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Pencils for Kids: Making a Difference One Pencil at a Time

May 25, 2013 By [voltoronto](#)

Imagine going to school everyday and having to share *one* pencil with all of your classmates. In 2005, the children in Niger, West Africa didn't have to imagine this; it was their reality. Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world, with many children living in extreme poverty. Dan Galbraith, a photographer for the Canadian Team in The Francophone Games in Niger, saw the youth in the community living with very little books or supplies, and no electricity or running water. When Dan spoke to Robin Mednick on the phone a few weeks later, he told her about the conditions the children of Niger were living in and Robin knew they had to do something as soon as possible. Others instantly saw how important the cause was and joined the not for profit world. This was just the beginning of the journey to start **Pencils for Kids** (P4K), an organization that has donated thousands of school supplies to the children in Niger.

In November 2007, The kids of Oulmantama, a village in Niger, were given the opportunity to receive an education. This was the first of many P4K schools that have been built. Today, over 100 students attend this school. A simple phone call was the spark that started the foundation to P4K. This proves how easy it can be to make a difference in the world.

What can *you* do to help?

P4K has designed many education projects and programs that anybody can join to help the children of Liboré, the community in Niger that P4K has partnered with. These projects are not only limited to donating supplies or helping raise money to build a school. Some of these programs include Scholarships for Girls, Pen Pals, and Trees for Kids. All of their projects can be seen in detail on the P4K [website](#).



Photo Courtesy of P4K



P4K has a vision to give every child an opportunity to receive an education. They want to make a difference in the world by teaming up with communities to create educational programs that can be easily maintained, as well as resources and instructional facilities. Of every dollar donated, 97% of that goes straight to their projects. Different amounts of money donated can buy a range of things to help the cause. For example, a \$20 donation can provide pencils to a whole class for one year, and \$100 can build the children a new desk for their classroom. Educating others and

fundraising can have a *huge* impact on so many people!

The power of social media is booming, and it's teens like [YOU](#) that can become the spark to something

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amazing. The students of Markham District High School created a YouTube video called 'Share the Happiness' to help promote P4K.



It's easy to do something small, like making a donation or educating your friends, that can change a child's life forever. *You can make a difference in the world – "one community at a time, one child at a time, one book at a time and one pencil at a time."*

To learn more about Pencils for Kids and how you can contribute, or to get in contact with the organization, check out their official website: <http://www.pencilsforkids.com>.

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