

Craig Kielburger

Craig Kielburger is the co-founder of Free The Children, a unique international development and youth empowerment non-profit organization. Since its founding in 1995, Free The Children has become the world's leading youth-driven charity, inspiring an entire generation to stand up and have their voices heard.



With the involvement of more than a thousand Youth in Action groups, Free The Children has built more than 500 schools throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America, providing daily education to more than 50,000 children. Through its Adopt a Village development model, it has established more than 23,500 alternative income projects to assist women and their families in achieving sustainable incomes. The organization has also formed successful partnerships with leading school boards across North America and Oprah's Angel Network.

Free The Children's latest initiative is an annual event called We Day. Akin to a rock concert for social change, We Day brings some of today's top social issues speakers, musicians and social activists to the stage, in front of a roaring audience of thousands of young people, eager to change the world. The event is broadcasted live on CTV.com and featured in a one-hour TV special on CTV.

Craig is also the co-founder of Me to We, a social enterprise that encourages ethical living and global citizenship through socially responsible products and choices, while also helping Free The Children achieve financial sustainability. Me to We includes international volunteer travel programs, a publishing house, a music label, leadership workshops, a speakers' bureau and a clothing line. Last year alone, Me to We worked with more than half a million people and some of the best-known companies in the world to make social change as easy as buying an organic, fair-trade T-shirt. Through donations and in-kind contributions, Me to We is designed to help bring Free The Children's already low administrative costs to zero while, at the same time, encouraging people to change the world with their daily choices.

Craig has a degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Toronto, is the youngest-ever student in the Kellogg-Schulich Executive MBA program and has received four honorary doctorates for his work in the field of education and human rights. He has travelled to more than 50 countries, visiting underprivileged children and helping with humanitarian projects and development initiatives.

Craig is also the author of *Free the Children* and the co-author of national bestsellers *Take Action!: A Guide to Active Citizenship*, *Take More Action*, the *New York Times* bestseller *Me to We: Finding Meaning in a Material World* and *The World Needs Your Kid*. Together with his brother Marc Kielburger, Craig is a syndicated columnist carried by the *Toronto Star*, *Vancouver Sun* and *Huffington Post*, as well as Canada's most widely-read women's magazine, *Canadian Living*.

Craig has been awarded many national and international awards for his work, including The Roosevelt Freedom Medal, The World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child (also known as the Children's Nobel Prize) and he is one of the youngest recipients of the Order of Canada. Craig's work has been featured on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *CNN*, *60 Minutes* and *The Today Show*, and in *People*, *Time* and *The Economist*.