



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large

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Safe Places to Learn and Grow

Save the Children

When storms, earthquakes, disease or wars hit, kids often need extra help. Disasters can take away children's chances to go to school. This means kids lose their safe places.

Save the Children is a group that helps children in trouble throughout the world. One of its main goals is to be sure kids can go to school, no matter what happens.

The Mini Page talked with the education director of Save the Children to learn more about the important work this group is doing.



photo by Dan Stewart/Save the Children

A community health worker in Sierra Leone taught Esther to wash her hands often to help her stay safe from Ebola. Esther, age 9, is sad that Sierra Leone has closed all its schools. She said, "I want to be a nurse because I want to save people's lives."



photo courtesy Save the Children

When she was 12, Sherein and her family left Syria to join her dad in Iraq. They had to leave their home when running water and electricity were cut because of the civil war in Syria.

She was out of school for seven months before Save the Children built a school for refugees. When not in class, Sherein helps teach English to younger kids.

Ebola shuts down schools

The **Ebola** (ee-BOE-luh) disease is spreading especially fast in three West African countries: Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Nearby countries are also at risk. Thousands of people are ill. Communities are falling apart because of the fear of the disease.

These three countries have had to shut down all schools. In some of the hardest-hit areas of Liberia, children are not allowed to gather in groups. They cannot even see their friends for fear they'll catch the disease.

Save the Children is working with the Liberian government to set up radio programs to teach school lessons to kids at home.

Working with communities

Aid groups are scrambling to deal with the Ebola outbreak. Save the Children is working with teachers to help entire communities. Even though schools are closed, teachers can help people learn how to stay safe and spot symptoms of Ebola. Teachers can help get rid of the fear.

Save the Children and other groups are helping to train health workers and provide medical supplies.

Women make up about three-fourths of the people who have died from Ebola. This means thousands of kids have lost their moms.

Save the Children is helping orphaned children find homes with relatives and families.

Fleeing From War

War

In many countries, wars have forced people to flee from their homes. People who have to leave their countries because of war, bullying of their people or natural disasters are known as **refugees** (REH-fyoo-jees).

For example, South Sudan in Africa gained its independence in 2011 after years of fighting. But conflicts spread again. More than 450,000 refugees are now fleeing South Sudan for other countries. Nearly 2 million have been forced from their homes altogether. Almost three-fourths of the refugees crossing to safe countries are children. Many have been separated from their parents or caregivers.

Another example is Syria in the Middle East. For a long time, Syria was a good place for kids. Most kids were in school and safe. But fighting has broken out within Syria in the last few years. Now, more than half of the kids are out of school. More are being forced to leave each day.



photo courtesy Save the Children

Haval is an 11-year-old boy from Syria.

Haval's story

When Haval was in second grade, fighting started near his school in Damascus, Syria. Two of his teachers were killed on their way to school. The family was forced to flee to Iraq.

Haval said: "Sometimes the Iraqi children get very angry at the Syrian children. They say that we are the bad guys. That makes me very angry, so I tell them that I didn't come here to make problems but because the situation in Syria is very bad."

Simon's story

When Simon was 15 years old, he and his family were forced to flee from their home in South Sudan after heavy fighting broke out. They found a safe place at a refugee camp in Uganda.

Simon said: "In the mornings now I go to school, which I love very much. You need to go to school so that you can get a good job, help your community and be a good person in the future.

"In the afternoon I can come to the child-friendly space and play with my friends. We can play football, volleyball or do drama."

When Simon first entered the refugee camp, he grew sick with malaria. Many refugees get sick because they are under so much stress.



photo courtesy Save the Children

Ready Resources

The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

On the Web:

- savethechildren.org
- savethechildren.org/sweater
- bit.ly/1xdGe2K
- teachingkidsnews.com/2013/09/02/1-world-looking-syria

At the library:

- "Parade of Shadows" by Gloria Whelan
- "Walking Home" by Eric Walters



Try
'n'
Find

Save the Children

C	S	R	E	H	C	A	E	T	G	S	A	M	V	D
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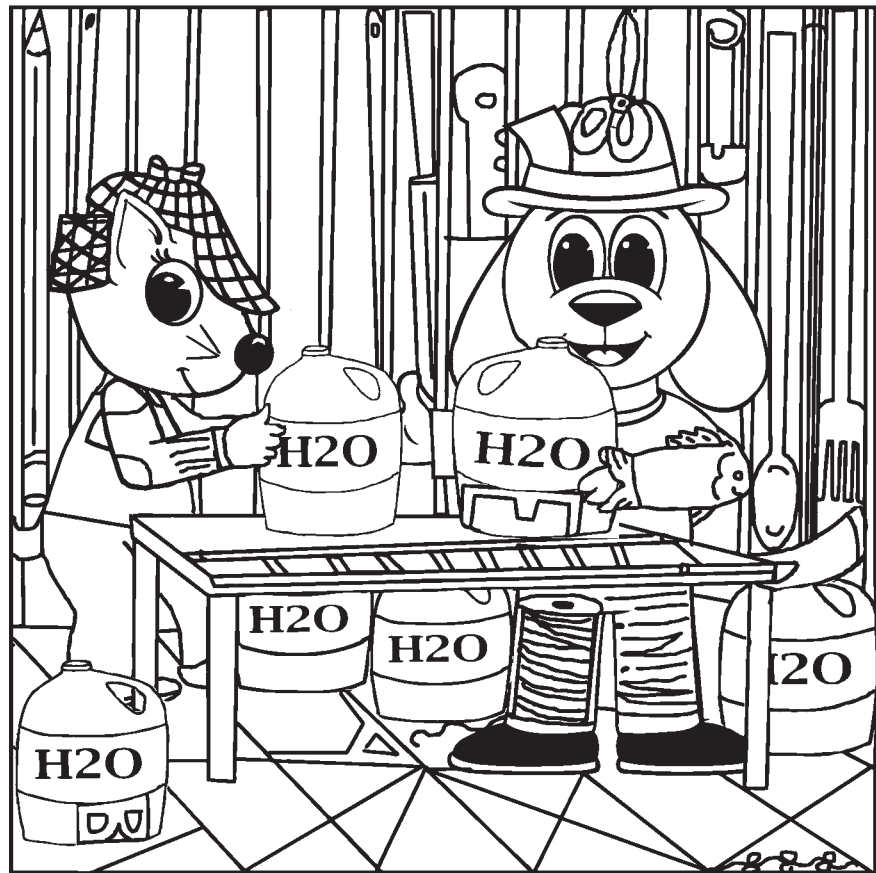
Words that remind us of Save the Children are hidden in the block above. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: AID, BOYS, CAMP, CHILDREN, COMMUNITY, DISASTER, DISEASE, EARTHQUAKE, EBOLA, EDUCATION, GIRLS, HEALTH, NATURAL, REFUGEE, SAVE, SCHOOL, SHELTER, SPACE, STORMS, TEACHERS.



Mini Spy

Mini Spy and Basset Brown are preparing safe water for children in need. See if you can find:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> hoe | <input type="checkbox"/> needle | <input type="checkbox"/> flyswatter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> spool | <input type="checkbox"/> pencil | <input type="checkbox"/> spoon | <input type="checkbox"/> kite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> scissors | <input type="checkbox"/> fork | <input type="checkbox"/> key | <input type="checkbox"/> letter B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> knife | <input type="checkbox"/> sock | <input type="checkbox"/> fish | <input type="checkbox"/> safety pin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> letter A | <input type="checkbox"/> letter E | <input type="checkbox"/> ladder | <input type="checkbox"/> word MINI |



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Healthy Spinach Dip

Serve this with vegetables or pita chips.

You'll need:

- 1 cup light mayonnaise
- 1 (8-ounce) container light sour cream
- 1 (4-ounce) package ranch dressing mix
- 1/2 teaspoon dill weed seasoning
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons instant onions
- 1 (10-ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, cooked and drained well

What to do:

1. Combine mayonnaise, sour cream, ranch dressing mix and spices in a bowl.
2. Cook spinach as directed; drain well and remove all moisture by blotting with paper towels. Let cool.
3. Mix spinach with other ingredients. Chill for one hour.
4. Serve with cut-up vegetables or chips.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

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Meet Dani



photo by Britni Jaffe

Singer and composer Dani's latest CD and video are called "Beauty Land." The songs go together to tell a magical story about a brother and sister.

Dani grew up in Chicago. She began acting and singing in a community children's theater when she was 6. She played Cinderella in the musical of that name when she was in middle school. In high school and college, she sang and danced in musical theater and sang in choirs.

She graduated from college with a degree in music therapy and taught music in special-education classrooms. She later worked at a music video company in Los Angeles.

While in school, Dani also participated in gymnastics, soccer and art. She had a reading disability, and said, "It was a struggle to keep up with reading homework."

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**Goldie
Goodsport's
Supersport**



**Height: 5-5
Age:
17**

**Hometown:
Meansville,
Georgia**

Madeline Crane

Professional motor sports have traditionally been dominated by male drivers. There have certainly been exceptions, such as NASCAR driver Danica Patrick and drag racer Erica Lee Enders-Stevens. Now another young driver is working to break into the sport's upper levels.

Madeline Crane, known to her fans as "Mad Maddie," has been racing competitively since age 10. In 2013, she recorded seven wins and 17 other top-three finishes driving cars on dirt tracks. This year, Maddie raced dirt Late Model cars and held her own against more experienced drivers.

This past fall, Maddie was one of 20 drivers invited to participate in NASCAR's 11th annual Drive for Diversity combine. The program was established to give female and minority drivers a chance to experience high-level competition under professional track conditions. For Maddie, who turned 17 in October, it meant moving from dirt tracks to asphalt — the next step to the sport's top ranks.

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**Mighty
Funny's**

Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Chuck: What cheese can't stop talking?

Chelsea: "Chatter" cheese!

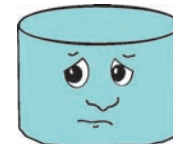
Charles: What do you get when you mix Snoopy and breakfast?

Cheryl: A beagle and cream cheese!

Cindy: What is the best cheese to eat when you are sad?

Carl: Blue cheese!

And then she said.....



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The Importance of School

Helping girls go to school

In many parts of the world, girls are not allowed to go to school. But in countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, Save the Children and other groups are working with communities and families to figure out ways girls can go to school.

In Pakistan, girls' fathers are often the strongest supporters of girls' education. Studies have proven that when girls are educated, the health of the entire family improves. Whole communities are better off when girls are educated.

Natural disasters

After a natural disaster strikes, the school may be the only place still standing. People go there to seek shelter.

For example, a destructive tropical storm, or **typhoon** (tie-FOON), struck the Philippines about a year ago. In one community, it washed away people's homes, but the school remained standing.

People are still using the school as a shelter. They sleep there at night, then get up in the morning and clear out the classrooms so kids can go to school. They go to all this trouble because they don't want their kids to miss out on a chance for an education.

The Mini Page thanks Heather Simpson, senior director of education and child development, Save the Children, for help with this issue.



photo courtesy Save the Children

Basma is a 10-year-old girl from Aleppo, Syria. When she was in second grade, she had to drop out of school because fighting made everything too dangerous. When her family's home was destroyed by a bomb, they fled to a different city.

Basma said: "I am now going to the Save the Children school. I like my teacher because he takes care of me and treats me nicely. I am also happy because ... I can sing again."

Refugee camps

Thousands of children in the world are growing up in refugee camps. Sometimes local communities accept refugees into their communities, but this can still create problems.

For example, Jordan is taking in so many Syrian refugees that Jordanian and Syrian kids have to go to school in shifts. In some schools, Jordanian students have left bullying messages for the Syrian kids coming in for the next learning shift.

This creates a lot of stress for the new students. Jordanian students are under stress because their communities are now so crowded. People are trying to ease the tension.

History

Save the Children began in 1932 during the Great Depression. At that time, many Americans had trouble finding jobs or even food. The group started by giving clothes, school supplies and hot lunches to children in an especially poor area in Kentucky.

Save the Children soon began helping kids in other places in America. Then it helped European kids left homeless because of World War II.

Today it helps kids hurt by natural disasters and wars throughout the world. It creates child-friendly spaces in emergencies.

Sweater power



Every year, students wear fun holiday sweaters as part of the Save the Children holiday fundraiser. Schools host sweater parties to help raise money for kids around the world.

Make the World Better With a Sweater day will be Dec. 12 this year.

photo courtesy Save the Children

Look through your newspaper for stories of places where kids might need help.

Next week, The Mini Page celebrates a milestone at Yosemite National Park.

The Mini Page Staff

Betty Debnam - Founding Editor and Editor at Large Lisa Tarry - Managing Editor Lucy Lien - Associate Editor Wendy Daley - Artist