



Refugee children perform a puppet show in their new day care facility in Tel Aviv

## **REFUGEE CHILDREN OFFER THANKS TO “CHANGE THE WORLD IT JUST TAKES CENTS”™**

Education for disadvantaged, oppressed and victimized children is the top priority for “Change the world. It just takes cents”™, an interactive, experiential, student-led anti-genocide, service learning, social action, and philanthropy initiative. When the Colorado students received a phone call to establish a day care center for 70 Darfuri and Eritrean refugee toddlers being processed at the Israeli/Egyptian border last summer, it immediately became a priority project for the students and soon thereafter, a reality.

Dr. Meggie Navon, the US Operations Director of the Tel Aviv Foundation in Israel, facilitated the collaborative venture between “Change the world. It just takes cents”™ and the City of Tel Aviv to create a day care center, established in an abandoned, skeletal school building, in the Shapira section of southern Tel Aviv, where many refugees arrive to restore their disrupted lives. Refugee children representing 15 countries attend the center, many being African refugees from Darfur, South Sudan, Eritrea, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

Understanding the desperate need, the school provides childcare for the refugee toddlers from 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. together with basic education and hot meals. Teachers lovingly acclimate them, promising safety and security, enabling parents to venture out and work to rebuild their lives in a strange new country. Dr Navon and Zvi Kanor, Executive Director of the Tel Aviv Foundation, attended the “Change the world it just takes cents”™ Forum earlier this year, to acknowledge, publicize and salute Colorado’s students for their significant contribution toward changing the lives of emotionally and physically vulnerable children in a strange land.



"Change the world students with Dr Meggie Navon and Zvi Kanor of the Tel Aviv Foundation

“Change the world. It just takes cents!”™ (CTWIJTC) is an innovative program through which seventh and eighth grade students learn the process of social action and philanthropy. For five years, CTWIJTC students have raised awareness about the genocide in Darfur, advocated for the productive future of Darfur as well as fundraised for related projects. The money donated by CTWIJTC was matched dollar for dollar by the City of Tel Aviv, and used to purchase computers with special learning software, TVs and DVD players with educational videos, and educational materials for the Day Care center.

Guided by their teachers the pre-k children wrote the following to CTWIJTC to express their gratitude:

Open up your eyes,  
Look around you  
Oh, you are the good people in the middle of the road  
Such very good people  
Who know the way of doing good.

We are so happy to be in the wagon of your train, this very special journey of changing the world with you.  
You bought us books placed in the new library, musical instruments which bring joy to our hearts and ever since we dance and sing.  
You have bought us computers and toys to learn and enjoy, dolls to hug and kiss, puppets to jump into fairy tales, forgetting some of our reality and so much more.  
Your generosity has created a small bridge that will take us across the hardship to a better horizon.  
Thank you so much

The Tel Aviv day care children also created a Thank-You youtube greeting, which they sent to the students of "Change the world. It just takes cents"™. It can be viewed, by visiting:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=aLGcAHF8Uvg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=aLGcAHF8Uvg)  
(Captions were created by David Kornfeld, Generation 5 student, "CTWIJTC")

"Change the world. It just takes cents"™ (CTWIJTC) is an interactive experiential student-led anti-genocide, service learning, social action, and philanthropy initiative. Through a specially designed curriculum and learning process students realize their voice, and how, when correctly applied, they have the power to help create a better place, locally and internationally, for all, irrespective of religion, race, creed or culture.

For further information, to get involved, or to contribute to "Change the world. It just takes cents"™, contact:  
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