How Students and Educators Can Get Involved in Mine Action

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Abandoned landmines and explosive remnants of war have left humankind with a deadly legacy. This post-conflict debris affects at least 60 countries, and kills or injures thousands of civilians each year. Persistent landmines keep people from leading normal, productive lives. They stop children from going to school, block economic growth, and they hurt the creation of lasting peace and stability in areas ruined by armed conflict. This situation can change, however, through the combined efforts of governments and private citizens.

"Humanitarian mine action" is the field that involves reducing the social, economic and environmental effects of mines on people, animals, and the environment. It includes landmine clearance, as well as a Landmine Awareness Festival. Here's how you can help:
- Join or create a PTPI Student Chapter to enhance educational, cultural and humanitarian activities.
- Coordinate special events at your school to raise awareness and funds.
- Join PTPI educational and humanitar-ian forums to raise awareness for this and other global humanitarian needs.

Donations to PTPI’s International Development Fund go to the relief effort of your choice.

PTPI’s Matching Grant Fund currently has a matching grant from the U.S. Depart-ment of State to raise civil society support for mine action. It is encour-aged by many people and groups, and funds can be matched to assist landmine and UXO victims.

For more information, contact info@ptpi.org.

The Roots of Peace Penny Campaign inspires students to raise awareness and funds for mine action. Students collect pennies to change minefields into safe schools and playgrounds for kids in war zones. The campaign’s goals are to make the rest of the world aware of this issue and to inspire people to take action.

For more information, visit www.ptpi.org or write ptpi@ptpi.org.

 Puneet Khurana, a student at Miriam College, has started a group to raise awareness and funds for mine action. The group collects pennies to change minefields in Nepal and other war-torn countries.

For more information, contact Jennifer Lachman at (202) 250-3914 or jennifer.lachman@magamerica.org.

CHAMPS (Children Against Mines Project) is a project of the Marshall Lega-bility Institute. This educational outreach program teaches students and communities about how landmines affect people and animals in war-torn nations. The project highlights the work of mine-er removal experts, who are trained to “sniff out” landmines. This program allows students to:
- Help children in another country affected by landmines.
- Gain a greater understanding of their role in the global community.

The goal of mine action is to deal with victims’ needs and reduce the risk posed by landmines. Mine clearance helps people live safely and lets economic and social development occur more freely. Mine action is a central part of any broad effort to rebuild war-torn communities around the world.

Between 1992 and 2002 alone, govern-ments contributed over $1.7 billion to the cause of mine action. The total U.S. con-tribution surpassed $1 billion in 2005. These official efforts have resulted in significant reductions in casualties and a substantial return of mined land to safe, productive use. Yet governments alone cannot solve the numerous complex challenges presented by the landmine problem.

Our nation’s youth has a huge capacity for contributing to mine action. Thus, one of the greatest ways to make a difference on this issue is to educate young people. Help them start programs in local schools, churches or neighborhoods. Students can carry out projects that raise awareness in their community and persuade others to become involved. Such projects encourage them to develop critical thinking and leadership skills, creativity, team-work, and community service. They can work with local civic groups to raise money or other contributions that are vitally needed. Raising funds for oth-ers is true service learning because it requires students learn about the issue and make a real difference in the form of financial support.

This packet outlines just a few of the many paths you may choose when de-ciding how to contribute your energy and skills on the global landmine problem. Whatever your cause of action, we applaud you for deciding to inform yourself and get involved! Please keep reading for further information to help you learn more about the landmine issue and how students can use service learning to make a difference in the world of mine action.
Adopt-A-Minefield
www.landscape.org
Adopt-A-Minefield is a program that helps save lives by raising funds for mine awareness and survivor assistance and by raising awareness about the landmine problem.

Canadian Landmine Foundation
www.canadianlandmine.org
The Canadian Landmine Foundation was formed as a registered charity with a mission: to raise awareness & funds to end the human and economic suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines.

Center for International Rehabilitation
www.cirnetwork.org
The Center for International Rehabilitation is a not-for-profit organization that develops technologies and programs to help people with disabilities worldwide reach their full potential.

Children of Armenia Fund
www.coafkids.org
COAF seeks to reverse the impoverished conditions affecting significant numbers of Armenia’s children by revitalizing Armenia’s villages and implementing projects that provide immediate and sustainable benefits to children and youth.

Clear Path International
www.clearpathinternational.org
CPI provides medical and social services to landmine survivors, their families and their communities in Southeast Asia.

Danish Church Aid
www.dca.dk
DanChurchAid is involved in mine action programs in several countries, with activities that focus on mine awareness, mine clearance, mine detection and building and advocacy activities.

Freedom Fields USA
www.freedomfieldsusa.org
Freedom Fields USA is a non-profit organization that removes abandoned landmines in war torn countries.

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
www.gichd.ch
The GICHID works toward a world free of anti-personnel landmines and the reduction of the impact of remnants of war by providing operational assistance, creating and sharing knowledge, and supporting instruments of international law.

Global Care Unlimited
www.globalcareunlimited.org
Global Care is a student-led organization designed to foster community support in the global fight against landmines.

Golden West Humanitarian Foundation
http://goldenwesthf.org
Golden West’s mission is to protect the lives and livelihoods of people residing in communities contaminated with landmines and unexploded ordnance, through the development of innovative and practical materials and technologies.

Grapes for Humanity
www.grapesforhumanity.com
Grapes for Humanity raises funds to benefit humanitarian causes with the assistance of the international wine community.

The HALO Trust
www.halotrust.org
The HALO Trust is a non-profit organization that alleviates poverty through the safe disposal of war remnants.

Handicap International France
www.handicap-international.org
HI France helped found the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. It provides assistance to mine victims and implements mine awareness and mine clearance programs in Southeastern Europe and Africa.

Health Volunteers Overseas
www.hvo.org
Health Volunteers Overseas is a private non-profit organization dedicated to improving the availability and quality of health care in developing countries through the training and education of local healthcare providers.

Help Handicapped International
www.hhi.org
HHI organizes free Jaipur foot and Calipers fitment camps and free distribution of wheelchairs, tricycles and crutches.

Humpty Dumpty Institute
www.humpydumpty.net
HDI puts private sector tools to work in the public sector by turning profit into jobs and income in developing countries and by providing creative content, intellectual capacity, critical "venture capital" and marketing expertise to its many partners.

International Red Cross Committee of the Red Cross
www.icrc.org
The ICRC is an impartial and independent organization that protects the lives and dignity of victims of war and provides them assistance. It coordinates international relief activities in conflict situations and strives to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and related principles.

International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance
www.itfund.org
ITF’s mission is to raise funds for demining and mine victim assistance in the region of southeastern Europe, thus contributing to the political stabilization of that region.

Julia Burke Foundation
www.juliarburkefoundation.com
The Julia Burke Foundation sponsors projects to eradicate landmines and unexploded ordnance and to assist survivors of landmine accidents in countries emerging from conflict.

Kids First Vietnam
www.kidsfirstvietnam.org
Kids First Vietnam provides vocational and educational opportunities for disadvantaged young people in Quang Tri province so they may mature into adults with equal opportunities, full community inclusion, self-reliance and economic independence.

Landmines Survivors Network
www.landminesurvivors.org
Created by and for survivors, LSN empowers individuals, families and communities affected by landmines to recover from trauma, fulfill their rights and reclaim their lives.

Landmines Blow
www.landminesblow.org
Landmines Blow! helps in assisting survivors and rebuilding communities, offering a grassroots outreach campaign to teach people about the global landmine and unsafe water crises.

Lipscomb University
www.lipscomb.edu
Lipscomb University and its Center for International Peace and Justice promote awareness and understanding of international issues, particularly as they relate to peace, security, justice, and human suffering.

Marshall Legacy Institute
www.marshalllegacy.org
MLI applies skills and resources to building indigenous capacity in the developing world to alleviate suffering, restore hope and create conditions that nurture stability.

Medical Care Development International
http://mcdi.mcdi.org
The Medical Care Development International is a voluntary non-profit association dedicated to building awareness among Rotary members and government leaders in 200 countries through technical assistance and financial development.

Mine Action Information Center
http://maic.jmu.edu
The MAIC manages information and conducts training on landmines and unexploded ordnance. It houses an information clearinghouse that publishes a mine action journal, maintains a content-rich website, and conducts studies and facilitate global landmine action.

MineClearing-TeamAfrica
www.mgamafrica.org
MAG America implements a range of activities including mine survey, mine clearance, explosive ordnance disposal, mine risk education, stockpile destruction, and research and development for new demining technologies.

Missouri State University
www.missouristate.edu/polisci/landmines
Landmine Studies at Missouri State’s Department of Political Science seeks to become comprehensive, hands-on in academically training for students to learn about the global landmine crisis.

One Sri Lanka Foundation
www.onesrilanka.org
One Sri Lanka strives to raise funds from individuals and organizations across the world to completely eliminate the landmine menace in Sri Lanka and convert minefields to rice fields.

Organization of American States
http://oas.org
The OAS is an integrated effort to assist its Member States in addressing the problems caused by anti-personnel landmines.

PeaceTrees Vietnam
www.peacetreesvietnam.org
PeaceTrees Vietnam offers training alongside the Vietnamese people to transform the destructive legacy of war into a safe and healthy future for the children of Quang Tri province.

People to People International
www.ppti.org
PTPI enhances international understanding and friendship through programs that create educational opportunities, involving the exchange of ideas and experiences directly among peoples of different countries and diverse cultures.

Polus Center for Social and Economic Development
www.poluscenter.org
The Polus Center creates opportunities for disabled people and other vulnerable groups to become valued citizens within their communities. Activities include prosthetic outreach, employment opportunities, and disability training, education and advocacy.

Prosthetics Outreach Foundation
www.polasea.org
POF’s mission is to restore mobility and independence worldwide. It aims to eradicate landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Rotary for Mine Action
www.rfa.org
Rotarians for Mine Action is a voluntary non-profit association dedicated to building awareness among Rotary members and government leaders in 200 countries through technical assistance and financial development.

Mine Action Information Center
http://maic.jmu.edu
The MAIC manages information and conducts training on landmines and unexploded ordnance. It houses an information clearinghouse that publishes a mine action journal, maintains a content-rich website, and conducts studies and facilitate global landmine action.

Save the Children
www.savethechildren.org/emergencies/landmines.asp
Save the Children works with families to define and solve the problems their children and communities face, utilizing a broad array of strategies to ensure self-sufficiency.

Sight of Spirit
www.spiritsofsoccer.org
SOS gives children who have been landmine victims the opportunity to play and learn. SOS helps them learn about the risks of mines.

Survey Action Center
www.sac-na.org
SAC serves as the coordination body for Landmine Impact Surveys. These surveys provide vital information to improve priority setting in the effort to control the threat of mines by the year 2010.

UNICEF
www.unicef.org
UNICEF is the lead agency for mine risk education. UNICEF is also actively involved in victim assistance activities and in the promotion of a global ban on anti-personnel landmines.

United Nations Development Program
www.undp.org
The UNDP is responsible for assisting governments in building sustainable national capacities for long-term mine action efforts, especially in the area of post-reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

United Nations Foundation
www.unfoundation.org
The UN Foundation seeks to support the goals and objectives of the United Nations in order to promote a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world, with special emphasis on economic, social, environmental and humanitarian causes.

United Nations Mine Action Service
www.mineaction.org
UNMAS is the focal point for all mine-related issues and activities. It provides mine action assistance in the context of humanitarian emergencies and peacekeeping operations.

United Nations Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement
www.state.gov/t/pm/wra
WRA connects people to resources conducive to peace, stability and prosperity by curbing the illicit proliferation of conventional weapons of war and removing and destroying those that remain and pose hazards after the cessation of armed conflict.

Veterans for America
http://www.veteransforamerica.org/
Veterans for America, founded in 1999, is a national non-profit organization, is uniting veterans to address the causes, conduct and consequences of war. VFA’s Information Management and Mine Action Program is literally charting a course to safety and peace through former battlefield and minefields in numerous countries.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
www.vvmf.com
Project RENEW is VMF’s humanitarian program designed to remove landmines and unexploded ordnance in Vietnam.

World Rehabilitation Foundation
www.worldrehabfoundation.org
The World Rehabilitation Fund is the pioneer organization devoted to raising public awareness and implementing rehabilitation programs for people with disabilities throughout the world.