

SPOTLIGHT ON:

roots&shoots

A PROGRAM OF THE JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE

They are committed environmentalists. They are enthusiastic animal lovers. They are passionate humanitarians and they are changing the world one person at a time.

Most of the members of the Roots & Shoots global network are younger than 20 years old, and together they have the power to change the world in many ways.

In 1991, the world-famous primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall sat down to talk with 16 local students in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, about problems—problems in the community, problems in the country, problems in the world. Together, they decided that the solutions to these problems lay in the hands of young people. And together, they created Roots & Shoots.

A program of the Jane Goodall Institute, Roots & Shoots is about making positive change happen—for people, for animals, and for the environment. Young people all over the world proudly follow in the footsteps of their hero, “Dr. Jane.” They make change happen by learning about their communities, finding issues they care about, and then planning specific projects to help.

One group collects donations of gifts to throw a baby shower for a new mother who is homeless. Another group paints its town's storm water drains to discourage the dumping of hazardous

chemicals. Still another group gathers recyclable materials to redeem for deposits, which they will donate to help build a chimpanzee dormitory at a sanctuary in the Republic of Congo. Then they share their projects, and here is where Roots & Shoots gets really cool.

Think of tens of thousands of young people in more than 100 countries connecting every day to learn from one another how to make the world a better place. Sound amazing? It is.

Through a powerful Web site (www.rootsandshoots.org), Roots & Shoots members display their projects, share their experiences, and inspire one another to make a difference. A seventh grader in Wichita, Kansas, may log in and read about a tree-planting project by a group of seventh graders in Shanghai, China.

In the United States, Roots & Shoots members are supported by each group's Youth Leaders, energetic teenagers and college students who have been raised on the Roots & Shoots program and know the impact it has. Youth Leaders maximize that impact through involvement in regional councils and international campaigns.



They are environmentalists, animal lovers, and humanitarians. They are the Roots & Shoots network and on the following pages you will see projects from some of the young members from around the globe. —Amy Vaereuyck

