

humankind™

media for the global citizen

FIRST STEPS TO CHANGING YOUR MEDIA DIET

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Want to heal the world? Pay attention.

3 ideas for changing your media diet

THE CONVERSATION WE'RE IN: A WORLD FIT FOR KIDS

Karli's list

Six Things I realized about using media to heal the world while I was stripping the walls

16 million African orphans; Braden takes 1,600

Can the fate of the world depend on the fate of women?

A "What If?" for the world

THE PREVIOUS CONVERSATION: PEACE AND CONNECTION

Look out, Wichita! Here comes Dayton

Peace: It's not just your imagination

Hometown Baghdad

Investing in connection: An interview with the founder of MicroPlace

Peace: the majority finds its voice

Peace: Connecting to self, connecting to others

HumanKindMedia: Hooray! I Got My Smile Cards

Connection and tipping points, revisited

[« Six Things I realized about using media to heal the world while I was stripping the walls | Main | What if we decided? Creating a world fit for kids »](#)

January 15, 2008

Karli's list

Art is a human activity having for its purpose the transmission to others of the highest and best feelings to which men have risen. --Leo Tolstoy

What do a [fishing village in Egypt](#), [a community in Capetown, South Africa](#), [a school for orphans in Zimbabwe](#), and a village school in a Millennium village in Rwanda have in common? Artists. These are my favorite stories -- about people who just start where they are with whatever they have, using their talent and their connections to create, connect, and contribute.



Meet Karli, who, at only 22, is an example of why we have big hopes for the Y generation. Through a Millennium Village contact, Karli organized a project to teach

art to kids at the [Millennium Village in Mayange sector in Rwanda](#), near the epicenter of the 1994 genocide. Last summer, after graduating with honors from Parsons School of Design, she found sponsors, raised money for supplies and equipment, loaded up "a ton of suitcases filled with supplies," and traveled to Rwanda to spend an unforgettable week teaching art to kids.

During her workshops, Karli worked with the kids to express themselves as artists and designers, to tell their own personal stories through painting and drawing, cinematography, and collage. At first, Karli says, there was "no connection" -- the kids were learning what glue sticks were, and all her instructions had to go through an interpreter. But once the first collages were done and the kids began to talk about their work to one another, they began to open up. By the time they got to the video camera class, the kids were wild about seeing themselves on the screen, and were creating

WHY WE STARTED

1. We noticed that beneath our many human desires for career, family, achievement, and more, we all have one shared, powerful longing for a healed and peaceful world. But it seems impossible.

2. We realized that global media offers a powerful way to tell a different story about what's possible for impossible problems.

3. We saw there are people already tackling the impossible, locally, regionally, internationally. We wondered, "What would happen if we shifted media consumption even by 5% to stories of possibility?"

4. We decided to be the change we want to see: We decided to create media around our shared human intention to heal the world.

10 PERCENT MORE MEDIA FOR POSSIBILITIES

[Camfed news: Campaign for Female Education](#)

[CharityFocus: Helping Others Help Others](#)

[DailyGood: Positive News and Inspiration From Around the World](#)

[Global Oneness Project](#)

[Have Fun • Do Good](#)

[Made A Difference For That One: A Surgeon's Letters Home From Iraq](#)

[ONE dot org: The Blog](#)

[Pangea Day](#)

[The Happiness Project](#)

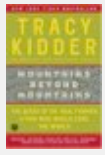
SO I'VE BEEN THINKING: A SEMI-

[Paying it forward with the Global Oneness Project](#)

BOOKS WE LIKE



Melissa Fay Greene: There Is No Me Without You: One Woman's Odyssey to Rescue Her Country's Children



Tracy Kidder: Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World



Pema Chodron: Practicing Peace in Times of War

AMAZING PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS

[Center for Nonviolent Communication: Learning to speak in a new way](#)

[OnBeing - shifting from "other" to "similar"](#)

[OneVoice Movement: Change is possible](#)

[One.org: Your voice counts](#)

CATEGORIES

[5%: Changing our Media Diet](#)

[Building a global community](#)

[Coming to the aid of children around the world](#)

[Ending Poverty and Disease](#)

[Ending Violence and Oppression](#)

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[How They Started: Interviews](#)

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ARCHIVES

[January 2008](#)

short films filled with dancing and laughing. (You can click on the pic to get a full-screen view of those faces!)



Karli came up with the idea because she said her own art education -- in welding, video, drawing, and painting -- helped her learn about herself, not just as an artist but as a person, and she wanted to share that experience with the kids.

Needless to say, it was a profound experience for Karli and for the kids. "It affected me, and it was important to me that they could be affected, too," she says simply.

The trip sparked many ideas for Karli. She's got a list of projects she's working on to benefit Millennium Village schools. Though she would like to go back and personally teach children in Mayange again, she's also really excited about a summer intern project proposal for Parsons sophomores and juniors: She'd like to create an ongoing and sustainable model for conducting art and design workshops for kids in collaboration with the Millennium Villages -- so other visiting art students can have the opportunity she had, and so schools will have an art curriculum in place for local teachers to use, too.

As an artist, Karli was drawn to beautiful patterned baskets made by women in Rwanda. She's in the process of raising awareness through her New York fashion and art connections

WEEKLY COLUMN BY LIZ

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[How loving the world is like true love itself](#)

[Reasons to speak](#)

[This is how you know how powerful you are](#)

[Jumping over stumbling blocks](#)

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[The HumanKind Challenge #1](#)

[1001 Ways](#)

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WORTHWHILE TANGENTS

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[Hooray! I Got My Smile Cards](#)

[Too much fun :\)](#)

[A surprise next door](#)

[Hey, you're gorgeous!](#)

[Lamed Vovniks, all](#)

[This almost makes me wish I could go back to high school](#)



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about the baskets and designs, and hopes to create opportunities for the basket-makers to create designer label handbags that can be sold directly through galleries and art shows.

And if that's not enough, she's looking into projects like [Cinereach](#), to use film as a medium to address social differences in Rwanda. Not a bad list.

I'm with Liz, when she says in [her recent column](#),

The next leaders of our communities and of the world will be people who grew up aware of the ways in which we are all connected. Just like any U.S. kid recycles way more than any U.S. adult, every single member of this generation is growing up in a world that's starting to think of itself far more in terms of a global community.

Karli and her students are now connected and aware of each other, and they're each going to be able to use that awareness to more easily create future connections. And I would add to that: the more art, music, dancing and laughter, the better. Go Karli! We're inspired.

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Posted by Chris Naff at 06:00 AM in [Building a global community](#), [Coming to the aid of children around the world](#), [How They Started: Interviews](#) | [Permalink](#)

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