



The Power of Children Awards

The Power of Children Awards: Making a Difference is an annual event intended to honor and further empower middle and high school students (grades 6 – 11) who have made a significant impact on the lives of others, demonstrated selflessness and exhibited a commitment to service and the betterment of society. The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is seeking to nurture and recognize youth as role models who exemplify an extraordinary commitment to public service and social responsibility; youth who have planted the seeds of hope and promise in others.

The Deborah Joy Simon Charitable Trust has generously provided a major gift to support the establishment of The Power of Children Awards. Additional support has been provided by Crowe Chizek and Company LLC, WISH-TV 8 and the Indiana Department of Education.

Family Resources

Anne Frank

www.annefrank.com

Resources for students include study materials, a scrapbook as an illustrated version of Anne's diary and answers to most frequently asked questions.

Ruby Bridges

www.rubybridges.com

Here you will find more information, articles and pictures about Ruby Bridges and her continuing work to fight racism.

Ryan White

www.ryanwhite.com

This site includes commentaries from his mother, Jeanne. There is a list of prevention materials related to HIV/AIDS.

Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Indiana (YPII)

www.ypin.org

YPII is a network of over 40 organizations with the common goal of involving youth in giving and service to the community. The organization provides an online monthly newsletter, information on partnerships and resources and links to other organizations.

Visit The Children's Museum *Power of Children* pages for more activities, resources and information

ChildrensMuseum.org/PowerOfChildren.

The Power of Children is made possible by lead gifts from Deborah Simon, Efroymsen Family Fund, Chase, National Endowment for the Humanities, Duke Energy Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome P. Martin, U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, The Cummins Foundation and The Anne Frank House in Amsterdam.



Take Action: Make a Difference



ChildrensMuseum.org

A Guide for Families

Step through the tree of promise ...

Choose a pathway ...

Explore what life was like ...

Make a promise ...

Most of us will never face such extreme prejudice, and yet, others face it daily. The extraordinary stories of three children in history help us put the experiences into perspective and can inspire children today to make a positive difference in the world.

This exhibit provides families with an environment in which to discuss **racism**, **prejudice** and **discrimination**. Because of the exhibit content, some of the experiences will be challenging for younger children to understand.

For ways to include the youngest members of your family in these discussion, please see **"For the Youngest"** in each section of this guide.



Anne Frank

***Facing hatred, daring to dream
The power of words!***

Artifacts to look for:

- Yellow stars worn by Jews during the war
- The call-up notice requiring Margot to report to camp
- Nazi propaganda encouraging hatred of the Jews
- Replica of Anne's diary

Family Conversation Starters

- Why were Anne and her family the targets of hatred and discrimination?
- What would it be like for your family to live during this time?
- What kind of power do words have? How can words hurt or help other people?
- What consequences did Anne's helpers face?

For the Youngest

Most educators stress that issues of the Holocaust should not be discussed with children under 10. However, if your child expresses a persistent level of curiosity you may want to consider the level of discussion that is best for your child. The most critical point to make is that he or she is safe today, and that Jews are safe today.



Ruby Bridges

***Facing racism, finding courage
The power of action!***

Artifacts to watch for:

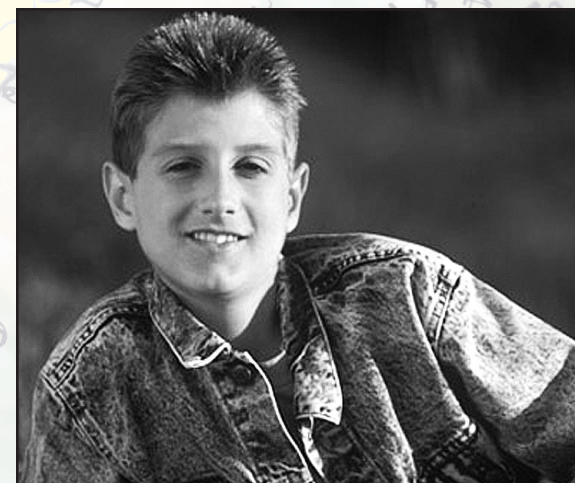
- Drinking fountain marked "white" only
- "The Problem We All Live With" print by Norman Rockwell
- Pen used by Lyndon Johnson to sign the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Family Conversation Starters

- What does segregation mean to you? What do you know or remember?
- Talk about fairness. How does the idea of fairness fit into Ruby's story?
- What did Ruby's teacher, Mrs. Henry, do to welcome her?
- Share a time when you had courage to stand up for something that wasn't right?

For the Youngest

Many of the ideas in Ruby's area include concepts that even young children can relate to. Babies as young as six months can distinguish racial differences. Many societal prejudices are firmly ingrained in us by the time we reach elementary school. Consider talking about the basic ideas of kindness, fairness, courage and respect. This is a great opportunity to talk about your family's values.



Ryan White

***Facing discrimination, finding determination
The power of voice!***

Artifacts to watch for:

- AIDS awareness pin
- Elton John backstage pass
- G.I. Joes in Ryan's Desk
- Fuzzy slippers that kept Ryan warm

Family Conversation Starters

- Why did Ryan and his family become the targets of prejudice and discrimination?
- Where do you find peace or support when you need it?
- What are you willing to sacrifice to support a family member or a friend?
- How does Ryan's power of speaking out to help others make you feel?

For the Youngest

When children bring up questions, it's best to be honest and discuss differences openly. AIDS is mostly a disease that grown-ups get and very hard for children to get unless they were born with it. You can stress the importance of treating people fairly and with respect even if they are very different from you.

Take Action: Make a Difference The Power of Promise

The Tree of Promise is a reminder that we can all make a difference in the world in some way. But how? Where do you start? Head to the "Take Action" section where you can work together to identify other important elements in bringing about positive change, such as gathering information, identifying a specific need and making a plan.

Why is caring deeply about something not enough?
What else do you need to do to make a difference?

Talk about making a commitment. Discuss the importance of caring enough about a cause to make a commitment or a promise to do something and stick with it.

The Action Plan

You can write a promise for the future or leave a message of hope and hang them on the Tree of Promise.

- Step 1: Identify a problem
- Step 2: Research the problem
- Step 3: Decide on your action
- Step 4: Make a commitment and follow through
- Step 5: Implement your plan
- Step 6: Evaluate your progress

Keeping Your Plan

SEE a need! FIND resources!

As you think about the promise you've made, you'll want to check in on your progress. You can link to the Tree of Promise Web site at The Children's Museum to report on your work.

Which of your talents is most important in this project? Did you develop a talent you already had or discover a new talent? Did any difficulties come up or did anything unexpected happen? What was it? Why do you think this happened? Did your project accomplish its goals? How do you know you made a difference? Did you have any successes you didn't expect?

**The power of words. The power of action.
The power of voice. The power of YOU!**

Are you making a difference?

Silver Leaf Ornament

Special silver promise leaves can be purchased in the gift shop for \$75 and engraved with your promise. Proceeds from the silver leaves will support The Power of Children Awards.

TreeofPromise.org