

## **Recognizing Progress!**

**Objective: To help youth acquire networking and professional letter writing skills.**

**Materials: Paper, writing utensil(s), chalkboard (optional), computer and printer (optional), envelope(s)/stamp(s)**

**Curriculum Connections: language arts, social studies, computer-training**

Write the following quote on the chalkboard or read it out loud:

***“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”***

**-Gandhi**

Discuss as a group what this quote means.

Ask youth:

- Do you know anyone who you feel lives according to this quote?
- Do you feel there are people who live according to this quote by taking action on our focus MDG?
- Do you know of any individual, organization, business, institution or citizen group that takes action on the issues surrounding our focus MDG?

Introduce Recognizing Progress! activity. Your group could produce one or several collaborative letter(s) or youth could each write his/her own letter to the same or different selected groups/individuals.

*Activity: There are organizations, individuals, businesses, institutions, and citizen groups all around the world taking action on issues related to the Millennium Development Goals! Search your community for those taking action on the issues concerning your focus MDG. Remember, those taking action on your MDG may not even know of the Millennium Development Goals –but this does not make their progress any less significant. After you have found a group or individual, draft a professional thank you letter! See page 20 of A Guide to MDG Action (available at: [www.oneworldyouthproject.org](http://www.oneworldyouthproject.org)) for the format of a professional letter. Mail your letter to the selected group or individual!*

*Here are some key points for your letter:*

- *introduce your group or class*
- *describe the MDGs and their purpose*
- *discuss your group or class’s mission to work toward your focus MDG*
- *explain how the individual or group’s work relates to the your focus MDG*
- *express knowledge of the individual or group’s efforts*
- *congratulate the individual or group on their progress*

## **Speaking Out!**

**Objective:** *To help youth gain journalism skills and celebrate their accomplishments.*

**Materials:** *computer, printer, paper*

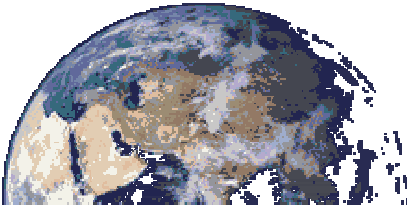
**Curriculum Connections:** *language arts, journalism*

Introduce Speaking Out! activity. This activity can be done as individual or group project.

*Activity: Contact your local newspaper or magazine publication and ask if you could submit an editorial about youth action for the Millennium Development Goals. Work together as a group to draft an editorial for the local newspaper which discusses the Millennium Development Goals, highlights the need for youth action toward the MDGs, and discusses your group's MDG community service project.*

Here are some additional ideas for this activity:

- Invite an editor from the local newspaper as a guest speaker. S/he could help the group understand the process of writing an editorial.
- Bring in examples of well written newspaper or magazine editorials for the group to read.
- Submit the editorial to the school newspaper (if available)
- In addition to writing the editorial, the group could also host an assembly or event that raises awareness about the MDGs and the actions your group has taken for your focus MDG.
- Host a celebratory party for your group!



# Inspire

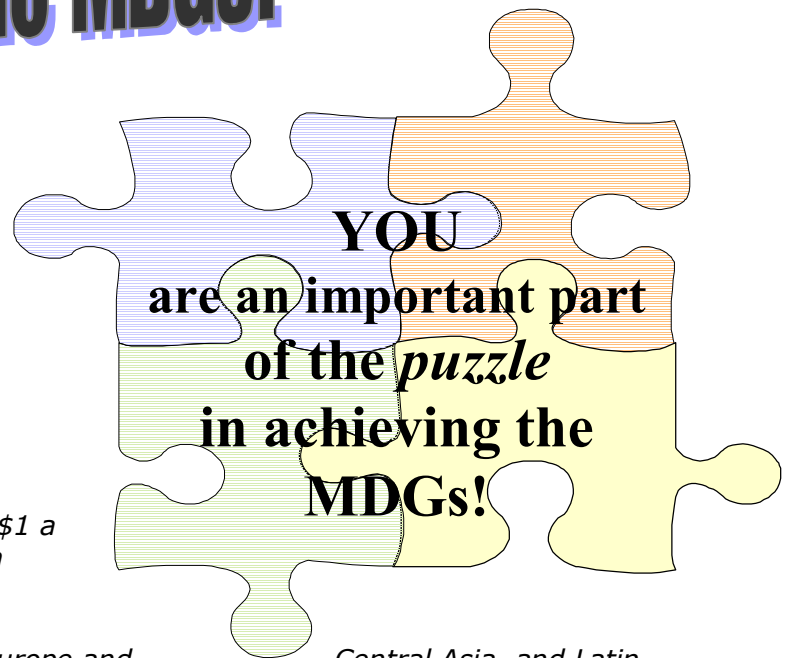
Celebrate positive change! Inspiration for the future!

It is very important to take time to celebrate life, your community, the progress your group has made this year and all the possibilities for the future! Positive steps are being taken every day all around the world!

## Progress toward the MDGs!

*“It is not in the United Nations that Millennium Development Goals will be achieved. They have to be achieved in each country by the joint efforts of the Governments and people.”*

**-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan**



*Globally, the proportion of people living on \$1 a day decreased from 30% in 1990 to 23% in 1999.*

*Three regions – East Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean – are all on track to achieve universal primary education*

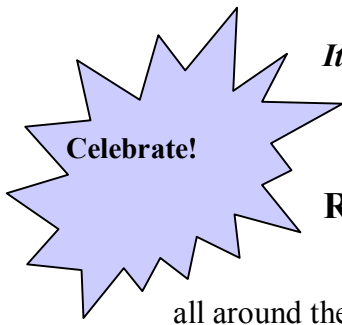
*Girls’ enrollments have increased faster than boys’ in all regions, and the ratio of girls to boys in primary schools rose significantly from 1990 to 2000 in countries like Bangladesh, Gambia, Nepal and Sudan.*

*In the 1990s, the mortality rate for children under the age of five in the developing world declined by 11 percent.*

*In Latin America and the Caribbean and in the Arab States, the rate was reduced by nearly one-third.*

*Significant improvements in access to safe drinking water have been made in rural areas.*

**Source: UN Cyberschoolbus**



*It is important to recognize progress. In order to affect change we have to take time to celebrate success. In order to inspire others to take positive action, we have to speak out!*

### **Recognizing Progress!**

There are organizations, individuals, businesses, institutions, and citizen groups all around the world taking action on issues related to the Millennium Development Goals! Search your community for those taking action on the issues concerning your focus MDG. Remember, those taking action on your MDG may not even know of the Millennium Development Goals –but this does not make their progress any less significant. After you have found a group or individual, draft a professional thank you letter! See page 20 of *A Guide to MDG Action* (available at: [www.oneworldyouthproject.org](http://www.oneworldyouthproject.org)) for the format of a professional letter. Mail your letter to the selected group or individual!

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- express knowledge of the individual or group's efforts
- congratulate the individual or group on their progress

### **Speaking out!**

Contact your local newspaper or magazine publication and ask if you could submit an editorial about youth action for the Millennium Development Goals. Work together as a group to draft an editorial for the local newspaper which discusses the Millennium Development Goals, highlights the need for youth action toward the MDGs, and discusses your group's MDG community service project.