

ONE March for Children

“A School to School Campaign”

School children around the world
walking in solidarity for African children



When so many children are robbed of their childhood our shared future is at stake. The worlds disadvantaged children must have their basic human needs met; they must have access to food, clean water, a roof over their heads and, must have access to a tuition free community school.

While visiting Zimbabwe in 2000, I witnessed an entire village of children who had lost their parents to disease and poverty. Without one single adult present to feed or care for these young children, the children themselves established a hierarchy of elder caring for younger in the hopes of survival. Despite their daily loss and grieving, the truth remains: children orphaned by disease are ostracized by most societies, including their own. And yet their young spirits stayed strong.

Inspired by their courage, I returned to the US and launched a major campaign to bring awareness to the plight of these beautiful children. As I spoke to high school students across the country, their passion for this cause became an instant call to action. They began to raise money for the orphans, openly questioning the lack of world involvement to a crisis of such magnitude. Once again, I came face-to-face with the unwavering human spirit. With the same passion that I had seen in the eyes of the African children, these students, from around the country were determined to make a difference.

I have been the principal “guardian” of The Q Fund since its inception in 2000. It is now time to expand its vision to embrace tomorrow’s leaders. With these young people—both in Africa and here at home—as my inspiration, I have designed the ONE March for Children as a global initiative to foster a new world vision of school children helping children to be schooled..

The ONE March is based on the philosophy that within every individual is the ability to effect change, and when joining together with others, the possibility of substantial change in the world becomes imminent. With that in mind, the goal is to achieve maximum participation by school children around the globe. The first International ONE March began on December 1, 2005. The cost was \$1.00 per participant, with 100% of the funds generated from the March to go directly towards building schools for the extraordinary orphans of Africa.

Today’s students are tomorrow’s leaders, and I believe those who participate in the ONE March will come away from this experience inspired to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children by seeing our world and people as ONE. In addition, I believe that there will be some who participate in the ONE March for whom the desire to help will become a focal point in their lives. Those who are touched by this cause will be encouraged to apply for acceptance into a select group of individuals who will accompany me on the ONE Summit – a symbolic trek to the summit of Africa’s Mt. Kilimanjaro that will take place in December 2010.

Never before has there been such a critical need for all nations to join together to save an entire generation of children. Together, we can “change the view” by giving these children an education with the promise of a brighter future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Blake Kew".

Michelle Blake Kew, CEO & Founder, The “Q” Fund