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**THE STEVE SINNOTT AWARD 2016 - Young Ambassadors for the *Send My Friend to School* campaign**

**The Global Campaign for Education -** In the year 2000, as part of the Millennium Development Goals, world leaders promised that every child in the world would complete a quality, primary education by 2015. At this point it was estimated that over 100 million children were missing out on school and many more were dropping out before completing even a primary education. The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) – a coalition of international aid agencies, teachers unions and civil rights groups was formed to remind and hold world leaders to this promise. This network is now active in over 100 countries.

Sadly the target has not been met; there are still 59 million children missing out on even a basic primary education. New goals for sustainable development, including education targets, will be set in September 2016 in New York at the United National General Assembly (UNGA).

**The Send My Friend to School campaign** is the schools arm of the Global Campaign for Education and motivates young people to speak out for the right of all children worldwide to have a quality education. The campaign will now focus on the barriers to education leaving some groups of marginalized children behind; girls, children in remote areas and conflict zones and children with disabilities.

**Steve Sinnot**, who sadly and suddenly died in 2008, was a passionate advocate for Education for All. During his time as General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) he was a committed member of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), which believes that education is the route out of poverty.

The Award is currently funded by GCE UK and the NUT in his memory.

**The Award Scheme -** Year 10 pupils (14-15 year–olds) in the UK are invited to apply through their school for the ***Steve Sinnott Award*** which will give two committed individuals, and their teacher, the amazing opportunity to travel out to the developing world and investigate the barriers to education there. This award is open to all secondary schools. On return, the UK Young Ambassadors will have a chance to get involved in the campaign in 2016 by:

* Presenting the campaign for students in schools around the UK who take part in Send My Friend to School
* Speaking directly to MPs and Ministers and in public meetings
* Presenting their findings to the NUT conference and at other events
* Blogging and writing articles for the media including the Send My Friend website, youth media and other requests as they come in



**The trip** **in 2016**

The trip will this year be hosted by the charity Deaf Child Worldwide and will be to Kenya during February/March 2015.

**Deaf Child Worldwide**

Deaf Child Worldwide is the international development arm of the National Deaf Children's Society and the leading UK charity supporting deaf children and young people in some of the world's poorest communities.

There are 32 million deaf children worldwide and most live in developing countries. Poverty, a lack of information, poor hygiene and lack of quality health services mean that more children become deaf in developing countries than in the rest of the world.

Deaf Child Worldwide gives vital support in South Asia, East Africa and Latin America, focusing on communities where the need is greatest. Working with partner organisations, it ensures that deaf children and young people are fully included in family, education and community life.

Its mission is to remove the barriers to the achievement of deaf children throughout the world by:

* empowering deaf children, young people and their families to determine what happens in their lives and shape the services they receive
* increasing awareness of the support deaf children and young people need to achieve and challenging social attitudes which prevent them from achieving
* influencing and challenging key decision makers to make deaf children and young people a political priority.

**Why Kenya?**

* **Access to education** in Kenya has considerably progressed in the last 15 years as a result of political will and strong civil society movements. Free Primary Education was introduced in 2003 and the proportion of children completing primary school increased from 42% in 2000 to 62% in 2007.

However, there are still many challenges preventing the most marginalized communities from achieving an education including those living in rural areas and / or being poor, which reduces a child’s chance of attending primary school. 60% of Nairobi’s 3 million inhabitants live in slums where the nearest public schools are often found on the areas’ fringes, making travel and distance an obstacle for many children in attending school.

* **Completion and quality** - although increased enrolment rates show more children are accessing education, there are still many challenges around achievement and quality. The most marginalized children in communities are lagging behind, including those with a disability, in rural areas, in informal settlements, females and from poor economic backgrounds. Deaf Child Worldwide targets the most marginalized children, as these factors combined (disability, socio-economic background, location and gender) can make it extremely challenging for deaf children to access their right to a quality education. Large classrooms, poor learning environments both in terms of structure and lack of resources mean many children still struggle to achieve an education. In primary school the pupil-teacher ratio is 47, but in rural areas and slums the ratio is as high as 100.
* **Children with disabilities** – in Kenya children with a disability face additional challenges in accessing education, whether this is due to physical challenges or, as is this the case for many deaf children, the challenge mainly lies with accessing learning due to a lack of communication. Learning in classrooms with huge numbers makes it almost impossible for deaf children to follow lessons, with no technological support such as hearing aids. Many teachers have had no specialist training and are unable to support deaf children, often resulting in parents to removing their children from school.

**Proposed activities in Kenya**

Arriving in Nairobi, the Young Ambassadors would visit a primary school in the slums supported by Deaf Child Worldwide and attend mainstream classes as well the Deaf Unit to gain an insight into the different challenges facing children in achieving an education. They would also meet some of the student council members, including a deaf member, as well as visiting the after -school sign language club where deaf and hearing pupils mix through music and drama activities.

The group will also travel outside of the capital to compare the challenges facing rural and urban children.

During the week The Young Ambassadors will also meet with deaf children who are yet to receive their right to education and will have a chance to discuss with campaigners, politicians and other partners what the remaining challenges are to ensure that, post 2016, there is universal primary education for all.

**What qualities are we looking for in the Young Ambassadors?**

* Passion about the issue of education for all and a commitment to putting time and energy into the campaign in 2016
* The communication skills that will make them great Ambassadors, in particular a confidence and flair for public speaking
* A good understanding of campaigning and lobbying and how it works to create change
* Ideas on how to spread the word to inspire more young people to take part in the Send My Friend to School campaign in 2016

**How to apply:**

***All 4 requirements below must be completed for a school to be considered for this award.***

***Pupils to supply the following:***

**1.** Two named pupils to produce a joint presentation (either as a Film or Audio/slide show*)* to include:

* an illustration of how their school has been involved in the Send My Friend to School campaign this year
* details of what personal skills they would bring to the fact-finding mission overseas and their role as Ambassadors in speaking to media, their peers and politicians on their return.
* an explanation of why they feel passionate about this issue and why they would like to be the Young Ambassadors for the Send My Friend to School 2016.

**2.** Pupils to submit some written work in the form of a short article or blog explaining why they have entered the competition and what it would mean for them personally (max 200 words).

***The supporting teacher to:***

**3.** As this is an opportunity of a life-time, we would like the teacher to submit 200 words on each pupil explaining why they have been chosen and how they feel the student could benefit from this opportunity.

**4.** Complete the entry form with all details and return with the above applications, no later than **16th November 2015** to:

[Suzanne.Lagan@deafchildworldwide.org](mailto:Suzanne.Lagan@deafchildworldwide.org)

**Terms and conditions:**

* UK school pupils aged 14-15 (applicants should be starting Year 10 in September 2015)
* Two named pupils from each school are eligible to apply, ideally a boy and a girl, but all entrants will be considered.
* This award is open to all secondary schools and we are keen to encourage applications where the students would benefit from this opportunity.
* Shortlisted applicants will need to be available to do a presentation to the judging panel in central London in December 2015.
* The winners and an accompanying teacher will be required to travel to a developing country in February/March 2016 and possibly miss up to one week of school.
* The winners will also be required to give some time to supporting the campaign during 2016; by speaking at events, doing media interviews and meeting politicians.
* Pupils, and their teacher will need to be fit and healthy to travel and have a valid passport.
* The closing date is 16 November 2015.
* Preference will be given to schools and students who have been very active in the Send My Friend campaign in the past.
* The judges’ decision is final

**The Steve Sinnott Award**

**– for the Young Ambassadors for the Send My Friend to School campaign 2016**

Entry form

**School Contact Details**

**Name of School:……………………………………………………….**

**Background information:** *(type of school, size, % free school meals)*

**…………………………………………………………………………….**

**…………………………………………………………………………….**

**…………………………………………………………………………….**

**Address: ……………………………………………………………….**

**School Tel No.…………………………………………………………**

**Teacher Contact Details**

**Teacher’s Name:………………………………………………………**

**Title:……………………………………………………………………..**

**Teacher’s E-mail address:………………………………………….**

**Teacher’s Mobile Phone no:……………………………………….**

**Pupil applicants**

**Name 1:………………………………… Age: ……………… Sex: ……..**

**Name 2:……………………………….. Age:………………. Sex: ……..**