

Headlight

Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community
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New Year's Revolution: A Change in Africa

Molly Sweeney
Special to Headlight,
Senior

What was your New Year's resolution? Usually by the end of January the resolution has lost all its spark, and 2012 starts to look no different than 2011. Last year, while bringing in 2011, I watched as Bombados and fire-crackers swirled through the streets of Jinotega, Nicaragua. The sky lit up with homemade fireworks thrown from each corner. Although the fireworks were amazing, that's not what brought me to Nicaragua. I went to Jinotega to work as part of Outreach 360, a program dedicated to educating and caring for impoverished children. This February I again ventured down to Nicaragua to join the Outreach 360 volunteer team, this time bringing more supplies and donations than I did last year. Donating to Outreach 360 is an easy, direct, and gratifying way to begin the New Year.

Just by opening your desk drawers, you can make a difference. A donation doesn't have to be 50 dollars; it can be a pack of pencils, a box of chalk, or a soccer ball. The school that the Outreach 360 children aged four to thirteen is two cement rooms with a few scattered plastic chairs and a chalkboard. Though the building is a sad sight, the people are not; volunteers are greeted

with bubbly little smiles and embracing big hugs. The students beam as they use the new pencils to write their names, over and over again. They squeal at the sight of the bubble they blew for the first time. When people have so little, even the simplest of gestures can change their lives for the better.

Although supplies are needed, money is also desperately needed. Donations go directly to the program and support the daily needs of the community. Money is obviously the most flexible donation, allowing the program to achieve immediate and long-term success. When the program first began, there was no sink in the whole school. Now volunteers have installed two sinks, which create a cleaner and healthier environment for the students and faculty. This financial donation made an immediate and positive contribution to the school's infrastructure. The eventual goal of Outreach 360 is to build a community center in town, which not only serves as a safe haven for the kids, but as a mentor program for them as well. This center will allow them to study and receive college scholarship opportunities, moving them out of poverty through education.

Poverty is the tie that both connects and cripples the people of Jinotega. Jinotega is the capital of coffee in Nicaragua. Each morning, men and women

flock to the coffee fields to pick beans before the sun rises and remain at work until it sets. With no other choices, parents either lock their kids in the house or lock them out of the house. Kids inside are forced to watch out for each other and keep themselves entertained in their one-bedroom house for hours, while kids outside are exposed to continuous danger and bad influences. Thousands of miles away, millions of Americans are at Starbucks, sipping their steaming cafe latte, with beans picked by the parents of these abandoned kids. Those triple grande lattes are enjoyed in America only because of the sacrifices of the citizens of Jinotega. I have witnessed the hard work and poverty of the coffee pickers and I now have a better understanding of how the life we live relies on the depravation of others.

Outreach 360 provides daily structure, education, and care for the kids of Jinotega. The program allows parents to go to work while their children can go to school and grow – as it should be. Next time you walk into Starbucks, think past your order and about the people that made it possible. You may be miles away from Jinotega, but your life is more interwoven with the lives of its citizens than you realize; a donation, whether it be money or markers, is a significant contribution.

Stein's Corner: Hosts in the Headlights

Alex Stein
Editorial Manager,
Senior

I recently sat down with Joel Katz and Zach Romanovsky, hosts of the 2012 Senior Show. We talked about everything from nervousness about hosting the show to surprises that may be in store for the big night...

Alex Stein: What made you guys audition for the hosting spot at the Senior Show?

Joel Katz: I thought it would be a fun experience and I've never done anything like it before. I like to make people laugh.

Zach Romanovsky: When I saw my first Senior Show I instantly wanted to be a host, being up there making jokes and making people laugh.

AS: Are you nervous?

JK: A little bit, but after running for class office I have experience talking in front of crowds. Also, there is a little less pressure considering I have a co-host

ZR: Yeah, I mean having a co-host takes most of the burden off you. If one of us messes up the other host can back us up. We will see what works and doesn't work. We're going to go out there and hope for the best.

JK: Yeah like Zach said, there are two of us so there isn't that much pressure.

Anyway if Zach makes a fool out of himself, he's on

his own.
ZR: Thanks, Joel.

AS: What happens if no one laughs?

ZR: I'll leave.

JK: Yeah, there are certain people in the audience that I'm paying them to laugh. Also I'm bringing laugh samples, so if no one laughs I'll play those.

ZR: No really, I don't think that will be a problem, we both have a great dynamic, and we have some great jokes planned. We're targeting everyone. No one is safe. You really have no choice but to laugh.

AS: What actor would play you in a movie?

JK: I'd probably say Matt Damon. He can do drama, comedy—any genre. We also look a lot alike.

ZR: (shakes his head)

ZR: Probably Adam Sandler, a nice Jewish comedian, he's really down to earth, you know, just making people laugh.

AS: Do you think you guys can out-host Billy Crystal? He did a pretty good job at the Oscars last Sunday.

ZR: Actually, Joel and I plan on hosting the next nine senior shows. Actually were going to do ten, just so we can one up him.

JK: Billy Crystal was a great host; he really knows how to have fun up there. I really think though I'm going for the Anne Hathaway, James Franco vibe though.

ZR: Yeah, except Joel is going to be Anne Hathaway. (laughs)

AS: Do you have any sur-

prises for the show? Anything you are keeping under wraps?

JK: Well, if I told you I would have to kill you.

ZR: We don't want to ruin the surprise (laughs)

JK: We have some good stuff planned but we want to keep in under wraps right now. You will know soon.

AS: How many acts are performing?

ZR: About 20, with a few surprises, we promise you won't be disappointed.

JK: Yeah, we have a great show planned. We hand-picked a wide variety of performances.

AS: Are there any topics that you guys are going to avoid?

JK: Well... Whitney Houston, any Penn State humor, and the Republican debates. Pretty much everything else is fair game.

ZR: If we don't get sent down to the office, we didn't do our job. (laughs)

AS: Why do you think you guys were chosen to host?

ZR: Because we work well together.
JK: Yeah, our styles mesh. We have excellent chemistry. I think when we auditioned, we really showed that we can have a good time.

AS: Thank you for your time, and good luck up there.

JK: I don't need luck.

ZR: (laughs) No problem.

The Senior Show, hosted by Joel and Zach, is on March

ATTENTION ALL SENIORS

Rafting forms are due **THIS FRIDAY!**

Please turn your forms in to Matt Lieberson, Cailin Daley, or Ms. Clough.

The trip **IS** running, so turn your forms in to join us!

HEADLIGHT LOGO CONTEST

We've received a few entries for the logo contest, but we want more!

Your designs for the Headlight logo are due by April 2nd.

The winner will be announced the issue of April 5th with **YOUR LOGO** in the paper!

Good luck!

TRIVIA!

This week's question: Name the last four people to serve as Marblehead High School principals.

The winner will be announced next week.

**Don't forget
we have this
Monday off!**

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