involved in Mine Action

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what you can do

Students have a number of available options for getting involved in helping the global mine action community. Below are some examples of programs in which students can participate!

Adopt-A-Minefield and Landmine Survivors Network have joined forces to create “**That Landmine Thing.**” This campaign was created for and by students and involves thousands of young people from across North America interested in mine action. Their efforts help clear minefields, assist survivors, and raise awareness about the mine problem. Since it began, the campaign has involved over 1,000 schools and raised over \$300,000.

To register your school, e-mail info@thatlandminething.org.

This year, **Clear Path International** has two **Grassroots Fundraising Appeals** you can support:

AbilityTrek An amputee cyclist from North Carolina is going to ride his bike around the world to raise funds and awareness of the landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) issue. This grassroots effort will involve pledging money per mile for the rider—if a student or student group raises just a penny per mile, it would total \$130 at the end of his race. Students can learn about the issue, geography, and the human toll of landmines and UXO while raising funds for this cause.

Matching Grant CPI currently has a matching grant from the U.S. Department of State to raise civil society support for mine action. It is encouraging people to raise funds that can be matched to assist landmine and UXO victims.

For more information, contact info@cpa.org.

Freedom Fields USA has designed the **Landmine Awareness Education Program**. Students learn about the global landmine problem and ways to help solve it. They are challenged to think beyond their own lives and to become responsible, active global citizens. This informative packet is for teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools. It includes an educational DVD, a world landmine map, classroom activities and a list of resources. For those interested, we also have “**Change For Children,**” an in-school fundraising program.

Contact Freedom Fields at cathleen@freedomfieldsusa.org or (831) 644-6154 to request materials.

Landmine survivors in Cambodia are among the poorest in a very poor country. For many, access to basic human needs like shelter, food, water, health and education is blocked by the presence of landmines. Because of this, **Landmines Blow!** has created **Project Safe Water**. Here’s how you can get involved in this project:

- Organize a fundraising event, such as a car wash, rummage sale, raffle, bake sale, plant sale, or benefit concert.
- Have us speak at your school, park district, local club, or church.
- Join the Landmines Blow! Volunteer Task Force.
- Start a letter-writing campaign.
- Think outside the box!

Contact us via www.landminesblow.org for more information.

U.K. charity Mines Advisory Group and its partner, **MAG America** clear landmines, unexploded ordnance, and other weapons that threaten millions worldwide. It costs MAG \$3.00 on average to clear one square meter of land. This clearance allows people to return to their homes, grow food, walk to school, and rebuild their lives in safety.

The Challenge: Clear Your Classroom! Figure out how many square meters your classroom is and raise enough money to clear it. Last year, Maret Middle School in Washington, D.C., held a talent show to benefit MAG. They raised an impressive \$1,000, which can help clear over 330 square meters of land.

For more information, contact Jennifer Lachman at (202) 250-3914 or jennifer.lachman@magamerica.org.

CHAMPS (Children Against Mines Program) is a project of **The Marshall Legacy Institute**. This educational outreach program teaches students and communities about how landmines affect people and animals in war-torn nations. The project highlights the work of mine-detecting dogs, who are trained to “sniff out” landmines. This program allows students to:

- Help children in another country through giving and sharing
- Gain a greater understanding of their role in the global community

- Take part in a unique project to meet community service requirements
- Develop leadership skills
- Increase their awareness about an important international issue

For more information, contact Kimberly McCasland at kmccasland@marshall-legacy.org.

The **Global Landmine Initiative** is one of **People to People International's** high priorities. Recently, its efforts have focused on Sri Lanka. PTPI assistance supports a demining team, plus education and aftercare for mine survivors. Following the tsunami of December 2004, efforts expanded to build three schools. PTPI Student and Adult Chapters have embraced this effort through fundraisers to raise awareness and donations, as well as a Landmine Awareness Festival. Here’s how you can help:

- Join or create a PTPI Student Chapter to enhance educational, cultural and humanitarian activities.
- Coordinate special events at your school to raise awareness and funds.
- Join PTPI educational and humanitarian forums to raise awareness for this and other global humanitarian needs.
- Donate to PTPI’s International Friendship Fund—100% of donations go to the relief effort of your choice.
- Speak out! When you see the need, take action!

For more information, visit www.ptpi.org or write ptpi@ptpi.org.

The Roots of Peace Penny Campaign inspires students to raise awareness and funds for mine action. Students collect pennies to change minefields into safe schools and playgrounds for kids in war-torn countries. ABC 7/KGO news anchor Cheryl Jennings, Roots of Peace Founder Heidi Kuhn, and her daughter Kyleigh Kuhn co-founded the program. The Campaign has raised an amazing 10 million pennies since it began! Every penny counts as 100% of funds raised go directly to programs to help kids in Afghanistan and other mine-affected countries.

For more information, call Roots of Peace at (415) 455-8008 or visit www.rootsofpeace.org.

the

global landmine problem:

an opportunity for students and educators to help resolve it

Abandoned landmines and explosive remnants of war have left humankind with a deadly legacy. This post-conflict debris affects at least 60 countries, and kills or injures thousands of innocent civilians each year. **Persistent landmines keep people from leading normal, productive lives. They hinder agriculture and economic growth, and they hurt the creation of lasting peace and stability in areas ruined by armed conflict.** This situation can change, however, through the combined efforts of governments and private citizens.

“Humanitarian mine action” is the field that involves reducing the social, economic and environmental effects of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) such as bombs, grenades, etc. **Mine action is not just about removing mines and destroying UXO. It is also about people and societies and how landmines affect them.** The goal of mine action is to deal with victims’ needs and reduce the risk posed by landmines.

Mine clearance helps people live safely and lets economic and social development occur more freely. Mine action is a central part of any broad effort to rebuild countries and heal the wounds of war.

Between 1992 and 2002 alone, governments contributed over \$1.7 billion to the cause of mine action. The total U.S. contribution surpassed \$1 billion in 2005. These official efforts have resulted in significant reductions in casualties and a substantial return of mined land to safe, productive use. Yet **governments alone cannot solve the numerous complex challenges presented by the landmine threat.** Just as there are many challenges to be met, there are many ways to support landmine action.

Our nation’s youth have a huge capacity for contributing to mine action. Thus, one of the **greatest ways to make a difference** on this issue is to educate young people. Help them start programs in local schools, churches or neighborhoods. Students can

carry out projects that raise awareness in their community and persuade others to become involved. Such projects encourage them to **develop critical thinking and leadership skills, creativity, teamwork, and community service.** They can work with local civic groups to raise money or other contributions that are vitally needed. **Raising funds for others is true service learning because it requires students learn about the issue and make a real difference in the form of financial support.**

This packet outlines just a few of the **many paths you may choose** when deciding how to focus your energy and skills on the global landmine problem. Whatever your course of action, we applaud you for deciding to inform yourself and get involved! Please keep reading for further information to help you learn more about the landmine issue and how students can employ service learning to make a difference in the world of mine action.

landmine-related resources/further reading

MAIC website features

<http://maic.jmu.edu>

- Mine Action News/What’s New—<http://maic.jmu.edu/index.htm>
- The *Journal of Mine Action*—<http://maic.jmu.edu/journal/index/>
- Research Tools—<http://maic.jmu.edu/research/research.htm>
- Landmine Learning Resource—<http://maic.jmu.edu/research/primer.index.htm>
- Global Mine Action Registry—<http://maic.jmu.edu/gmar/default.asp>
- Mine Action Centers—<http://maic.jmu.edu/orgs/mac/mac.htm#national>

To Walk the Earth in Safety

www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/walkearth/

The U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action Program is the largest program of its kind in the world. These illustrated annual reports provide short descriptions of the landmines and explosive remnants of war in each country receiving U.S. mine action assistance. They also detail the precise nature of that assistance and track the U.S. mine action funding history in each country. The most recent report (6th Edition) is available at www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/walkearth/2006/.

Landmine Monitor Report

www.icbl.org/lm

An annual, comprehensive report on the mine situation made up of individual articles for each country.

E-MINE

www.mineaction.org

Website for mine action efforts of the different U.N. entities.

International humanitarian news centers

- Relief Web: www.reliefweb.int
- AlertNet: <http://alertnet.org>
- IRINnews: <http://irinnews.org>



Did you know?

The UN General Assembly declared April 4, 2006, the first annual **International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action**. The day is commemorated around the world to raise awareness about landmines and progress toward their eradication. Last year, people and organizations in at least 30 countries held events to observe it, according to the United Nations. This day is a great opportunity for students to host mine action activities in their schools and communities or even just to take time to learn more about the landmine issue.

If you decide to host an event for International Mine Action Day, please e-mail us the details at maic@jmu.edu.

mine action organizations

Adopt-A-Minefield

www.landmines.org

Adopt-A-Minefield is a program that helps save lives by raising funds for mine clearance and survivor assistance and by raising awareness about the landmine problem.

Canadian Landmine Foundation

www.canadianlandmine.org

The Canadian Landmine Foundation was formed as a registered charity with a mission: to raise awareness & funds to end the human and economic suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines.

Center for International Rehabilitation

www.cirnetwork.org

The Center for International Rehabilitation is a not-for-profit organization that develops technologies and programs to help people with disabilities worldwide reach their full potential.

Children of Armenia Fund

www.coafkids.org

COAF seeks to reverse the impoverished conditions affecting significant numbers of Armenia's children by revitalizing Armenia's villages and implementing projects that provide immediate and sustainable benefits to children and youth.

Clear Path International

www.clearpathinternational.org

CPI provides medical and social services to landmine survivors, their families and their communities in Southeast Asia.

Danish Church Aid

www.dca.dk

DanChurchAid is involved in mine action programs in several countries, with activities that focus on mine awareness, mine clearance, capacity building and advocacy activities.

Freedom Fields USA

www.freedomfieldsusa.org

Freedom Fields USA is a non-profit organization that removes abandoned landmines in war torn countries.

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

www.gichd.ch

The GICHD works toward a world free of anti-personnel landmines and the reduction of the impact of remnants of war by providing operational assistance, creating and sharing knowledge, and supporting instruments of international law.

Global Care Unlimited

www.globalcareunlimited.org

Global Care is a student-led organization designed to foster community support in the global fight against landmines.

Golden West Humanitarian Foundation

<http://goldenwesthf.org>

Golden West's mission is to protect the lives and livelihoods of people residing in areas contaminated with landmines and unexploded ordnance, through the development of innovative and practical materials and technologies.

Grapes for Humanity

www.grapesforhumanity.com

Grapes for Humanity raises funds to benefit humanitarian causes with the assistance of the international wine community.

The HALO Trust

www.halotrust.org

The HALO Trust is a non-profit organization that alleviates poverty through the removal of the debris of war.

Handicap International France

www.handicap-international.org

HI France helped found the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. It provides assistance to mine victims and implements mine awareness and mine clearance programs in Southeastern Europe and Africa.

Health Volunteers Overseas

www.hvousa.org

Health Volunteers Overseas is a private non-profit organization dedicated to improving the availability and quality of healthcare in developing countries through the training and education of local healthcare providers.

Help Handicapped International

www.hhiindia.org

HHI organizes free Jaipur foot and Calipers fitment camps and free distribution of wheelchairs, tricycles and crutches.

Humpty Dumpty Institute

www.humptydumpty.net

HDI puts private sector tools to work in the public sector by turning good ideas into operational programs and by providing creative content, intellectual capacity, critical "venture capital" and marketing expertise to its many partners.

International Committee of the Red Cross

www.icrc.org

The ICRC is an impartial and independent organization that protects the lives and dignity of victims of war and provides them assistance. It coordinates international relief activities in conflict situations and strives to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and related principles.

International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance

www.itf-fund.si

ITF's mission is to raise funds for demining and mine victim assistance in the region of southeastern Europe on a humanitarian basis, thus contributing to the political stabilization of that region.

Julia Burke Foundation

www.juliaburkefoundation.com

The Julia Burke Foundation sponsors projects to eradicate landmines and unexploded ordnance and to assist survivors of landmine accidents in countries emerging from conflict.

Kids First Vietnam

www.kidsfirstvietnam.org

Kids First creates educational and vocational opportunities for disadvantaged young people in Quang Tri province so they may mature into adults with equal opportunities, full community inclusion, self-reliance, and economic independence.

Landmine Survivors Network

www.landminesurvivors.org

Created by and for survivors, LSN empowers individuals, families and communities affected by landmines to recover from trauma, fulfill their rights and reclaim their lives.

Landmines Blow!

www.landminesblow.org

Landmines Blow! helps in assisting survivors and rebuilding communities. It offers a grassroots outreach campaign to teach people about the global landmine and unsafe water crises.

Lipscomb University

www.lipscomb.edu

Lipscomb University and its Center for International Peace and Justice promote awareness and understanding of international issues, particularly as they relate to peace, security, justice, and human suffering.

Marshall Legacy Institute

www.marshall-legacy.org

MLI applies skills and resources to building indigenous capacity in the developing world to alleviate suffering, restore hope and create conditions that nurture stability.

Medical Care Development International

<http://mcdi.mcdi.org>

The mission of MCDI is to enhance the well-being of peoples and communities in developing nations through superior technical assistance in health and socioeconomic development.

Mine Action Information Center

<http://maic.jmu.edu>

The MAIC manages information and conducts training on landmine issues. This information clearinghouse publishes a mine action journal, maintains a content-rich website, and conducts studies to facilitate and improve global landmine action.

Mines Advisory Group—America

www.magamerica.org

MAG America implements a range of activities including mine surveys, minefield marking, mine clearance, explosive ordnance disposal, mine risk education, stockpile destruction, and research and development for new demining technologies.

Missouri State University

www.missouristate.edu/polsci/landmines

Landmine Studies at Missouri State's Department of Political Science provides comprehensive, hands-on academic training for students to learn about the global landmine crisis.

One Sri Lanka Foundation

www.onesrilanka.org

One Sri Lanka strives to raise funds from individuals and organizations across the world to completely eliminate the landmine menace in Sri Lanka and convert minefields to rice fields.

Organization of American States

<http://oas.org>

The OAS is an integrated effort to assist its Member States in addressing the problems caused by anti-personnel landmines.

PeaceTrees Vietnam

www.peacetreesvietnam.org

PeaceTrees Vietnam is working alongside the Vietnamese people to transform the destructive legacy of war into a safe and healthy future for the children of Quang Tri province.

People to People International

www.ptpi.org

PTPI enhances international understanding and friendship through educational, cultural and humanitarian activities involving the exchange of ideas and experiences directly among peoples of different countries and diverse cultures.

Polus Center for Social and Economic Development

www.poluscenter.org

The Polus Center creates opportunities for disabled people and other vulnerable groups to become valued citizens within their communities. Activities include prosthetic outreach, employment opportunities, and disability training, education and advocacy.

Prosthetics Outreach Foundation

www.pofsea.org

POF's mission is to restore mobility and independence worldwide to amputees and other disadvantaged persons suffering from orthopedic disabilities.

Roots of Peace

www.rootsofpeace.org

Roots of Peace strives to rid the world of landmines by transforming minefields into thriving farmland. By turning "Mines into Vines," it seeks to restore the promise of hope and prosperity to afflicted communities.

ROSE Charities

www.rosecharities.net/rose-canada.htm

ROSE Charities actively supports rehabilitative projects in developing countries, with specific historic focus on Cambodia.

Rotarians for Mine Action

www.rfma.org

Rotarians for Mine Action is a voluntary non-profit association dedicated to building awareness among Rotary members interested in efforts to rid the world of landmines and to assist those who have been injured by them.

Save the Children

www.savethechildren.org/emergencies/landmines.asp

Save the Children works with families to define and solve the problems their children and communities face, utilizing a broad array of strategies to ensure self-sufficiency.

Spirit of Soccer

www.spiritofsoccer.org

SOS gives children who have been landmine victims the opportunity to play soccer and at the same time learn about the risks of mines.

Survey Action Center

www.sac-na.org

SAC serves as the coordination body for Landmine Impact Surveys. These surveys provide vital information to improve priority setting in the effort to control the threat of mines by the year 2010.

UNICEF

www.unicef.org

UNICEF is the lead agency for mine risk education. UNICEF is also actively involved in victim assistance activities and in the promotion of a global ban on anti-personnel landmines.

United Nations Development Program

www.undp.org

The UNDP is responsible for assisting governments in building sustainable national capacities for long-term mine action efforts in support of reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

United Nations Foundation

www.unfoundation.org

The UN Foundation seeks to support the goals and objectives of the United Nations in order to promote a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world, with special emphasis on economic, social, environmental and humanitarian causes.

United Nations Mine Action Service

www.mineaction.org

UNMAS serves as the UN focal point for all mine-related issues and activities. It provides mine action assistance in the context of humanitarian emergencies and peacekeeping operations.

U.S. Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement

www.state.gov/t/pm/wra/

WRA creates conditions conducive to peace, stability and prosperity by curbing the illicit proliferation of conventional weapons of war and removing and destroying those that remain and pose hazards after the cessation of armed conflict.

Veterans for America

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

VFA, formerly the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, is uniting veterans to address the causes, conduct and consequences of war. VFA's Information Management and Mine Action Program is literally charting a course to safety and peace through former battlefields and minefields in numerous countries.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

www.vvmf.org

Project RENEW is VVMF's humanitarian program designed to reduce the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance in Vietnam.

World Rehabilitation Fund

www.worldrehabfund.org

The World Rehabilitation Fund is the pioneer organization devoted to the development and implementation of rehabilitation programs for people with disabilities throughout the world.