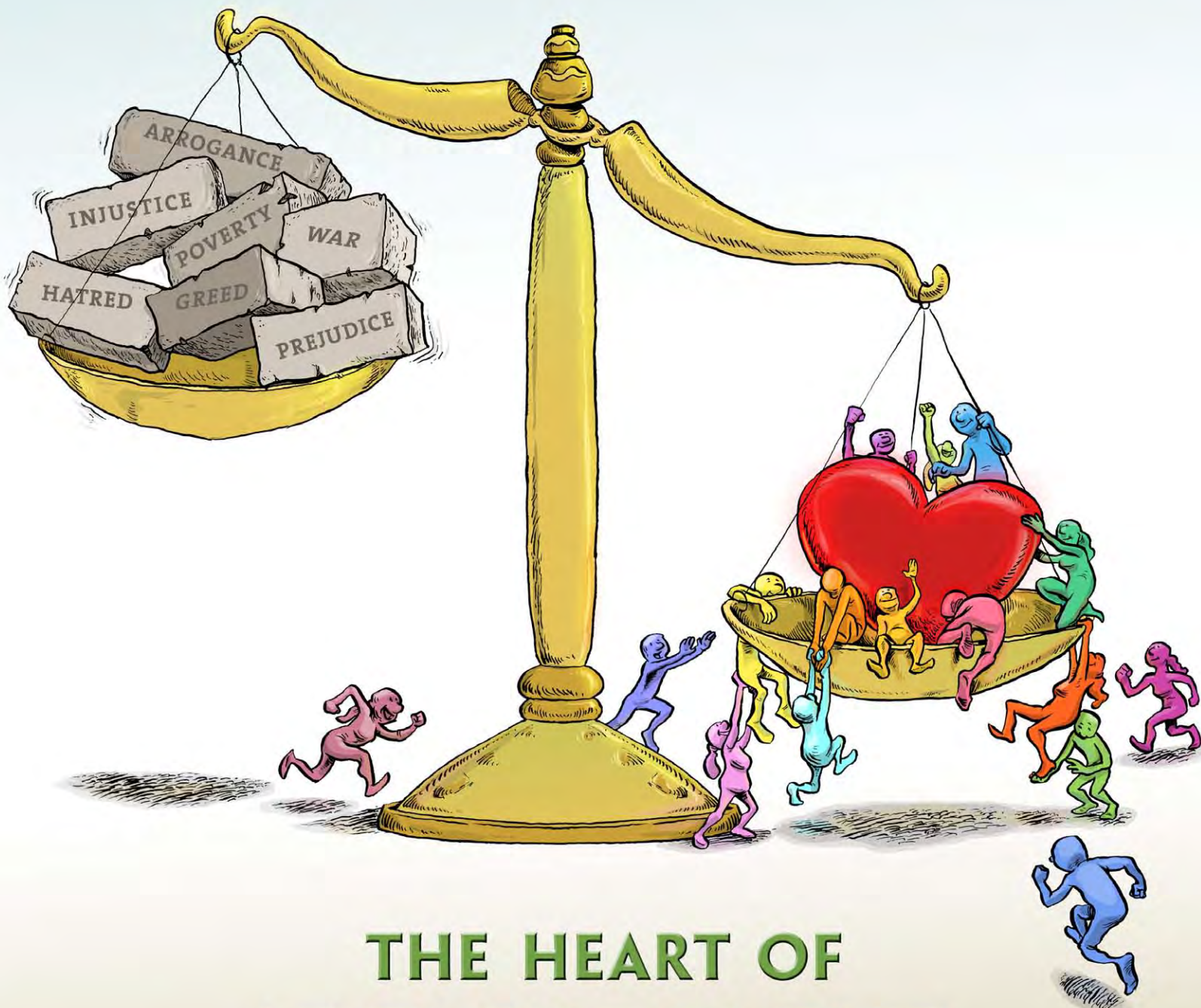


# Brilliant Star

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

MARCH/APRIL 2010



THE HEART OF  
**JUSTICE**

# Brilliant Star

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**Brilliant Star** magazine invites all kids to explore the Bahá'í Faith. It is the second most widespread religion in the world, with more than five million Bahá'ís.

The Bahá'í Faith was founded by the Prophet **Bahá'u'lláh** ("Glory of God" in Arabic) in 1863. Bahá'u'lláh taught that all people are part of one human family, and that all religions come from one God. Bahá'ís work to bring peace and unity to the world, and end prejudice and discrimination of all kinds.

Bahá'u'lláh's eldest son, **'Abdu'l-Bahá**, interpreted His teachings and led the Bahá'í community after Bahá'u'lláh's passing.

**Brilliant Star** encourages kids to bring their virtues and talents to light, and use them to make the world a better place. **Brilliant Star** is produced bimonthly by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S.

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### DEAR FRIENDS,

Are you a champion of justice? Justice is treating everyone fairly, as members of one human family. We all deserve to live in peace, with access to food, healthcare, education, and other basic needs.

You stand up for justice when you get along with kids from all backgrounds, show respect to everyone, or refuse to gossip. You can also speak up for those who face prejudice and discrimination—whether in your neighborhood or across the world.

In this issue of **Brilliant Star**, you'll explore the need for justice and how you can help. Play a globe-trotting service project game, take a quiz on dealing with bullies, and draw an invention to assist others. You'll also meet Adrienne Carter, who counsels people during chaotic times, such as natural disasters and wars.

Using your virtues and talents, you can find imaginative ways to serve the world and build justice. And we'll be cheering you on.



With love from **Brilliant Star**



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# Sanctuary in the Sea

"Act towards all living creatures with justice and equity." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

**I**n the deep blue of the Pacific Ocean lie some of Earth's precious treasures—the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and their creatures. They're part of one of the world's largest protected marine areas, covering nearly 140,000 square miles (362,000 sq km).\*

These islands are extraordinarily rich in biodiversity. As a unique refuge for wildlife, they are home to over 7,000 species, many of which are found only in Hawaii. The critically endangered Hawaiian monk seals live

here—the last 1,200 remaining on Earth. It's the nesting grounds for almost all of Hawaii's threatened green sea turtles. Fourteen million sea birds also nest here, and many types of coral thrive.

The islands' hearty ecosystem also gives scientists rare opportunities for research. We have much to learn in order to protect our oceans from threats like over-fishing and pollution. By protecting the diverse habitats of animals, we can help keep the earth in balance.

In this Hawaiian setting, find eight hidden animals. Most are endangered species.



Hawaiian Monk Seal



Green Sea Turtle



Tiger Shark



Oahu Tree Snail



Black-footed Albatross



Laysan Duck



Nihoa Finch



Leatherback Sea Turtle

LEATHERBACKS ARE THE **LARGEST** TURTLES IN THE WORLD. THEY CAN GROW OVER SEVEN FEET (2 M) AND WEIGH OVER 2000 POUNDS (907 KG)!



## A Brief Timeline

### The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

The highlighted area marks the time in which this story takes place.

#### 1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tíhrán, Iran

#### 1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

#### 1852

Imprisonment in the Black Pit of Tíhrán

#### 1853–1863

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq. From 1854–1856, He goes into the mountains to pray in solitude.

#### 1863 April 22

Declares Divine Mission as Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith

#### 1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne), Turkey. Begins writing letters to kings and rulers in 1867, urging world unity

#### 1868

Last exile, to prison-city of 'Akká, Israel

#### 1877

Finally free to live in countryside homes of Mazra'ih and then Bahjí, outside 'Akká

#### 1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes away at Bahjí.

# Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Seeing with Your Own Eyes

**B**ackbiting and gossip can spread like wildfire and be just as destructive. Like smoke from a fire, rumors can cloud your vision. How do you clear the air to see the truth for yourself?

In 1868, Bahá'u'lláh encountered vicious rumors when He and nearly 70 of His family and followers were sent to the prison-city of 'Akká, in what is now Israel. Bahá'u'lláh, a Messenger of God, and His followers, called Bahá'ís, had done nothing wrong. But some government and religious leaders wanted to stop Bahá'u'lláh's teachings of peace. Rumors raged among the citizens of 'Akká that the Bahá'ís were terrible criminals. Because of these rumors, most people in 'Akká treated the Bahá'ís with suspicion and hate. When they arrived, a crowd gathered to jeer and mock them.

After being imprisoned for over two years, Bahá'u'lláh and most of His family were moved to different houses, then finally crowded into a house too small for them.

Soon after, a conflict erupted among some of the exiles who did not follow Bahá'u'lláh's teachings. This intensified hostility from the people of 'Akká. Ilyás 'Abbúd, whose house was attached to Bahá'u'lláh's, barricaded the walls that separated the homes. Bahá'í children were chased and pelted with stones. Some of the Bahá'ís were imprisoned at an inn in the city. Soldiers who kept guard over them treated them harshly. However, the gentle and patient character of the Bahá'ís began to change the guards' hearts.



Bahá'u'lláh was in this prison in 'Akká for over two years. The two windows at the right look out from His cell.

They admitted that they had been prejudiced by the rumors. The guards became friendlier, and the Bahá'ís even had them in for tea. The soldiers soon believed that the authorities were unfair for imprisoning the Bahá'ís. Finally, they boldly refused to stand guard over people they saw as peaceful.

Ilyás 'Abbúd also had a big change of heart after living next to the Bahá'ís and seeing their behavior. He tore down his barricades, and he even offered his own home to Bahá'u'lláh and His family!

Over time, others in 'Akká began to see with their own eyes that the rumors about the Bahá'ís were false. A new governor came to 'Akká who treated the Bahá'ís with

kindness. He admired Bahá'u'lláh's son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, so much that he removed his shoes in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's presence out of respect. He even sent his own son to be taught by 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

Life in 'Akká had started out terribly for the Bahá'ís. But after the conflicts, rumors, and lies settled, many saw the true nature of Bahá'u'lláh and His teachings.



Soldiers guard the prison in 'Akká, where Bahá'u'lláh, His family, and about 70 Bahá'ís were confined.





"Oh, friends of God, be living examples of justice!" —'Abdu'l-Bahá

I WILL STAND UP FOR JUSTICE!



## ARE YOU A CHAMPION OF JUSTICE?

**Y**ou don't need superpowers to fight for justice. By developing your natural powers of fairness and courage, you can stand up for justice in your own school or neighborhood.

You have lots of opportunities every day to build peace and respect. When you follow rules and laws, share your stuff, or stand up for a kid who's getting picked on, you're practicing justice.

You don't have to cause a big confrontation. Sometimes it's enough to simply say, "Hey, that's not cool. Let's do something else."

It might seem scary at first to speak up for what you think is right—especially when others don't agree. But you can start with small steps and build your confidence. Who knows? You might inspire others to be champions of justice, too.

## POWERS OF JUSTICE

Take this quiz to see how you're using your powers of justice. Circle your answer for each statement below. Then add up your points.

1. I remember that all people deserve to be treated with respect and fairness.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

2. I find ways to help others in my family, school, or community.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1



3. Whether I'm winning or losing, I'm a good sport.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

4. When there's a conflict, I patiently listen to all sides.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

5. If others are being bullied, I speak up or get help.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

6. I respect people's belongings and property.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

7. I avoid gossiping about others.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

8. When I'm the leader, I give everyone a chance to participate and be heard.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

9. I am honest when I take tests and do homework.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1



10. I care for Earth's resources by conserving and recycling.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

11. I treat others the way I want to be treated.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

12. When someone is getting left out, I try to talk to them or include them.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

## MY TOTAL POINTS: \_\_\_\_\_

**36-28 points:** Great job! You're making a difference in the world as a champion of justice. Keep it up.

**27-19 points:** Good start. You're developing your powers. Continue to practice and build confidence.

**18-12 points:** You do have the power of justice within you. Pick some actions from the quiz and try them.



# WHAT DO YOU SAY?

**L**ook out for number one! Every man for himself! Have you heard lines like these? It's important to take care of yourself, but it's also vital to consider those around you. Most cultures and faiths have a version of the Golden Rule, which says to treat others as you want to be treated.

All people are part of one family, with essential human rights. We can help create a just world, where people respect each other, live in peace, protect the environment, and share resources fairly. How do you respond when someone doesn't show consideration for our global family? What do *you* say?



EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRACTICE THEIR RELIGION!

OR

THEY'RE STANDING UP FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVE IN. I THINK IT'S BRAVE.

WRITE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY:

BE NICE. HE LOOKED MISERABLE. POVERTY IS A **HUGE** PROBLEM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

OR

MAYBE WE CAN **HELP** BY DONATING TO THE FOOD BANK.

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? THAT BEGGAR JUST ASKED ME FOR MONEY! WHAT A LOSER.



WRITE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY:

WHY BOTHER RECYCLING? IT'S NOT REALLY GOING TO HELP. WHAT CAN **ONE** PERSON DO, ANYWAY?



EVERY BIT HELPS. RECYCLING ONE CAN SAVES ENOUGH ENERGY TO RUN A COMPUTER FOR THREE HOURS!

OR

YOU COULD KEEP ALL YOUR EMPTY CANS OUT OF THE LANDFILL. THEY TAKE **HUNDREDS** OF YEARS TO DECOMPOSE!

WRITE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY:



# Seeking Justice for Bahá'ís in Iran

**I**magine being snatched from your family and daily life, then confined to a dismal jail cell, with little food to eat—all because of your religion. That's what life has been like for seven Bahá'ís in Iran since spring 2008. The two women and five men are in Evin prison in Tíhrán.

Before their arrest, they were a group called the “Friends in Iran,” or *Yárán*, who helped with the needs of Iran's 300,000 Bahá'ís. In most places, local and national Bahá'í communities are led by elected groups called Spiritual Assemblies. But the Bahá'í community in Iran has not been allowed to elect formal leaders since 1983, when the Islamic government outlawed them.

From the birth of the Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'ís in Iran have faced religious discrimination. Bahá'u'lláh, the Faith's Prophet-Founder, was imprisoned in the 1800s and then exiled. His teachings promote world peace, the oneness of all religions, and the equality of women and men.

For a year after their arrest, the Friends in Iran were not permitted to see their lawyers. They are charged with several crimes, but with no supporting evidence. One of their lawyers, the Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi, said, “If justice is to be carried out and an impartial judge should investigate the charges leveled against my clients, no other verdict can be reached save that of acquittal.”

The trial date for the Friends in Iran was postponed three times. The trial finally began on January 12, 2010. Only two lawyers for the Bahá'ís were allowed inside, and no observers, including family.

The Friends in Iran are not the only Bahá'ís who face persecution. At least 50 others are in prison in Iran, where mistreatment of Bahá'ís is official government policy. More than 200 Bahá'ís were killed in Iran between 1978



Above: The seven “Friends in Iran” are being persecuted because of their religion. In the back, left to right are: Fariba Kamalabadi, Vahid Tizfahm, Jamaloddin Khanjani, Afif Naeimi, Mahvash Sabet. In the front, left to right, are Behrouz Tavakkoli and Saeid Rezaie.



Left: Shirin Ebadi, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, is one of the lawyers defending the rights of the Friends in Iran.

and 1998. Bahá'ís there have been deprived of their legal rights and are often denied jobs, money, and property. Bahá'í students, from elementary school to college, are often harassed by teachers. Bahá'ís are usually not allowed to attend college, and when they are, they are often expelled.

Governments, leaders, and groups from around the world have spoken out in support of the Bahá'ís. A United Nations resolution expressed deep concern for the human rights of many in Iran, including Bahá'ís. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives both passed formal resolutions criticizing the persecution of the Bahá'ís.

Bahá'ís and people of all religions deserve the freedom to practice their faith in peace. By speaking out, we can help extend this basic human right to Iran.

## UNITE FOR FREEDOM

Join others around the world in standing up for justice

- Tell your friends, classmates, and neighbors about what's going on with the Bahá'ís in Iran.
- Say prayers for all those who are imprisoned and persecuted because of their religion.
- Hold a devotional gathering with your family, and invite friends from other faiths to join you.
- With your family, write to your elected officials, thanking them when they express support for the Bahá'ís in Iran.
- Learn about the latest news by talking with your parents or visiting <http://news.bahai.org> and <http://iran.bahai.us>.



# You Can Take a Stand

**H**ave you ever seen someone getting bullied? Maybe you wanted to help, but didn't know what to do. Maybe you worried about being the next target. Maybe you've already been bullied. Whether it happens to you or someone else, bullying can be scary and upsetting. But there's good news—you have the power to make a difference.

When bystanders ignore mean behavior, the bully may think they support what he's doing. But most kids don't like to see bullying. One study found that



when bystanders took a stand, the bully stopped more than half of the time.

There are ways to help without confronting the bully or risking your own safety. Telling a trusted adult is one of the best things to do. If the adult doesn't do anything, don't give up. Keep talking to adults until someone listens and takes action. You can also be a friend to kids who are picked on. Bullying is wrong. Your courageous actions can promote justice. Take this quiz to build your confidence and get more ideas.

**Read each question, then choose the most effective response in each situation.**

**1. If a bully is insulting my friend:**

- a) I yell back and threaten the bully.
- b) I do nothing, feeling relieved it wasn't me.
- c) I calmly encourage my friend to walk away with me.

**2. If I see bullying:**

- a) I just watch, hoping nobody gets hurt.
- b) I slip away and quietly tell an adult.
- c) I ignore it and go to class.

**3. If I've been bullied at school:**

- a) I hide the bully's backpack in the cafeteria.
- b) I tell my parents or a teacher.
- c) I bully other kids to feel better.

**4. If there is no anti-bullying policy at my school:**

- a) I talk to my teachers or principal about making one.
- b) I tell kids bullying isn't against the rules.
- c) I ask my parents to send me to a different school.

**5. If kids who pick on me hang out in the same place at school:**

- a) I wait until they're bullying someone else, then walk by.
- b) I get friends to walk with me.
- c) I won't go to class if it's near there.



**6. If an adult asks me about a bullying incident I saw:**

- a) I tell the truth about what happened.
- b) I tell them I didn't really see anything.
- c) I make it sound like it was no big deal.

**7. If a friend of mine is picking on someone:**

- a) I say, "Way to go!"
- b) I check to make sure no teachers are coming to catch him.
- c) I say, "Let's do something else," to distract my friend and get him to stop.



**8. If a kid is often alone and is regularly picked on:**

- a) My friends and I sit with her at lunch.
- b) My friends and I try to ignore her.
- c) I feel helpless because there's nothing I can do.

**9. If there's grabbing, pushing, or hitting, or it looks like there might be:**

- a) I dump my backpack and get ready to jump in.
- b) I get an adult right away.
- c) I stand a little farther back.

**10. If kids make fun of my clothes:**

- a) I tell my parents I need new clothes.
- b) I wear a big coat over my outfit all day.
- c) I ignore them because my clothes are fine.







# Saving for Service

**C**hallenges around the globe—such as poverty, pollution, and natural disasters—may seem overwhelming. But with the power of creativity, people are finding new ways to work together, solve problems, and change the world.

With creativity, a doctor can discover the next medical breakthrough, a performer can uplift hearts, and a scientist can invent an earth-friendly fuel. Have you thought about how a career in sciences or the arts can help our global human family?

Even before starting a career, you can use your creativity to help others. You can volunteer

your time and help raise funds for charities. Start by making this piggy bank and decorating it in your own style. Use it to store funds you collect with your acts of service. For example, you could put on a concert with friends or have a bake sale to raise money for your favorite charity.



**You'll Need** Empty 2-liter plastic bottle with cap (label removed) • two 4 1/2" x 12" (11 x 30 cm) strips of construction paper • glue • hole punch • scraps of paper • sharp, new box cutter or craft knife (and an adult to help) • pipe cleaner • scissors • four empty thread spools, jumbo beads, or similar objects for legs • optional: buttons, fabric scraps, permanent markers

**Make Your Own Piggy Bank** Follow these steps to start putting your creative and compassionate ideas into action.

- 1 Glue short ends of paper strips together to make one long strip. Glue strip tightly around center of bottle. Let dry.



- 2 To make front legs, generously glue two spools (or beads) about 1 1/2" (4 cm) apart on paper close to cap. Glue two other spools along edge of paper directly opposite them. Let dry overnight.



- 3 Turn bottle over. Ask an adult to carefully use the sharp box cutter to create a 1 1/2" x 1/4" (4 x .6 cm) slot (through paper and plastic) in center of bottle (for coins) and a 1/4" (.6 cm) slice near bottom of bottle (for tail).



- 4 Punch two holes in scrap paper and glue paper dots on bottle cap for nose.



- 5 Cut ears from scrap paper. Fold at base of each ear to make tabs. Make small cuts in tabs so edges will lie flat. Glue tabs to bottle.



- 6 Insert one end of pipe cleaner into small tail slit. Wind opposite end around your finger to form a spiral.



- 7 Create your pig's eyes and mouth by gluing on buttons, paper, or fabric, or with markers. Add more decorations if you wish. Now you're ready to save money.\*





# Drawing On Your Experience

**A**s an aerospace engineer at NASA,\* Dr. Steve Scotti helps design aircraft and spacecraft. He wanted to do a service project in a place like Africa, using his technical and problem-solving skills.



Steve learned about preschools in rural Swaziland with lots of needs. Many kids in Swaziland walk—sometimes for long distances—on bumpy dirt roads to reach small schools with very few supplies.

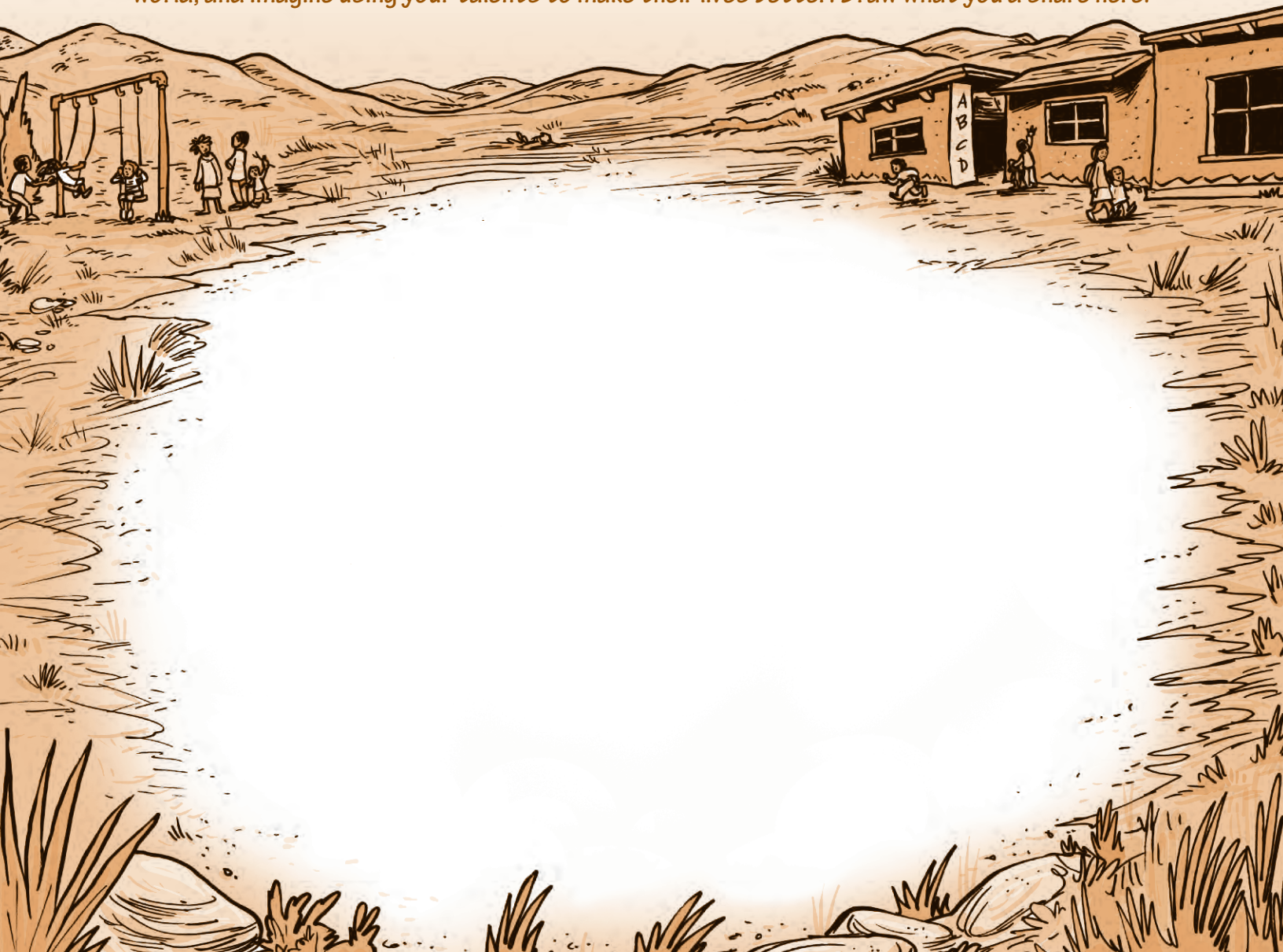
A service group called Micro Steps connected him with two schools. Then he worked with a local company to design steel swing sets and have them built.

In 2009, Steve went to Swaziland to help install the

playground equipment. He was happy to do a service project that “would have [a] lasting impact on children, who learn so much from their play.” Steve also gave talks to older students about NASA and the importance of learning. He says, “With help from the local Bahá’ís and my new Swazi friends, everything turned out even better than my greatest hope . . . It was such a wonderful experience!”

Steve says, “Don’t be afraid to try something new, because even if it doesn’t work out as you hope, you’ll do some good and grow from the experience . . . Service benefits you as much as others.”

*What would you like to invent, build, or do to help others? Think about people in need around the world, and imagine using your talents to make their lives better. Draw what you’d share here.*





# Dressing for Diversity

"As the body of man needeth a garment to clothe it, so the body of mankind must needs be adorned with the mantle of justice and wisdom." —Bahá'u'lláh

**W**hether you live in a chilly northern climate or a hot desert land, what you wear is a vital part of your daily life. Your clothes help protect you from sun, wind, and cold. They may also show something about your culture or religion.

Like diverse clothing, people's beliefs and ways of life vary from place to place. Honoring and respecting these differences is important to building

unity and justice. When people make unfair judgments about those who look or dress differently, that's **prejudice**. If it leads to bullying or other unjust treatment, that's **discrimination**.

We may wear different garments, but we're all human. No matter where we're from or what kind of clothing we choose, everyone has the right to live in peace.

Each of these kids is giving a clue about where they're from. Write each kid's number next to the name of their country.

1 MY ISLAND COUNTRY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN HAS TROPICAL WEATHER. WE WEAR A COMFORTABLE WRAP CALLED A LAVA-LAVA.

2 IN CASABLANCA, MY CITY IN NORTH AFRICA, SOME MUSLIM WOMEN AND GIRLS CHOOSE TO WEAR THE HIJAB, OR HEADSCARF, FOR MODESTY.

3 MY SHIRT AND PANTS, CALLED KURTA AND PAJAMA, ARE MADE OF COTTON OR SILK IN SUMMER AND WOOL OR HEAVY SILK IN WINTER. I SPEAK HINDI.

4 JAMBO! MY DRESS IS MADE FROM KANGA, A LARGE RECTANGULAR CLOTH WITH BOLD DESIGNS. KANGA OFTEN HAVE SAYINGS OR BLESSINGS IN SWAHILI.

5 THE PLAID PATTERN, OR TARTAN, OF MY KILT CAN INDICATE WHAT REGION OR CLAN I BELONG TO. BAGPIPE MUSIC IS POPULAR IN MY COUNTRY.

6 HOLA! THE DESIGN OF MY MAYAN HUIPIL TELLS ABOUT MY VILLAGE AND MY BELIEFS. MY COUNTRY BORDERS MEXICO.

7 A JINGLE DRESS CAN HAVE HUNDREDS OF JINGLES AND CAN BE USED FOR A HEALING DANCE. MY OJIBWE TRIBE LIVES NEAR LAKE SUPERIOR.



A Scotland

B Morocco

C Guatemala

D Samoa

E Tanzania

F India

G U.S.



# EXPLORE AND PROTECT THE EARTH AND ITS CREATURES

"All the members of this endless universe are linked one to another." —Bahá'í Writings

WE  
ARE  
ONE

## EARTH-SAVING TIP

### Get on the bus.

Every full bus keeps up to 40 cars off the road. Overall, public transit saves four billion gallons of gas per year in the U.S. alone.



## WOW, REALLY?

The earth is not a sphere. At least, not perfectly. It's flattened at the poles and swollen at the equator. Earth's shape also changes over time.

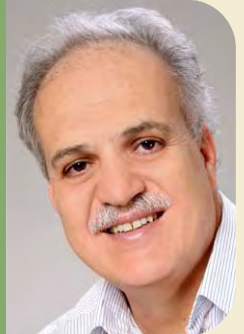
## OUR CONNECTIONS



What's 93 million miles away (150 million km) and affects all life on Earth? If you guessed the mighty sun, you're right. This burning ball of gas is so huge, it's 99.8% of our solar system. Yet its size and distance are just right for generating the heat and light that allow life on our planet. If it were closer, Earth would be too hot. If it were farther away, Earth would be frozen. Our sun is one of over 100 billion stars in our galaxy, but it's the only one known to support life.

## PROTECTING OUR PLANET

**Dr. Carlos Nobre** studies climate change and its impact on the Amazon rainforest. He won the 2009 Brazil Environment Personality Award for his work. Dr. Nobre says, "It is estimated that if the warming process continues unchecked, by the end of the century 40% of all the species on Earth will be threatened with extinction."



## WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Carved from solid rock about 100 BCE to 200 CE, the Treasury was actually a royal tomb. Its name comes from a legend that it held pirates' hidden treasure. *Unscramble the letters to find its location:*

PERTA, JNDORA   

## AMAZING ANIMALS



Zoologists believe these creatures recognize each other by their unique pattern, like a fingerprint. The stripes may also confuse predators, such as lions. *Fill in the blanks to find the most common species:*

P  A I  S     E  R



# RADIANT STARS

## Getting to know kids who shine

Connect with kids around the world! How are they like you? How are they different? Each of us has a unique story to tell. What's yours?

### Wayland L.

Age: **12**

I live in: **British Columbia, Canada**

I want to be: **In the military to be a peacekeeper**

Best quality or virtue: **Helpfulness**

Hobbies or sports: **Making models, hockey, and basketball**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Junior youth classes**



Place I'd love to visit: **London, England**

I like to help people by: **Volunteering**

If you could fix one major problem in the world, what would it be?  
**I would get rid of war, because it is the cause of a lot of suffering and doesn't help very many people.**

If you could help people anywhere on Earth, where would you like to go?  
**Whatever place... most needed help. For service I would give them clean water, food, and help them solve problems in their community.**

What's your advice for dealing with bullies?  
**Tell someone and get their advice dealing with the problem.**

### Noél K.

Age: **13**

I live in: **Santiago, Chile**

I want to be: **A veterinarian**

Something I like about me: **I like that I'm able to get along with a lot of people.**

Hobbies or sports: **I love to read and [play] basketball.**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Pre-youth class, firesides, devotionals, Feasts, summer school\***

Place I'd love to visit: **Europe**

I like to help people by: **Listening to their problems**

If you could fix one major problem in the world, what would it be?  
**Violence towards animals, because I love animals,**



**and I hate to see people treat them wrong. They have a life, just like us.**

If you could help people anywhere on Earth, where would you like to go?  
**I would go to Africa. I would help all the sick children that need medicine or food.**

If you could give three things to every person on Earth, what would you give them?  
**I would give them food, love, and water.**



### Morgan P.

Age: **12**

I live in: **Illinois, U.S.**

I want to be: **A gymnast**

Something I like about me: **I am flexible when it comes to difficult situations.**

Hobbies or sports: **Dance, gymnastics, Chinese, violin, and orchestra**

Favorite animal or pet: **Horses. I also have a**

**black Belgian sheepdog named Duchess, who I love.**

Place I'd love to visit: **Rome**

I like to help people by: **Solving conflicts and doing community service**

If you could help people anywhere on Earth, where would you like to go?  
**Uganda, Africa. I have a pen pal from Kampala, and my school donates money to the school there.**

What's your advice for dealing with bullies?  
**Stand up for yourself, and do not sink to their level.**

If you could give three things to every person on Earth, what would you give them?  
**The power of virtues, a good friend, [and] a good education**



## Anders C.

Age: 13

I live in: **California, U.S.**

I want to be:  
**Police officer or park ranger**

Something I like about me:  
**I like being sensible, because my friends aren't. I'm kind of like their conscience.**

Hobbies or sports:  
**I love to snowboard and fish and ride my bike.**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**I'm in a junior youth group that does regular service projects like volunteering at the food bank...**

Place I'd love to visit:  
**Russia... there's lots of snow there in the winter.**

If you could help people anywhere on Earth, where would you like to go?

To India and try to build healthier housing and water systems...

Describe a time you or a friend were treated unfairly.  
**In first grade I was bullied a lot. I tried to reason with them, but it didn't work. The only grown-up who did anything about it besides my father was the bus driver... If he saw me being bullied, he'd always break it up and send the bully to the school office.**



**"God has crowned you with honor and in your hearts has He set a radiant star; verily the light thereof shall brighten the whole world!"** — 'Abdu'l-Bahá

## Angel A.

Age: 13

I live in: **Minnesota, U.S.**

I want to be:  
**Dancer or singer**

Best quality or virtue:  
**Happiness**

Something I like about me:  
**My helpfulness to others**

Hobbies or sports:  
**Volleyball**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:  
**Teaching [the] Bahá'í Faith**

Place I'd love to visit:  
**Hawaii**

If you could fix one major problem in the world, what would it be?  
**Pollution, because when the world is polluted people will get diseases, [and] plants and animals will die... [Then] people won't get food and the plants and animals will be extinct.**



If you could help people anywhere on Earth, where would you like to go?  
**Tanzania, teaching Bahá'í children's classes**

What's your advice for dealing with bullies?  
**That people should stop bullying, because we are all the same, no matter what.**

If you could give three things to every person on Earth, what would you give them?  
**Education, [the] message of Bahá'u'lláh, [and a] smile**

## Marzi B.

Age: 10

I live in: **Maryland, U.S.**

I want to be:  
**An astronaut**

Something I like about me:  
**I stand up for my friends.**

Hobbies or sports:  
**Soccer, art, and climbing trees!**

I like to help people by:  
**Helping younger kids to not be scared**

If you could fix one major problem in the world, what would it be?  
**War, because thousands of people are being killed every day and that makes their families very lonely and sad.**

If you could help people anywhere on Earth, where would you like to go?

would you like to go?  
**Maybe in Africa. I would get sick kids healthy again with the Doctors Without Borders people.**

What's your advice for dealing with bullies?  
**Either be nice to them, or if they are really hurting you, tell an adult. You could also try to be their friend.**



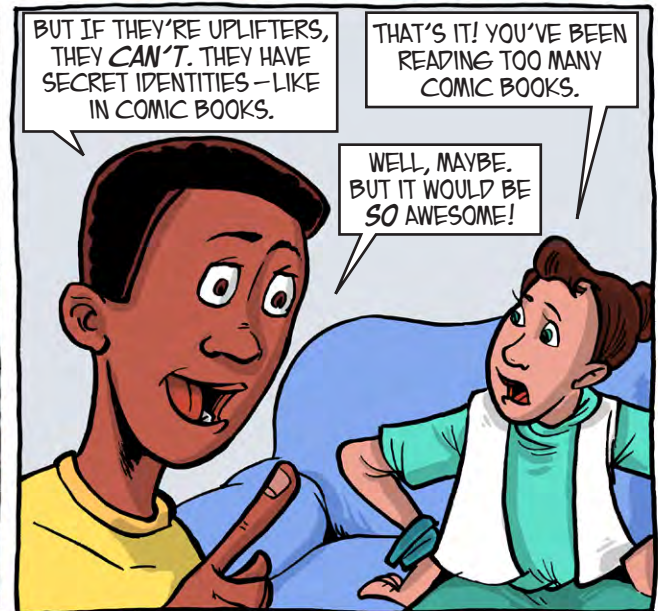
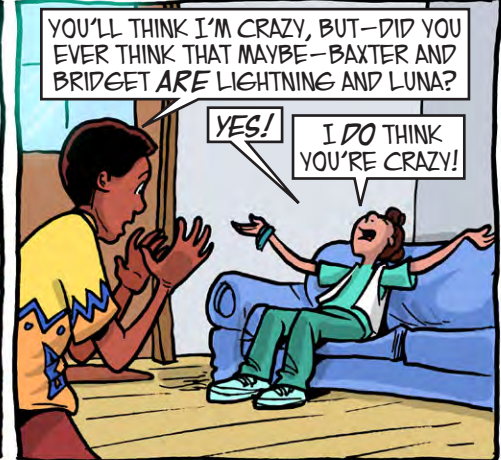
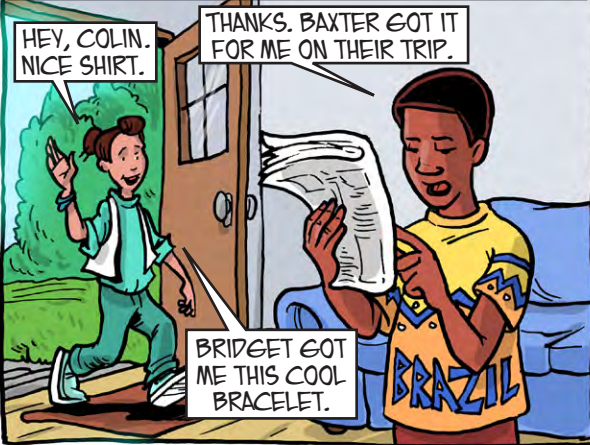
## You can be a Radiant Star!

### Here's how:

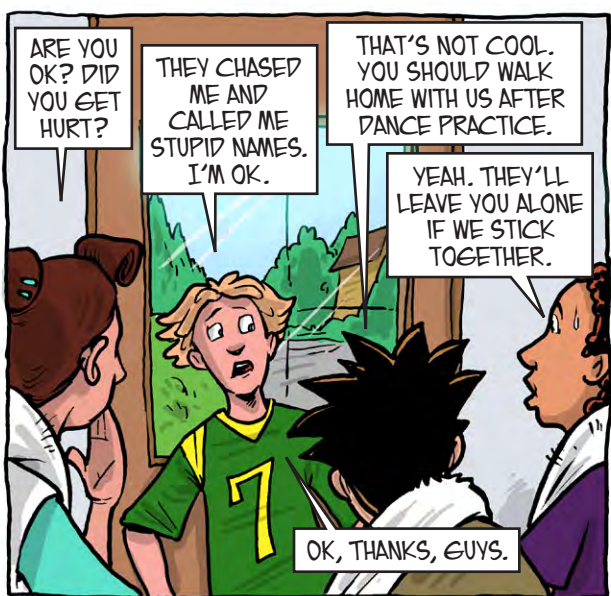
1. If you're age 7–14, write us at [brilliant@usbnc.org](mailto:brilliant@usbnc.org) or Brilliant Star, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Include your name, age, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address.
2. When it's your turn to shine, we'll send you questions and a form for you and your parents to sign.
3. Answer the questions and send them to us with the signed forms, along with at least two good-quality, close-up photographs of your smiling face. Photos should be in sharp focus and show your eyes clearly. Please don't send color copies, low-resolution digital images, or copyright-protected images (like school portraits).



AT COLIN'S HOUSE FOR A JUSTICE JAM REHEARSAL...







ARE YOU OK? DID YOU GET HURT?

THEY CHASED ME AND CALLED ME STUPID NAMES. I'M OK.

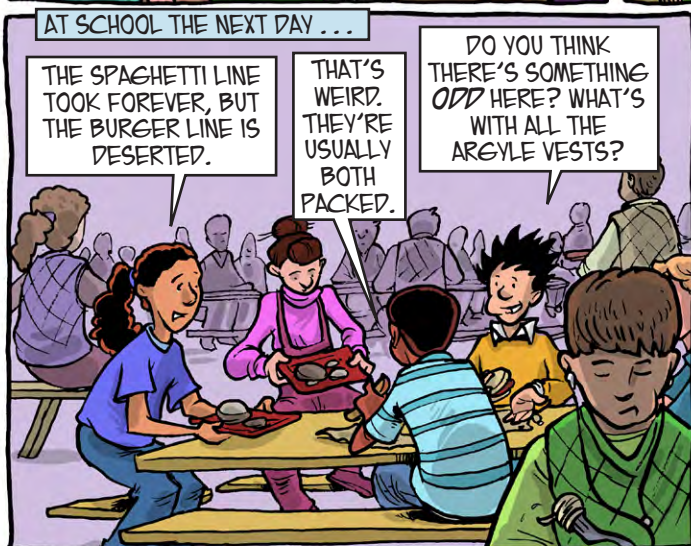
THAT'S NOT COOL. YOU SHOULD WALK HOME WITH US AFTER DANCE PRACTICE.

YEAH. THEY'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE IF WE STICK TOGETHER.

OK, THANKS, GUYS.



HERE'S THE REST OF THE TEAM. LET'S GET STARTED. WE'VE ONLY GOT TWO WEEKS UNTIL OUR BIG PERFORMANCE AT THE FUNDRAISER.

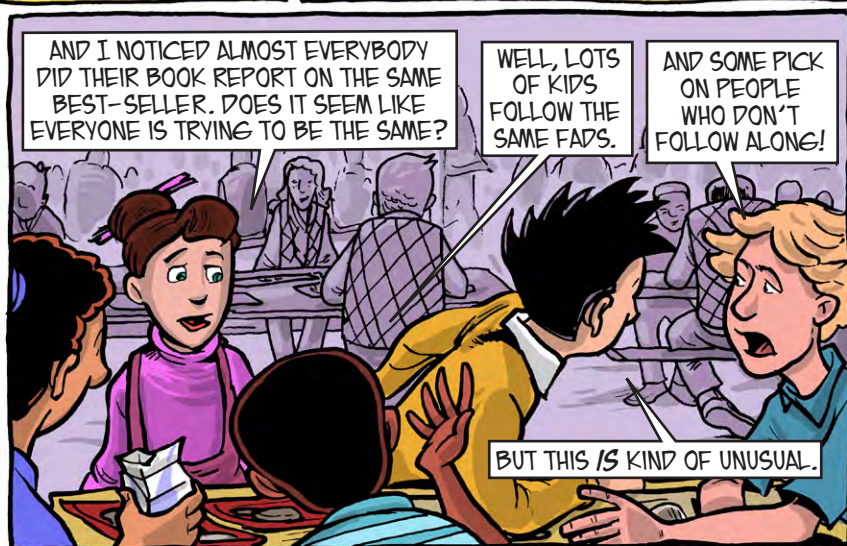


AT SCHOOL THE NEXT DAY ...

THE SPAGHETTI LINE TOOK FOREVER, BUT THE BURGER LINE IS DESERTED.

THAT'S WEIRD. THEY'RE USUALLY BOTH PACKED.

DO YOU THINK THERE'S SOMETHING ODD HERE? WHAT'S WITH ALL THE ARGYLE VESTS?

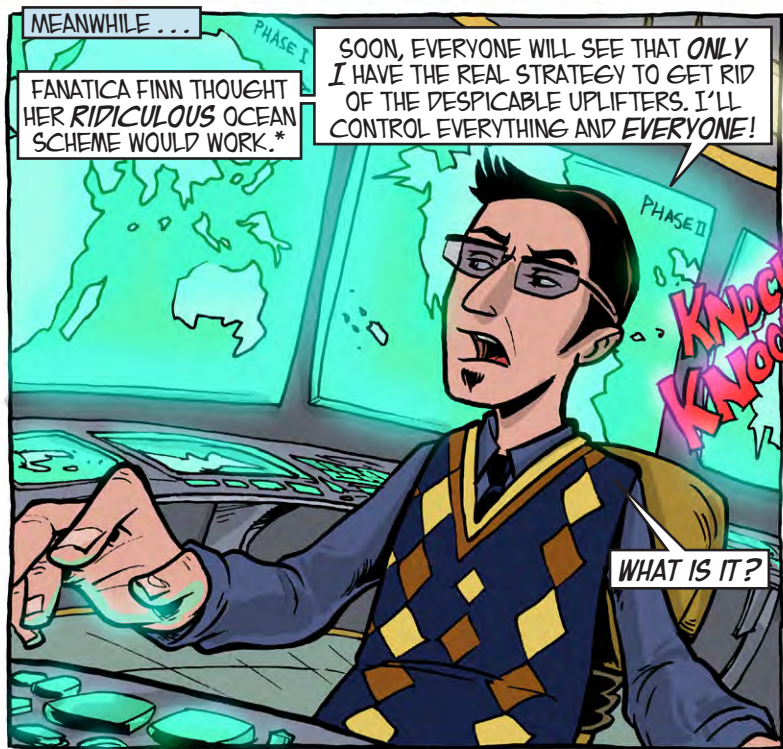


AND I NOTICED ALMOST EVERYBODY DID THEIR BOOK REPORT ON THE SAME BEST-SELLER. DOES IT SEEM LIKE EVERYONE IS TRYING TO BE THE SAME?

WELL, LOTS OF KIDS FOLLOW THE SAME FADS.

AND SOME PICK ON PEOPLE WHO DON'T FOLLOW ALONG!

BUT THIS IS KIND OF UNUSUAL.

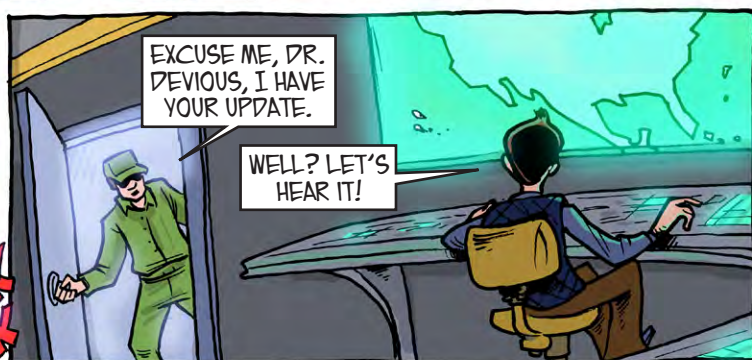


MEANWHILE ...

FANATICA FINN THOUGHT HER RIDICULOUS OCEAN SCHEME WOULD WORK.\*

SOON, EVERYONE WILL SEE THAT ONLY I HAVE THE REAL STRATEGY TO GET RID OF THE DESPICABLE UPLIFTERS. I'LL CONTROL EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE!

WHAT IS IT?



EXCUSE ME, DR. DEVIOUS, I HAVE YOUR UPDATE.

WELL? LET'S HEAR IT!



THE FIRST LAUNCH IN THESE CITIES WAS A SUCCESS. WE'RE PREPARING THE SECOND LAUNCH.

AH, MY PERFECT PLAN IS IN MOTION. INFORM THE OTHER ERASERS.

WHO IS DR. DEVIOUS, AND WHAT'S HE UP TO?

\*See Episode #27, July/Aug 2008 through Episode #34, Sept/Oct 2009





# Giving around the Globe

For 2-6 players



**G**ame time! Get your family together to learn where on Earth each person would like to go. What kind of service would they like to do?

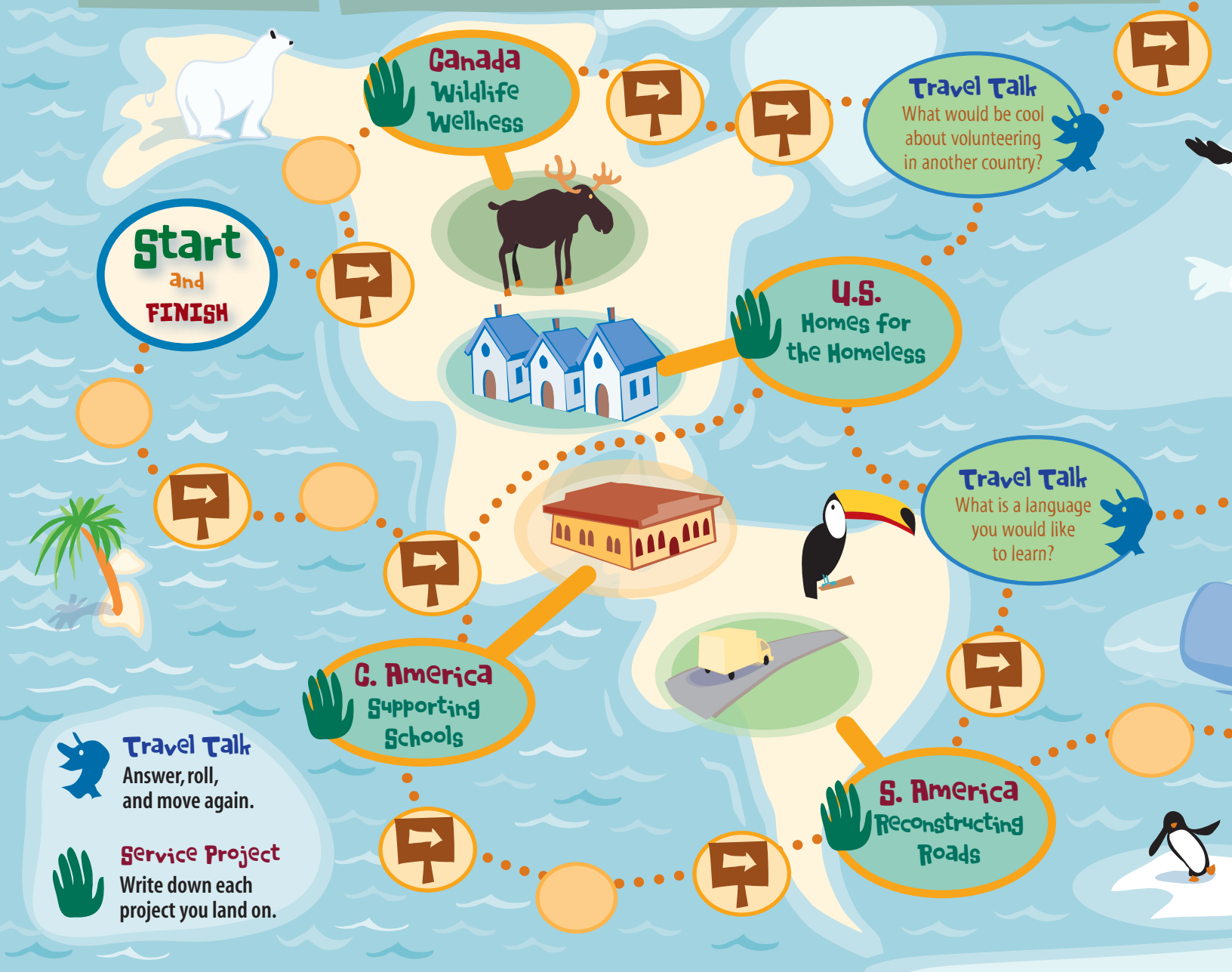
All around the world, people contribute their time and talents to helping our global family. Some spend a few months or a year as a volunteer. Others build a career of service to those in need—

in another country or close to home. Everywhere you go, there are lots of ways you can help out.

In this game, tour the world and lend a hand with service projects near and far—from planting trees to working at a medical clinic. Play the game with your friends or family, and explore a world of service.

**YOU'LL NEED:** Two 6-sided dice; movers (like toy figures, coins, or pebbles); paper and pencil for each player

**TO PLAY:** Decide who goes first. On your turn, roll both dice and move forward or backward. You may use the same path more than once. See the extra actions to take at the **Rest Area** spots in the key at right. On a **Travel Talk** spot, answer and then roll again. Write down each **Service Project** spot you visit. Go to five different projects, then be the first to get back to start with an exact roll of the dice.







## Rest Area Spots

When you land here, roll again and complete the action in the key that matches your new dice roll.

2 = Listen and learn from native people. Go to any spot.

3 = Refuse to try any new food. Lose a turn.

4 = Learn a game to play with area kids. Go to nearest project.

5 = Forget to filter the drinking water. Lose a turn.

6 = Drop litter along the road. Lose your latest project (if you have one).

7 = Learn to cook a native dish. Go to Healing for the Hungry.

8 = Help area kids learn to read. Go to Supporting Schools.

9 = Forget to learn local phrases. Lose a project (if you have one).

10 = Help with a building project. Go to Homes for the Homeless.

11 = Lose your passport. Lose a turn.

12 = Help out with first aid. Take another turn.







## ADRIENNE CARTER

**I**magine if your parents told you that you're fleeing from your home and country, without telling your family and friends. When Adrienne Carter was 12 years old, that's exactly what happened. She and her parents made a dangerous escape from a war in Hungary, later arriving in Canada. Adrienne grew up and overcame many challenges to become a psychotherapist. Today, she helps troubled youth in British Columbia, Canada. She also volunteers for Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) to counsel those in shock and trauma from tragic events. She has served in 11 countries, including war zones and places recovering from natural disasters, such as the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. Though her work involves danger, Adrienne is fearless. She says, "If one is afraid, it would be a pretty difficult job to carry on." Adrienne is ready to assist anywhere.

Soon after this interview, Adrienne was asked to serve in Haiti, in the wake of the catastrophic earthquake that has taken over 200,000 lives.

### Q. What was the most challenging experience for you when you were a kid?

Having to leave Hungary during the Hungarian Revolution in 1956,\* escaping through the border . . . It was a huge secret. Otherwise, we would have been imprisoned, or shot, if we would have been discovered . . . And we walked about 20 kilometers [over 12 miles] to get to Austria . . . We were so tired, and so cold . . . [We were] in various refugee camps for four months before we came to Canada, without knowing [the] language, owning absolutely nothing. [Just] one little suitcase.

### Q. What was it like starting a new life in Canada?

One of the real difficulties was the school . . . Because I didn't speak the language, they put me back three years. So I was supposed to be in grade 8, but I ended up to be in grade 5. And I worked really, really hard in that first year to make up. So my life

### Q. What do you like best about your work with youth?

One of the most challenging things is assisting a young person to have a sense of meaning in their lives, to have a reason for living, to have a purpose. So many of the kids who come to us, they either never had this



Left: Adrienne, at about age 10 in Hungary. As a kid, she dreamed of helping others. Right: When Adrienne was 12, she and her parents stayed in refugee camps in Austria after escaping their country.

consisted of really just studying, because I had to translate all the homework from English to Hungarian, solve it, and then retranslate it back into English.

sense, or they lost it. They are deep in depression and anxiety. And to be able to assist them to gain a sense of who they are and a sense of purpose, that's really absolutely amazing.



**Q. So, finding a purpose is a key to good mental health?**

Yes, absolutely. And those who have some kind of spiritual connection—they seem to find it a whole lot easier to find a purpose, whatever [their] spiritual background . . . But those who have no belief . . . they're not interested in the world, they don't see themselves as being a part of the world—these are the youth who struggle.

**Q. How do you actually help people in crisis? We know part of it is training others to assist with counseling.**

That's always a big part . . . But I do see hundreds of people also myself, especially the more difficult cases . . . A lot of people become psychotic from the shock. They become extremely depressed . . . [I do] a lot of psycho-education of what helps them to deal with the stress and anxiety a little bit easier, never minimizing the horror that they have gone through.

**Q. How did you get involved with Médecins Sans Frontières?**

In 1999 . . . Kosovo was at war, and . . . people were escaping . . . I know what it meant to be a refugee . . . So I called . . . Médecins Sans Frontières. They were just beginning their mental health program . . . [We] trained a . . . team . . . of doctors, nurses, and school counselors . . . [We provided] counseling assistance, and my job was to give them all the support, the supervision . . . Then every year, I was called into a disaster area, or a war-torn area.

**Q. When you work with kids who have suffered, do they tend to turn to religion, or turn away from it?**

I work a lot in Islamic countries, and they do turn to religion. In fact, that's a tremendous comfort to many people, because when things become too much, one of the things I can help them with [is] what to give over to the divine power so they will have more energy to resolve the things that they have some control over

**Q. With all the suffering you've seen in your work, how do you keep a hopeful outlook?**

I have a *very* hopeful, positive outlook . . . Being a Bahá'í is really a tremendous help . . . In all of these . . . countries, there is always . . . a hopeful, positive



Left: After a destructive earthquake in Pakistan in 2005, Adrienne lived and worked in tents.

Below: Adrienne worked with children in India who were traumatized after the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004.



Left: Adrienne documented the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004. It "destroyed everything in its path," and left families devastated, she said.

. . . There is a lot of praying that's happening that assists people . . . this happens in Muslim, Hindu, Christian communities quite a bit . . .

[When] many people go through a real spiritual crisis . . . they blame God, especially if they lost their whole family . . . The pain is enormous.

Bahá'í community. I have a chance to visit them everywhere. Through that, you get fed. You get additional energy. You're ready to go on and do some more.





# MUSIC CAFÉ

"Music, sung or played, is spiritual food for soul and heart." —Bahá'í Writings

DO YOU EVER WISH ON A STAR? SOMETIMES AT NIGHT, I THINK OF MY FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD AND SEND THEM PEACEFUL THOUGHTS. WHAT DO YOU WISH FOR?



## WISHING WELL By Renee Stahl and Jeremy Toback

1 An - y - one who's sad to - night I wish you well  
2 An - y - one who laughed to - day I wish you well

3 An-y-one who's had a fight I wish you well An-y- one who's scared at night  
An-y-one with something to say I wish you well An-y-one who wants to play-

6 I wish you well I wish you well I wish you peace I wish you  
I wish you well I wish you well

10 love I wish you now cause now is e-ver and was I wish you sight I wish you

14 sound I wish you know You know you know when it's found Hm - m

19 Hm - - m I wish you peace I wish you

23 love I wish you now Cause now is e - ver and was I wish you

26 sight I wish you sound I wish you well I

Repeat ten times







# RILEY'S RAINFOREST

"Send down... from the clouds of Thy mercy the rains of Thy healing..." —Bahá'u'lláh

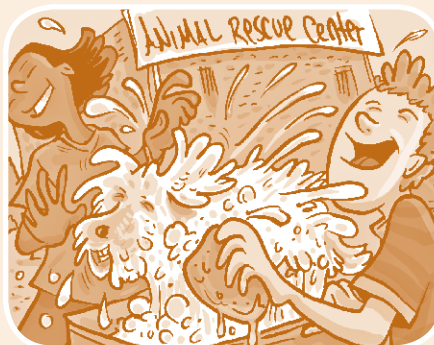
## Spread Cheer — Volunteer!

**H**ave you ever noticed how great it feels to help others? Service is not only good for your spirit, it can also improve your physical and mental well-being.

Research shows that volunteers feel better physically and live longer than those who don't volunteer. Some scientists say this may be because helping others releases beneficial chemicals in your body.

Scientists think that one reason volunteering is good for you is because it usually involves working with people. Studies show that people with good relationships are healthier—in body and mind. Being out in the community lets you make new friends. And if you volunteer to do something that you're passionate about, whether it's the arts, environment, sports, or animals, you can meet kids with similar interests.

Volunteers report feeling less stress, depression, and anxiety, and more good feelings, such as



happiness and self-esteem. One reason may be that serving others gives you a sense of purpose and accomplishment. It feels good to know you're making the world a better place. And when you focus on helping people in serious need, it can put your own troubles and worries in a clearer perspective.

Along with building your health, volunteering can help you develop virtues such as responsibility, leadership, and organization. These skills lead to success in other areas, such as school, sports, and family life. No matter what service you choose, volunteering can make a big difference in other people's lives—and your own.

## Explore and Soar How to Start Serving

**W**ant to volunteer, but aren't sure where to begin?

Wherever you live, you can find some way to be of service. Think about how you can use your interests and talents to help out, and try these ideas:

- ☐ Feed, walk, and groom animals at an animal shelter.
- ☐ Cook a meal and take it to an ill or elderly friend.
- ☐ Organize a clean-up day for your neighborhood or park.
- ☐ Plant a garden or trees at a community center.
- ☐ Give a talent show at a nursing home.
- ☐ Collect household supplies or clothes for new immigrant or refugee families.
- ☐ Run a race to raise money for a cause.



## Fruit for Thought

"Be ye . . . a refuge to the helpless, and a treasury for the poor . . . Think ye at all times of rendering some service to every member of the human race."

—'Abdu'l-Bahá



## Curiosity Canopy

*True or False?* Serving in your community can help you in school. Answer: True. In one study, high school students who volunteered were more likely to improve their grades and graduate from college than those who didn't volunteer. Helping out in your community is a smart move—in more ways than one!





# ECOVILLE EXPLORATION

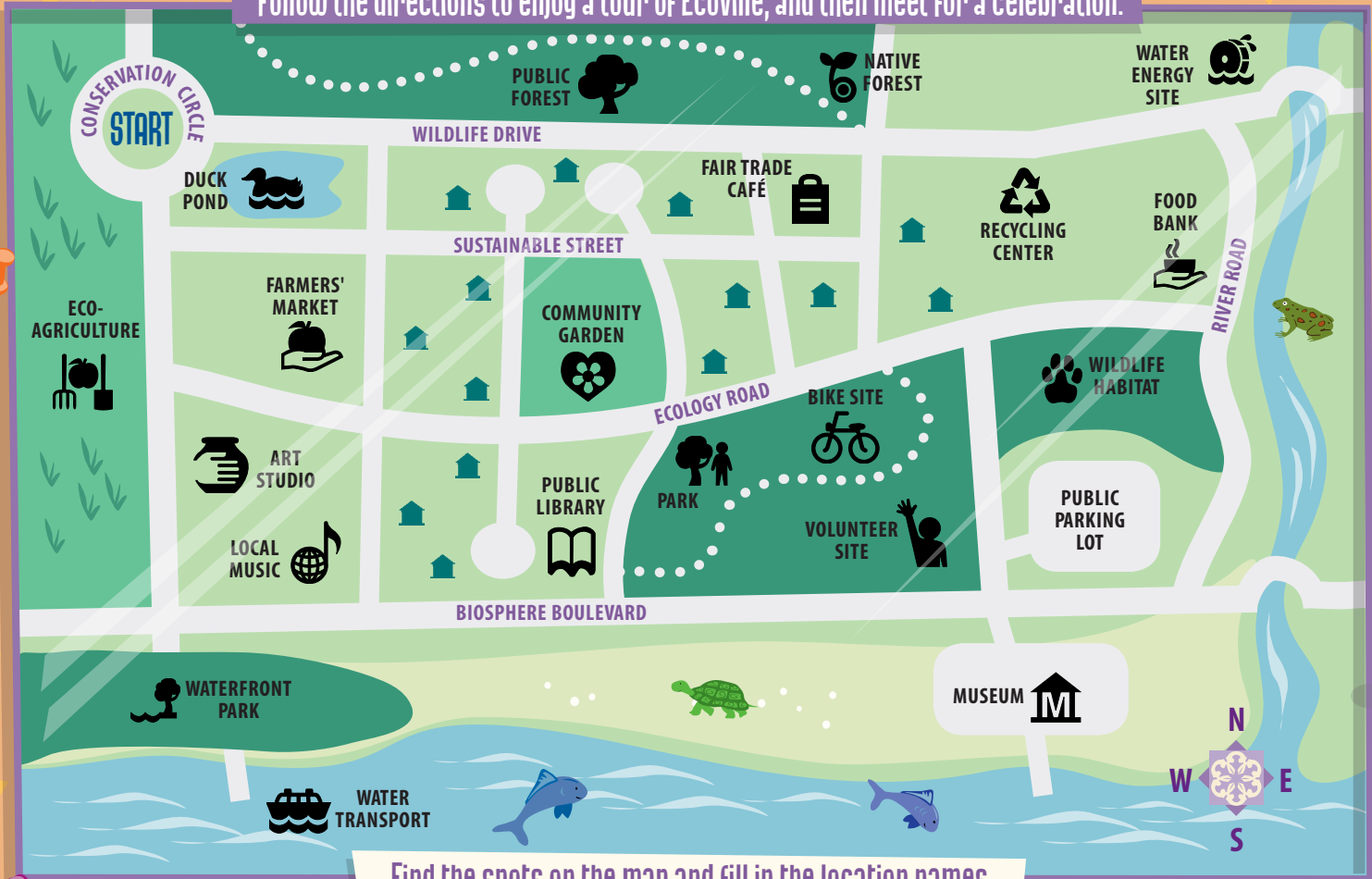
Welcome to Ecoville! We're proud of our town's natural, cultural, and earth-friendly spots. We've created a Green Map to help you explore our community.

Green Maps guide people to local sites that serve humanity and protect the environment. Using universal icons, they show things like bike paths, green buildings, and farmers' markets. They can

include natural habitats, such as forests and ponds, as well as cultural attractions like art centers and museums. Green Maps can educate people about the positive aspects of their communities, and raise awareness of environmental projects and concerns.

You can make a Green Map of your area. You might find new places to explore and help take care of the earth at the same time.\*

Follow the directions to enjoy a tour of Ecoville, and then meet for a celebration.



Find the spots on the map and fill in the location names.

1. From Conservation Circle, go east one block, then south two blocks. Grab an apple at the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Go west one block, then turn south at the corner. Explore your creativity at the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Continue south. Cross Biosphere Boulevard and enter the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Take the water transport east past the beach to the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Head north past the parking lot. Learn about endangered species at the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Go east on Ecology Road and turn left on River Road. Drop off a bag of food at the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Continue north. Cross Wildlife Drive and tour the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Go west. Check out some native trees, then grab a drink across the street at the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Continue south. Follow the path through the park, then help out with a reading program at the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Go north one block and celebrate with your friends at the \_\_\_\_\_!

Green Map® Icons copyright Green Map System, Inc. 2008. All rights reserved.



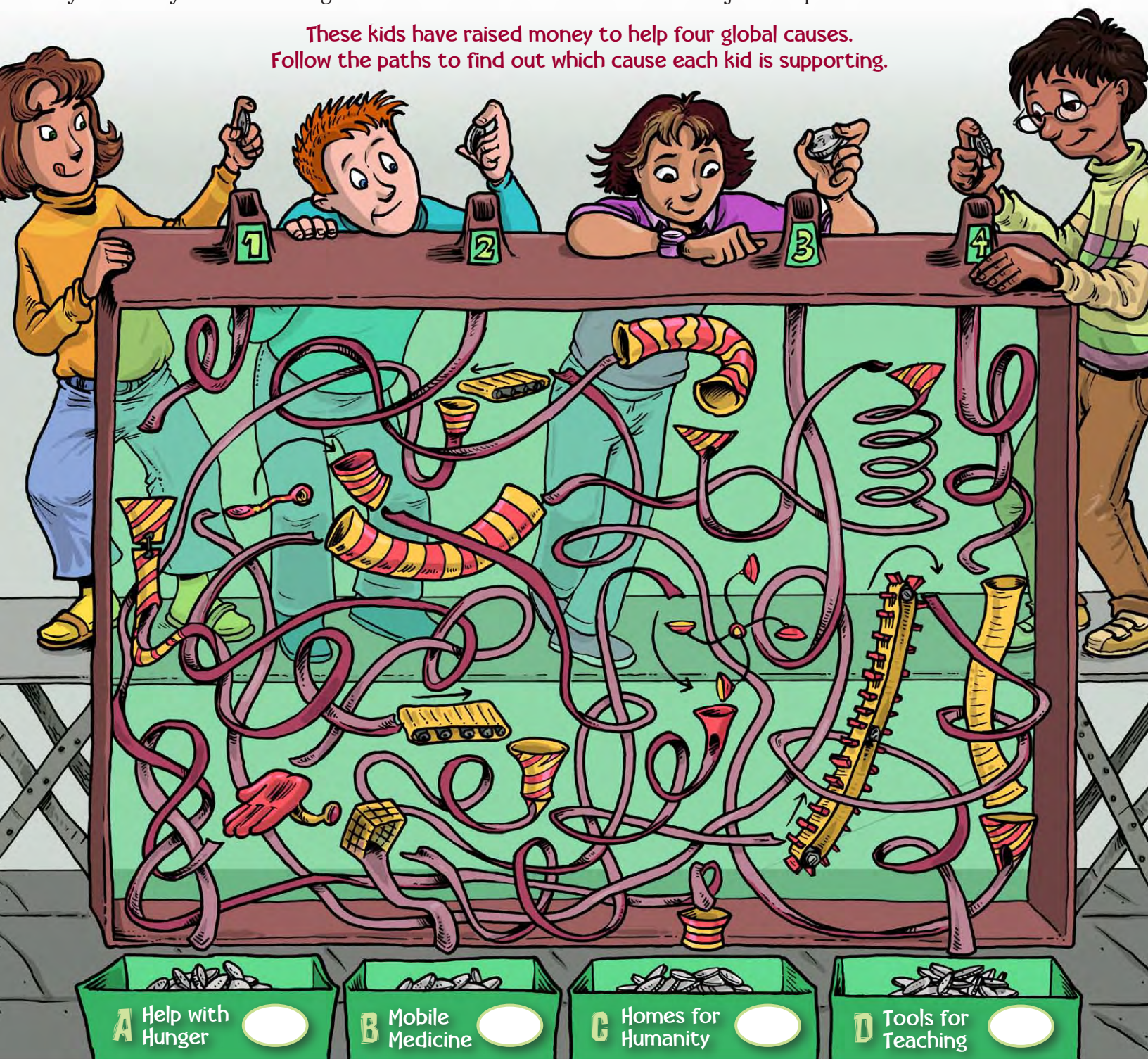
# “Change” for Change

“Let us try with all the strength we have to bring about happier conditions, so that no single soul may be destitute.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

**C**a-chink, ca-chink, ca-chink. It’s cool to hear coins falling into your very own bank. Earning money can help you and your future. It’s also a way to help others. Many people around the globe are in desperate need of basic things, such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education. Sharing your money can make a big difference.

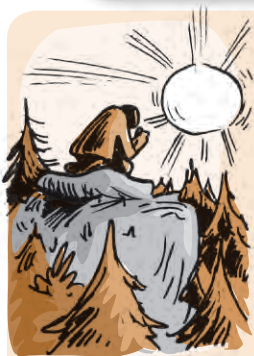
Did you know that over a billion people don’t have enough to eat? About 1.4 billion live on less than \$1.25 a day. And 72 million kids are denied the right to go to school. Your generosity can help change things. Imagine every person with extra money giving some to those in need. The more we share, the closer we’ll come to a just and peaceful world.

**These kids have raised money to help four global causes. Follow the paths to find out which cause each kid is supporting.**





# MARCH 2010 • 166/167 Bahá'í Era



**M**ost faiths, including Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, have a period of fasting. March 2–20 is the Fast for the Bahá'í Faith, when Bahá'ís ages 15–70 do not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset.\* It's also time for prayer, meditation, and spiritual renewal. The Bahá'í writings say the Fast can “refresh and reinvigorate the spiritual forces” in our souls. Those forces—such as self-control, forgiveness, and kindness—can help people of all faiths live in harmony and create a just world. After the Fast, it's time to celebrate a new beginning at Naw-Rúz, the Bahá'í New Year.

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**



**1**  
Holi  
(Hinduism)  
Fun-filled  
festival of  
colors

**2**  
**BAHÁ'Í**  
**MONTH OF**  
**'ALÁ'**  
(LOFTINESS)

**3**  
Women's History  
Month (U.S.)  
Did you know?  
Women weren't  
allowed to vote in  
the U.S. until 1920.



**5**

**6**

**My Goal for the Month:**



**8**  
International  
Women's Day (UN)  
On average, women  
are paid 17% less  
than men. Stand up  
for equality!

**9**

**EGALITARIAN**  
MEANS ...

**Cosmo's Word Challenge**

- a) Relating to belief in equal rights for all
- b) Scientist who studies eagles
- c) Overly eager

**10**



**12**

**13**

Paralympics (Vancouver, March 12–21)  
About 600 athletes with physical disabilities  
will compete.



**14**

Daylight Savings  
Time Begins  
(U.S., Canada)\*



National Wildlife Week (U.S., March 15–21)  
Spend a “Green Hour” playing outside each day.

**16**

**17**

St. Patrick's Day  
Some say the  
leaves of a four-leaf  
clover stand for  
faith, hope,  
love, and luck.

**18**

**19**

**20**

Spring Equinox  
Spring begins  
in the Northern  
Hemisphere.



**21**

**BAHÁ'Í MONTH OF**  
**BAHÁ**  
(SPLENDOR)

**NAW-RÚZ**  
Bahá'í New Year

**22**

World Water Day  
(UN)  
884 million people  
lack access to  
safe water.

**23**

World  
Meteorological  
Day (UN)

**24**

**25**

**26**

**27**

Earth Hour  
Switch off your  
lights for an hour  
to save energy  
and support  
our planet.\*



**28**

Did you know?  
A red kangaroo can  
leap 25 feet (8 m)  
in a single hop!

**29**



**30**

Passover  
(Judaism)  
Honors the Jews'  
freedom from  
slavery in Egypt

**31**

True or False?  
Over a million Earths could fit inside the sun.



ANSWERS: 9–a; 31–True



# APRIL 2010 • 167 Bahá'í Era

Imagine a beautiful garden on a riverbank, full of blooming roses and singing nightingales. The Garden of Ridván (or "Paradise") outside Baghdad, Iraq, was just such a place. In 1863, Bahá'u'lláh and some of His followers spent 12 days in this garden, where He announced His mission as a Messenger of God. From April 21–May 2, Bahá'ís celebrate the Ridván Festival, which Bahá'u'lláh called the "King of Festivals." Gatherings may include prayers, food, music, drama, and other arts. The first, ninth, and twelfth days of Ridván are Holy Days on which Bahá'ís do not work or go to school.



**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

Every 19 days, Bahá'í Feast is held on or near the first day of the Bahá'í month.

**My Goal for the Month:**



**1**

April Fool's Day

**2**

Good Friday (Christianity)

International Children's Book Day

**3**

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month (U.S.)

**4**

Easter (Christianity)

**5**



**6**



**7**

World Health Day (UN)  
This year's focus is making cities healthier.

**8**



**9**

**BAHÁ'Í MONTH OF JALÁL (GLORY)**

**10**



**11**

Did you know?  
Endangered fishing cats of Asia can swim underwater.

**12**



**13**

Songkran (Thai New Year, April 13–15)  
Spring celebration with splashing water

**14**



**15**

**SALVANIZE MEANS ...**

**Cosmo's Word Challenge**

- a) Wander around seeking fun
- b) Travel across the galaxy
- c) Stimulate, stir into action

**16**

**17**



**18**

True or False?  
Apples, strawberries, and other fruits are members of the rose family.

**19**



**20**

**21**

**FIRST DAY OF RIDVÁN**

The Festival of Ridván begins.

**22**

Earth Day  
A ton of paper from recycled materials saves 17 trees.

**23**

Global Youth Service Day (April 23–25)  
How can you help your family or community today?

**24**

National Arbor Day (U.S.)  
Forests are home to up to 90% of known land species.

**25**

**26**

**27**

WHAT STARTS WITH "T," ENDS WITH "T," AND IS FILLED WITH "T"?

**A TEAPOT!**

**28**

**BAHÁ'Í MONTH OF JAMÁL (BEAUTY)**

**29**

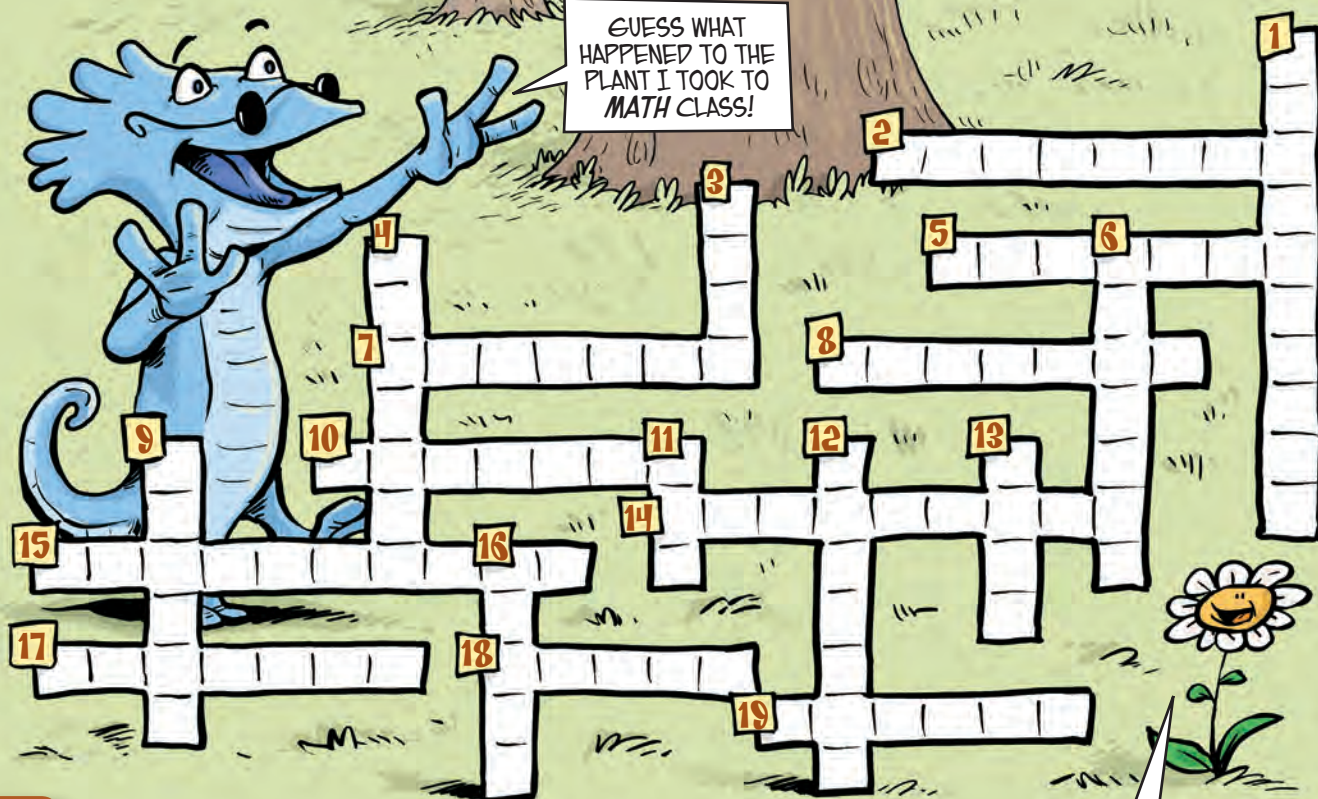
**NINTH DAY OF RIDVÁN**

Honors Bahá'u'lláh's family joining Him in the Ridván Garden

**30**







## ACROSS

2. Anders likes that he is \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 13)
5. We can help bring about a just world by treating everyone with \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 29)
7. Dr. Steve Scotti says, "\_\_\_\_\_ benefits you as much as others." (p. 9)
8. Adrienne volunteers for \_\_\_\_\_ Without Borders. (p. 18)
10. When dealing with bullying, talk to adults until someone \_\_\_\_\_ and takes action. (p. 7)
14. Colin wonders if Baxter and Bridget are \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 14)
15. \_\_\_\_\_ report more good feelings, such as happiness and self-esteem. (p. 21)
17. People of all religions deserve the \_\_\_\_\_ to practice their faith. (p. 6)
18. On a \_\_\_\_\_ Map, you can find sites that help the environment. (p. 22)
19. From April 21–May 2, Bahá'ís celebrate the \_\_\_\_\_ Festival. (p. 25)

## DOWN

1. With the power of \_\_\_\_\_, people are finding new ways to solve problems. (p. 8)
3. Noël would give everyone on Earth food, \_\_\_\_\_, and water. (p. 12)
4. You can stand up for \_\_\_\_\_ in your own school or neighborhood. (p. 4)
6. One key to good mental health is having a \_\_\_\_\_ in life. (p. 19)
9. Most cultures and faiths have a version of the \_\_\_\_\_ Rule. (p. 5)
11. Affects all life on Earth. (p. 11)
12. "Star" in Persian. (p. 27)
13. Everywhere you go, there are lots of ways you can \_\_\_\_\_ out. (p. 16)
16. No matter where we're from or what kind of clothing we choose, everyone has the \_\_\_\_\_ to live in peace. (p. 10)

## FROM OUR MAILBOX



I like all the colorful pages. It really brings the shine out of the magazine! ... I love the competitions and think they are a great way to show everyone your talent. The cover pages are also very attractive! I like the speech bubbles, where you have to fill in what you would say in that kind of situation.\*  
—Anita K., age 13, China

*\*Editors' Note: Dear Anita, Just because you mentioned it, we ran our "What Do You Say?" special feature in this issue. Check it out on page 5.*

## ANSWERS

PAGE 2: Seal at top right, green sea turtle at center right, shark at top center, snail on rock at bottom center, albatross at bottom center, duck at top left, finch on branch at center left, leatherback sea turtle at top left.

PAGE 7: 1) c, 2) b, 3) b, 4) a, 5) b, 6) a, 7) c, 8) a, 9) b, 10) c

PAGE 10: 1) D, 2) B, 3) F, 4) E, 5) A, 6) C, 7) G

PAGE 11: Petra, Jordan; Plains Zebra

PAGE 22: 1) farmers' market, 2) art studio, 3) waterfront park, 4) museum, 5) wildlife habitat, 6) food bank, 7) water energy site, 8) fair trade café, 9) public library, 10) community garden

PAGE 23: 1) D, 2) A, 3) B, 4) C

PAGE 28: 1) listen, 2) consult, 3) cooperate, 4) empower, 5) communicate, 6) learn, 7) serve, 8) create, 9) organize, 10) understand, 11) respect, 12) donate



## LADY BLOMFIELD: Defender of Children

**A**s a wealthy member of British high society, Lady Blomfield could have lived a life of luxury and ease. Instead, she devoted her life to helping those in need.

She was born Sara Louisa Ryan in Ireland in 1859. Her father was Catholic, and her mother was Protestant. While this led to religious conflicts in the family, it also caused Sara to explore spiritual truth throughout her life.

In 1887, Sara married a prominent English architect, Sir Arthur Blomfield, and became known as Lady Blomfield. They had two daughters. Twelve years after their marriage, Arthur passed away.

Lady Blomfield's life changed again at age 48, when she discovered the Bahá'í Faith. When a friend told her about Bahá'u'lláh, she said, "Great awe and intense exaltation possessed me with an overpowering force . . ." She felt this was the truth she had been seeking.

### Save the Children

Lady Blomfield grew active in her new faith. 'Abdu'l-Bahá, who led the Bahá'ís at the time, visited England in 1911 and 1913, and stayed in Lady Blomfield's home. 'Abdu'l-Bahá gave her the Persian name "Sitárih Khánum." "Sitárih" means "Star," and "Khánum" means "Lady."



Lady Blomfield was the first person born in Ireland to become a Bahá'í. Her daughter, Mary, wrote, "Any kind of suffering touched my mother profoundly . . ."

In 1914, World War I began. Lady Blomfield helped care for wounded soldiers throughout the war. When it ended in 1918, millions of children in Europe were orphaned and hungry. Lady Blomfield worked with Eglantyne Jebb and Dorothy Buxton, who were starting the Save the Children Fund. She urged Bahá'ís to support it.

"Wherever there is impoverishment," she wrote, "there is a menace to child-life, and the Save the Children Fund, reinforced by the Bahá'ís of the world, should be the Ark to carry the children safely through this time of stress and strain."

'Abdu'l-Bahá praised the fund, calling its cause "the greatest service to the world of mankind." The Save the Children Fund spread to other nations. Today, the International Save the Children Alliance helps kids in more than 120 countries.

### A Life of Service

Lady Blomfield served the Save the Children Fund for the rest of her life. She helped the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child become accepted by the League of Nations in 1924. She also promoted women's right to vote and defended persecuted Bahá'ís in Iran.

On two occasions, Lady Blomfield traveled to what is now Israel and met with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's family. She published stories they told her, along with her memories of hosting 'Abdu'l-Bahá in England, in *The Chosen Highway*.

Lady Blomfield passed away in 1939 at age 80. She was honored by many. The Bahá'í author H.M. Balyuzi said she was "a gracious lady who served the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh with never-failing vigour and devotion." The Save the Children Fund called her "a devoted and inspiring friend" who "gave herself to a variety of humanitarian causes with an ardour which persisted to the last days of a long life."





# Growing a Better World



"Every human being has the right to live . . . Nobody should die of hunger . . . one man should not live in excess while another has no possible means of existence." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

**M**ore than a billion people suffer from hunger and live in poverty. Solving this crisis is a goal for 189 countries that support the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. The goals seek to relieve global challenges, like poverty and lack of education and healthcare.

One key to ending hunger and poverty is agriculture. Most of the world's poor live in rural areas, and many are farmers. But problems like war,

droughts, and floods make it difficult to grow food. Climate change can cause higher temperatures and severe weather, making farming even harder.

Many people around the globe want to help. Scientists are finding ways to improve soil, handle pests, and manage water. Service project volunteers help farmers use new methods, while respecting their culture and their needs. By working together with unity, we can grow a better world for all.

Nearly half of the world depends on rice for food. Unscramble the letters on the rice grains to find verbs that help a service project succeed. Then write the words on the blank grains. The first letter is provided in green.





# Sun of Justice

"We entreat God to deliver the light of equity and the sun of justice from the thick clouds of waywardness, and cause them to shine forth upon men." —Bahá'u'lláh

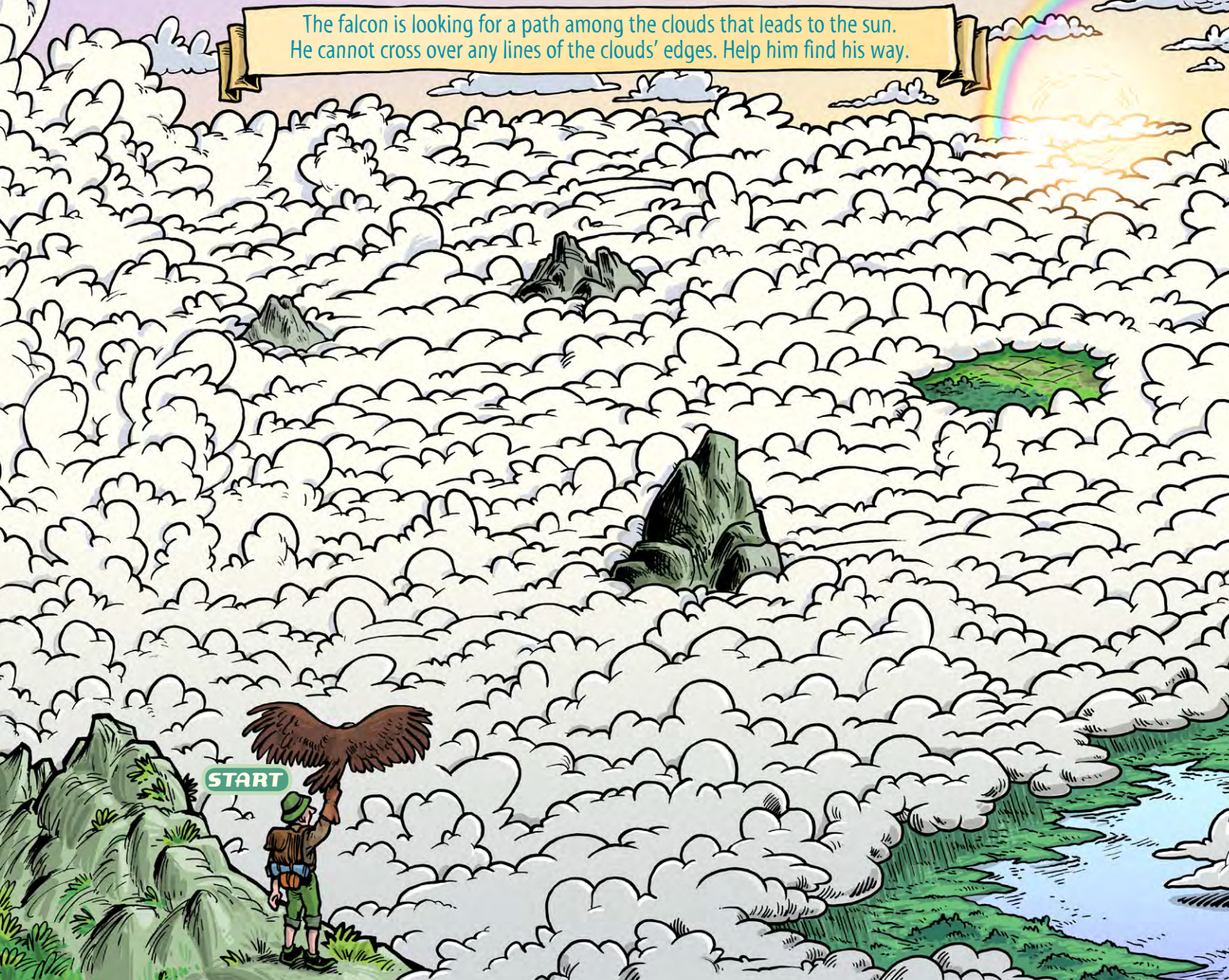
**W**hen heavy storm clouds loom over Earth, everything seems dull and dark. It's hard to see the beauty of our world. In a similar way, injustices like war, poverty, prejudice, and hatred can block our ability to find unity and joy among people. But just as the sun eventually breaks through the clouds, justice will one day illumine our planet.

The Bahá'í writings promise a brilliant future for humanity. Wars will end and nations will establish peace. The rights of all people will be honored.

Everyone will have fair access to resources like food, healthcare, and education. People of different races and backgrounds will live in harmony, as members of one global family.

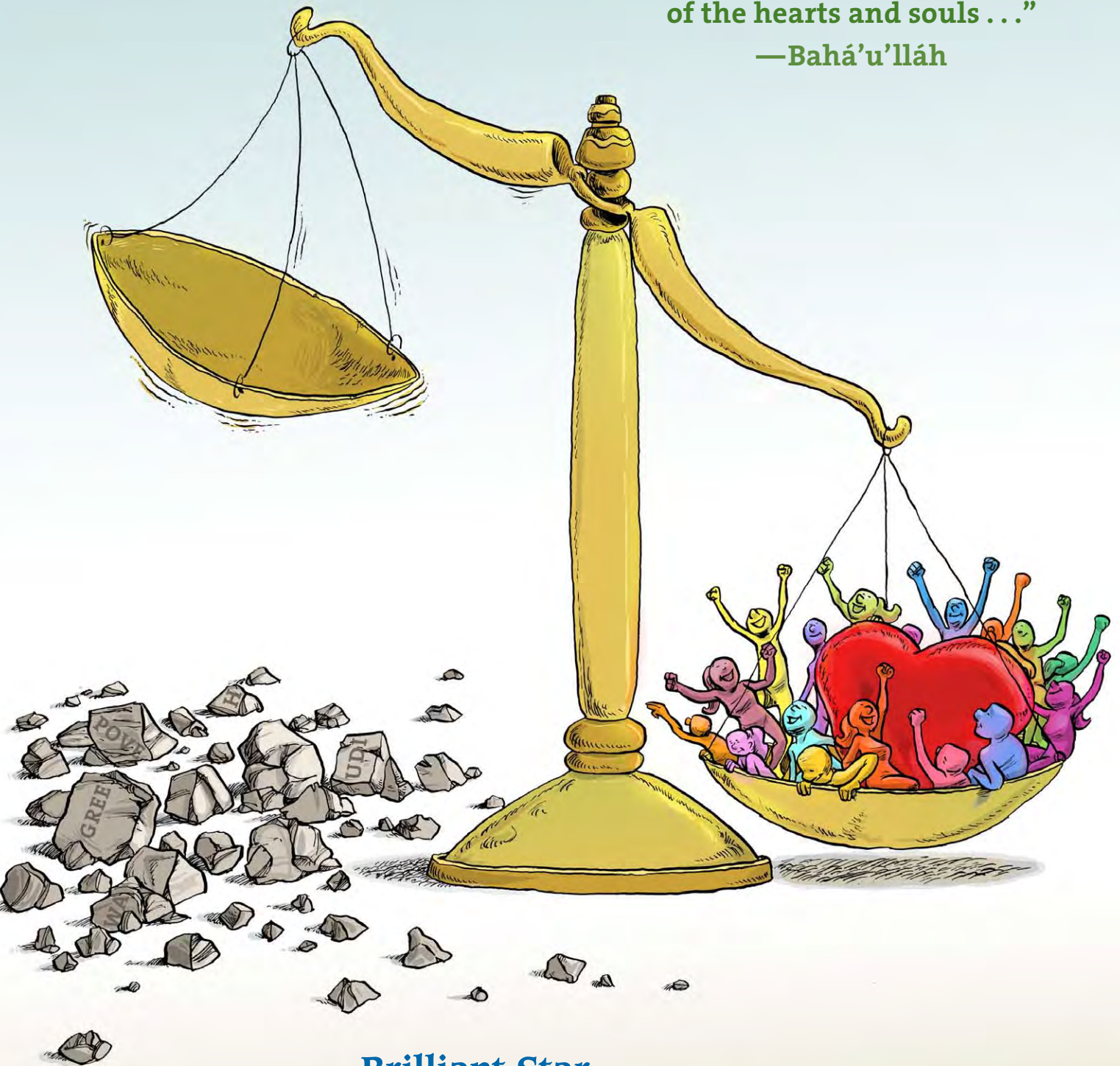
Each of us can do our part to bring about a just world, even in small ways. We can treat everyone around us with respect and fairness. We can be of service to our family, friends, and school. Whenever clouds block your view of our world's radiant future, fly steadily until you can spot the sun of justice.

The falcon is looking for a path among the clouds that leads to the sun.  
He cannot cross over any lines of the clouds' edges. Help him find his way.





“Justice is a powerful force.  
It is, above all else, the  
conqueror of the citadels  
of the hearts and souls . . .”  
—Bahá’u’lláh



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