



Student Volunteerism at Rutgers

and the



Global Literacy Project, Inc.

A Non-Profit Charity Organization

The Annual Make-A-Difference Day



Walk For Literacy

Saturday, October 25th, 2003

The Walk-A-Thon's goal is to raise money to ship and distribute donated books to schools in Africa (Kenya, Nigeria, Swaziland and South Africa), the Caribbean (Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Tobago) and South India. The shipments will be coordinated through the **Global Literacy Project** (www.glpinc.org), a non-profit organization committed to fostering community-based literacy initiatives throughout the world.

What is Make A Difference Day?

"Make A Difference Day" is the most encompassing national day of helping others—a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone can participate. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, "Make A Difference Day" is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October.

2003 Make-A-Difference Day Aims for Global Impact Through Support From Rutgers Students and Friends

Seventeen computers saved from landfills will be heading to Swaziland (Southern Africa) along with some 3000 elementary textbook and high school textbooks. Donations of 2,500 general reading books will see the creation of small reference libraries for juvenile offenders in two correctional facilities in New Jersey and New York.. Ten computers and 2000 math, science and literature books will be making their way to Tobago in the Caribbean.



Taking the message on the road...

Rutgers students and other community members joined the G.O.Y.A Project (Student Volunteerism at Rutgers) and the Global Literacy Project (GLP) on Saturday for their annual "Make A Difference Day" Book Drive and "Walk For Literacy." The Walk For Literacy was a non-competitive 5K event from 12:30-3 p.m. beginning at the Douglass College Student Center on George Street and ending at the Rutgers Student Center on College Avenue.



Led by our intrepid mascot...



The Rutgers Bookstore gave out great goodies!



Assemb. Upendra Chivukula, Olubayi Olubayi, Vanya Whaley



At the rally held on the steps of Brower Commons of the College Avenue Campus at the end of the walk, local District 17 Assemblyman, Upendra Chivukula commended the walkers and the participating organizations for having a vision which would positively impact generations of children.

Vanya Whaley, President of GOYA and Dr. Olubayi Olubayi, founder of the Global Literacy Project added their thanks to the walkers and volunteers who came out as well as a thank-you to the many people who donated books, computers and sponsorship to the program. "Rutgers students know that volunteering is as much a part of their education as sitting in a classroom," said Whaley.

Dr. Olubayi drew attention of the global impact that Rutgers students were making by focusing on four Rutgers students, Amina Adams, Eva Sas, Jamie Stein and Sivan Yosef, who, after volunteering with G.O.Y.A. and GLP, decided to follow the donated books to their final destination and so ended up spending six weeks in Kenya over the summer helping to set up a GLP community library.



(Patty Tsai, Phung Tran, Ed Antiquena, Nutthinee Katapituk, Eva Sas)

Nutthinee Katapituk came all the way from the border of New Jersey and Pennsylvania to participate in the walk. “I think this is a simple but powerful idea with world wide potential that needs to be supported,” she said.

Over the last three years GOYA and GLP have been working on shipping books to African and the Caribbean and through their efforts, 32 libraries in East Africa are now supported along with 10 in the Caribbean. “This year’s donations will support school libraries in Southern Africa, Western Africa, the Caribbean and a small nursing school in South India,” said Denniston Bonadie co-founder of the Global Literacy Project.