

HOW TO START A RIDICULOUSLY AWESOME INVISIBLE CHILDREN UNITED CLUB

Be The Change You Wish to See, Start a Club for the I.C.

So...you want to start a club? Fantastic! Below is a short manual with six and a half easy steps to get you on your way. Be sure to also look over the sample constitution, check list, and most importantly www.invisiblechildren.com for tips on how to make your club as successful as possible. Enjoy.

STEP ONE: To start a club you need a club leader. This person should be a visionary, communicator, listener, delegator, empowerer, organizer, and most of all, someone who believes that amazing things are possible. This leader should be able to represent the entire club and Invisible Children with responsibility, commitment, and good humor. They will be working with club members, student governments, faculty, administration, and the I.C. office to make their I.C.U. truly extraordinary. Once the leader has been found, it is time for step two.

STEP TWO: Assemble a core group of people who have seen the film and are committed to the cause. You can call these people whatever you'd like, but for today they shall be known as the go-gurts (they are always ready to go...plus its just fun to say). You and the go-gurts should convene in a common location to brainstorm your ideas and come up with a plan of attack on how you will help the children of Northern Uganda. Do not continue reading until all the go-gurts are present. Once you and the crew are gathered, you're ready to begin. Here are a few things you may wish to discuss with your group:

- Your school's rules for starting a club on campus
- Your individual strengths, possibly transitioning to create leaders for sub-teams such as arts and crafts, advertising, baking, etc. (Be aware that new event ideas will arise throughout the year, and people may want to lead new teams – be sure to delegate, but also be flexible as new leaders and ideas come to you)
- What goals you would like to set for the club (example: let's write 1000 letters this year, and try to raise 1000 dollars)

STEP THREE: Learn the protocol of starting a club at your school. It is usually necessary to talk to the student government advisor or a school administrator. Once you have established a club, shoot an email to Invisible Children and let us know what you're up to. Here is what may be required at your school:

- An advisor: This should be a teacher at your school who supports Invisible Children and the awareness you are trying to bring to your school. They should be willing to give time to attend meetings and events as well as be a liaison to the administration. Develop a good relationship with your advisor and meet regularly to discuss the vision of the club.
- A constitution: You may need a constitution that outlines your goals and purpose. See the attached sample constitution for ideas.
- A meeting space: Find a meeting space that is central to your target club participants. This may be your advisor's classroom, or school's lunch hall, or common room.

STEP FOUR: Decide on a time your club will meet, for example, every Thursday during lunch. Next, decide on a date for your first meeting. Be sensitive to other club meetings and student events. You might want to go to already established clubs and invite them to your meetings and events, uniting students that normally wouldn't work together. If you are hardcore, this alliance might result in matching t-shirts.

STEP FIVE: Advertise. Use the resources available at your school and come up with creative ways to advertise. It depends on your school, but by creating a club you usually gain access to the copy machine, quality art supplies, poster board, etc. Some student governments even offer a small budget for developing clubs. Keep your eyes open for these resources; you will need them all year. Talk to graphic arts teachers and students if you need help with fliers. Don't forget to go to the I.C. website; we will hook you up with downloadable fliers, info, and additional advice. If your school has a club fair, you can acquire a booth to raise awareness for Invisible Children. If you have a school bulletin or calendar, request to include an

announcement about your meeting. If you know someone on your school's cheer squad have them gather the cheer team's support and do a cheer for your club, Invisible Children United. While all of these forms of advertising are affective, know that setting up a screening of the film "Invisible Children Rough Cut" is the best way to get people excited to help these children (see "How To Plan A Ridiculously Awesome Screening").

STEP SIX: Have your first official club meeting. You will probably want to meet with the go-gurts first to create an agenda for your first meeting and reiterate everyone's role. The first part of the club meeting should be used to brief all in attendance on what the Invisible Children organization is all about. All go-gurts should be familiar with the FAQ's and be prepared to answer the usual questions (what is "Schools for Schools"? Where is the money going? What is Invisible Children?). Use meeting time to brainstorm possible events for the coming year. You can even give everyone blank envelopes to write their first letter to a senator. Other ideas might be to have everyone commit to emailing Oprah that night, to go on the I.C. website, or simply promising to talk about Invisible Children at the dinner table to a friend. To conclude the meeting, we would recommend passing out a short survey to discover each club members' strengths, why they are there, and the amount of time they can commit to the club. This will be helpful in the future if you need to create sub-teams to plan events. Remember to thank everyone for coming; thank yous are the crucial ingredient to a successful club.

STEP SIX AND A HALF: Have an insane amount of fun. Take chances, laugh hard, think big, read the history, write letters, refuse to live in a world that allows children to be invisible. Know that your commitment to action will move others to act. Believe in the power of this revolution, and know that you are the revolutionaries.

RIDICULOUSLY AWESOME SAMPLE CONSTITUTION

CLUB NAME: Invisible Children United

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: I.C.U. was formed in response to the 2003 documentary “Invisible Children: Rough Cut.” The club serves as a tool to raise awareness and empower the students of this campus to create real and lasting change for invisible children (or invisible circumstances) all over the world. This year we will work towards goals of raising awareness and financial aid for the people of Northern Uganda.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership is open to all students, faculty, administrators, and staff at our school. Members of the community are also welcome to participate in club activities.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: We ask members to attend our meetings and events regularly. They should take an active role in planning activities and spreading the word to the campus and local community. The biggest requirement is that each member should believe they can change the world.

DUES: No financial dues are necessary to be in our club. The only thing that each member must give is time and energy.

CLUB DUTIES: The club members’ primary job is to promote awareness. Throughout the meetings we will decide how we would like to raise awareness on campus – it may be through a letter writing campaign, screening, or our own mini night commute. Whatever the event may be, each member of the club must do one of the following: 1) help to plan the event 2) help to promote the event 3) attend the event 4) get the support of community and faculty 5) tell at least 10 people about the event.

MEETINGS: Meetings will be held every Thursday in room 201 during lunch. Additional meetings might develop after school when planning larger events.

AMENDMENTS: Amendments can be made after addressing the group at a meeting and gaining a consensus for change. If the club is not running well, there is no reason not to change its structure.

OFFICER DUTIES: The Club President will oversee all Invisible Children United events, communicate regularly with other campus clubs, administration, and community members. They will also spend time getting to know each club member individually so that member can work on projects that cater to their specific talents and interests. The President will also be responsible for handling any money that the club should choose to raise. They may want to appoint a treasurer, co-president, or vice president, to assist them in any or all of these tasks.

THE TEAMS: During the first few meetings, the club will set several goals for the year. They can go about achieving these goals as an individual unit or divide into teams. If the club should choose to divide in to teams, the following manual offers some examples of past teams and steps taken to raise awareness and money.

A FEW IDEAS FOR CREATING YOUR OWN RIDICULOUSLY AWESOME TEAMS

THE EVENT TEAM: is in charge of...you guessed it...setting up events. Bake sales, dodgeball tournaments, dance-a-thons, car washes, fashion shows, benefit concerts, rummage sales – this team can do it all. They will probably just pick one or two of the above events, working for several months to answer the following questions: where should we have our event? Do we need a permit? How are we going to publicize it? Do we need a faculty advisor present? What are our resources? What could go wrong? For example: dodgeball could create injuries...have a nurse present. What will we need? Sound, systems, tables to sell cookies, a cash box for the money, club representatives to run the booths, soap for the cars, lighting for an evening event, pens to write letters...the list goes on. What are our goals? How many people can we get to each event? What age group are we targeting? Can we advertise to youth groups and the community as well? How much money are we trying to raise? The events are usually the most work and the most fun. If you are feeling exceptionally crazy, you can combine events, for example: set up a dodgeball tournament, but during half time have a band play and sell some cookies and Africa hats. Be bold, dream big, but cover all of your bases.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE TEAM: Change for change is a fundraiser where students collect spare change to create change in the world. This teams' first step is to set a goal for the year, for example, 100 jars full of change by the end of the year!!!. They will then figure out what steps they should take to reach this goal by asking the following questions: how many jars do we want to make? Where should we distribute them? When should we collect them? This fundraiser is one of the more popular ones because anyone can do it. Teachers can put out jars after the lunch bell to collect left over lunch money. Families can put them in the middle of their kitchen tables to see how long it would take for the unit to fill the jar. The list of change for change is infinite. This activity gives a visual confirmation to the idea that a bunch of little individual efforts can make one BIG difference.

COMPASSION FASHION TEAM: Come up with creative ways to tell the story of Invisible Children through fashion. Team members can write a proposal for new products and be given a budget from club funds to create these projects in bulk. Ideas thus far include: Africa hats, purses, buttons, bumper stickers, folders, earrings, long sleeve Africa shirts, stenciled short sleeves, Africa tank tops/wife beaters, book bags, and silk screen patches. To make any of these ideas come to life, team members will need to ask the following questions: what are my resources (ex. does anyone in the club have extra fabric at home, puffy paint, can we make our own stencils, can our ASB give us start up money, does our school have silk screener or button maker?). Secondly, where will you be selling this merchandise? If you are having a huge outdoor benefit concert, Africa hats will sell really well because people will want to support the cause and get the sun out of their eyes. How can you promote your items? If you are trying to sell cool new shirts, have 30 club members wear theirs all on the same day, everyone will want to know where they can get their very own t-shirt. The best thing about compassion fashion gear is that it raises serious awareness and money. Make sure everyone sporting the gear knows the story of Invisible Children and how you can help. Remember: what you wear will show you care.

THE GLUTTONY IS NOT A REAL SIN TEAM: is all about the food. Because lets face it, everyone loves a bake sale. This fundraiser is great because 1) everyone can bake something - muffins, rice krispy treats, cakes, pies, cookies, cupcakes 2) Everyone can buy something – 50 cents a treat adds up fast 3) Combining delicious treats with changing the world is just a good idea. Don't be confined to the bake sale world. Restaurant nights are also a great idea (some places will give you half of their sales profits for the night if you get a certain amount of people to show up). Cake walks are fun, chili cook offs are too. Here are some potentially catchy, politically incorrect slogans to assist you in your quest: Pack on the pounds, bring the LRA down. The kids are being taken lets get busy bakin. Little Kids are forced to fight, lets set up a restaurant night....

THE INFORMATION TEAM: Creates packets of information about invisible circumstances in our own local, national, and global communities. The goal of this team is to make information accessible to the student body. This packet can include magazine articles, excerpts from books, newspapers, or even websites for students to check out. This team can get creative by setting up additional screenings of the film, letter writing sessions, workshop days to gain a deeper understanding of the civil war in Uganda, other invisible conflicts, and finally offering steps that the student body can take to create change (for example, if this team was to set up a workshop on hunger in third world countries, a step would be having everyone commit to visiting thehungersite.org which gives one bowl of food for every click). The team could also include inspirational stories of young people whose individual effort has made a huge difference, like the Canadian kindergartener who rallied his community to build hundreds of clean water wells in Africa. The job of the information team is crucial: the more people know, the more likely they are to act.

CREATE YOUR OWN TEAM: The club may choose to create a completely new and innovative team. Other team ideas include: a field trip team where students attempt to shed light and offer aid to invisible circumstances in their own community. Some schools have had a publicity team that makes sure upcoming events are in the school paper and broadcast on school radio. They are also in charge of making fliers and posters for the event. Other groups have set up booth teams that set up Invisible Children tables at club fairs, in lunch halls, and in the middle of the school quad. These tables can either be used to pass out information, sell merchandise, or promote an upcoming event. Recycling and Letter Writing teams have also done amazing things. Continue to take chances, be innovative, set up your own teams that are even more affective than the ones above.

HOW TO PLAN A RIDICULOUSLY AWESOME INVISIBLE CHILDREN SCREENING

STEP ONE: Contact Invisible Children. If the documentary moved you and you want others to have the same experience, setting up a screening is a great way to do that. Begin by e-mailing Invisible Children with your ideas and a time window that the screening could take place. They'll write you back, and together you can decide on the best date for the screening.

STEP TWO: Assemble a Team. After seeing the documentary, it's easy to feel small and not know where to start. You'll find that other kids feel the same; the important thing is to not get overwhelmed, and to take the first step. By setting up a team you can distribute different jobs, such as creating posters, writing letters, contacting clubs, and even coordinating fundraising activities if you're an overachiever. The main thing about a team is that everyone is important. Everyone has a job or something to contribute to make it work. Each member is valuable.

STEP THREE: Find a location. Where would you like to screen the film? Consider who you are inviting. Having the screening on a campus is always a good idea, because everyone knows where it is. If you invite members of the community, maybe a rec hall would be a better setting. Screenings have taken place in houses, auditoriums, basketball gyms, places of worship, restaurants, and even hair salons. So get busy talking to your principals and hairdressers to see which venue could be the right one for your screening. If they are hesitant to lend you the space, make sure to emphasize the length of the movie (55 minutes) and the commitment that your club has already made to leave the venue in spotless condition. Don't forget to bring a projector, screen, DVD player, chairs, tables, and a positive attitude.

STEP FOUR: Make Ridiculously Awesome Flyers. There are many factors that go into making ridiculously awesome flyers. Start by identifying your key points. For example, if your showing is free, make sure that that's on the flyer. Don't forget the essentials: time, date, location, etc. Writing a short summary of the film is a good idea, and the Invisible Children website should definitely be on there www.invisiblechildren.com. I would also recommend using the back of the flyer to give directions, perhaps even a map, to help simplify the lives of your future documentary audience. This is a lot of information to put on one piece of paper, and it's crucial that the flyer is not overwhelming.

STEP FIVE: Tap your resources. Now is the time to talk to your principals, teachers, club leaders, ministers, student council, parents, roommates, even your crazy neighbor. Writing these people a letter about the film is a good idea. After they receive the letter, wait a few days and then visit to follow up about the film. Having flyers with you at this point is wise as they can pass them on to their various groups throughout the week. If you have never met these people before, it might be a good idea to open with a joke – unless it's a bad joke. Use your own judgment.

STEP SIX: Promote Your Event. Make the posters, create fliers, set up tables in the lunch court, make buttons, show trailers of the film, put an add in the school paper or even the newspaper. Having IC t-shirts for your team would be a great idea, however it is not a mandatory step. Shirts, (homemade or purchased online) help to remind people that your Invisible Children screening is coming up. By making your team visible, students feel comfortable to ask questions and seek more information about your event.

STEP SEVEN: Be Excited. If you and your team are pumped up about the screening, then others will be as well. Make posters, write e-mails, you can even start to fundraise. You are on a mission; don't let anything get in your way. Snow, fire, rain, a math test...whatever. If your mom wants you to clean your room, but you are too busy helping Uganda, then she will just have to deal. If you believe you can make a difference, then others will as well, and together you will put on a ridiculously awesome screening.

HOW TO MAKE RIDICIOULSY AWSOME INVISIBLE CHILDREN HATS

(15 minutes of your time will raise 15 dollars)

So you want to make a hat...fantastic! Let's make sure you have the right materials. If you are picking up a kit from the Invisible Children office, you are already on your way. Here's a list of what you will need to make a batch of I.C. hats:

- blank trucker hats (found online or at the village hat shop)
- squares of material
- an Africa stencil
- a marker
- needles
- thread
- fabric scissors
- heart buttons

Now all you have to do is put these materials together. Here are a few steps that will help you create the perfect hat.

First, think about what kind of Africa hat you want to make. Will it be wild and sassy, or simple and classy? Start by picking out a hat and fabric square that goes well together.

Next, take out your Africa stencil, scissors, and pen. Trace the shape of Africa onto the fabric (be careful not to trace a backwards Africa...your hat could look like South America, or a kidney...both would be very confusing). After tracing, take out your scissors and cut out your Africa. A successful completion of an Africa fabric piece marks the middle of this difficult journey you have chosen to embark on. Congratulations, you have done well...now lets continue.

It is time for the needle and thread. This can be a little scary because needles are sharp and easy to lose. Take a deep breath. It is going to be OK. Start by putting the thread through the eye (or little hole) of the needle. If you don't know how to thread a needle, you can always ask for help from a friend or parent. Make sure that you give your self a good amount of thread to work with and a solid knot at the end.

Now is the time to pick up your hat. If it has a price tag under the brim or on top, remove it carefully. Open the hat up so the netting is not stuck to the back. Next, take out your little fabric Africa. Place it on the right side of the hat. Not too high, not too low, focus. Now there is nothing left to do but sew.

Sew stitches on to the border of the patch – some people do side stitches, others do crossovers, and others are just happy that the patch seems to be staying on at all. Whatever your style is, focus on quality. When you are done, tie a knot on the inside of the hat and cut the thread.

This last step is crucial. Take out your heart button. Look at it. Find the holes in it. Look at your Africa. Find where Uganda is located (if you don't know, DO NOT GUESS...go to www.invisiblechildren.com. Sew your heart on to Uganda. Again tie a knot on the inside of the hat and remove the needle. Congratulations – you have just raised 15 dollars for the Invisible Children. High Fives all around.

HOW TO MAKE RIDICULOUSLY AWESOME INVISIBLE CHILDREN PURSES

A BAG THAT'S COOL PUTS KIDS IN SCHOOL

So, you want to make a purse...wonderful! There are a few things you will need to get started. If you picked up a purse kit from the Invisible Children office then you already have everything you need. Here's the checklist:

- blank Canvas Bags (easily found online, at JoAnns or Michaels)
- large squares of fabric (about the size of your hand, unless you have little hands)
- a pen and pencil
- scissors
- needles
- thread
- puffy paint
- an Africa stencil
- felt

Nice work, it looks like you are ready. The time has come for you to create the ultimate Africa purse. Here are a few steps to help you on your way.

Check out the fabric. What kind of bag are you going to make, simple and plain or wild and insane? Think about it. Pick out your fabric. You have completed the first step.

It's time to get out your Africa stencil, pen, and scissors. Trace the Africa onto the fabric (no backwards Africa's, really focus on this one). After it's traced on, cut the stencil out.

Remember elementary school? I do. We had to cut out hearts all of the time. Preparing for Valentines Day made me a heart cutting machine. I'm sure you were too. Maybe you weren't. Either way, go back to that time in your life. Visualize the heart you want to make. Keep it pretty small, go for the size of an Oreo. Take the felt, take the scissors, and be the heart cutting champion we all know you were destined to be.

Now that you have your heart, the moment has arrived to sew it on to your Africa patch. It is still not time to touch the actual canvas bag, so set that back down. Do you know where Uganda is? I didn't either. Open the world atlas that you keep in your pocket and make sure you are sewing the heart in the right place. Great job, you found it. Operation put heart on Uganda is complete.

Now its time for the purse. Get out your needle and thread, grab your canvas bag, bust out the Africa patch with the heart sewn on it. This is the climax. If you haven't guessed by now, you are about to sew the Africa on to the purse. Sew it on to the right hand side of the bag. Make sure it is not crooked, then it looks like a boomerang – not ok. Be sure not to sew the bag together, rookies make that mistake all of the time. It's tough, it's intimidating, it's going to be glorious.

The last step is only if you have been given puffy paint. If the words "Invisible Children" or "Africa" have already been stenciled on the bag, your work here is done. However, if there is no previously stenciled wordage, then this last step is for you. Take out your pencil and write the word Africa. Don't make the letters too close together, keep it simple, keep it clear. Now it's time to slowly trace the letters with puffy paint. **WARNING:** if you do not know how to puffy paint, this is not the moment to learn. Do not be a hero. Puffy painting is like Richard Simmons, it's not for everyone. If this is not your strength find a friend whose puffy paint skills are masterful and let the painting begin.

You have completed making the bag. But your job is not done. If it has been puffy painted, then it is wet. You must protect it. If it is drying on the ground, a friend might step on it. If it is on a table, your mom might move it. Sometimes bags look dry when they are in fact, wet. Many a bag has been destroyed due to lack of attention. Do not let this happen to you. Guard it. Once it has dried, you will have completed a champion level Africa Bag. Double thumbs up.

AM I THE RIGHT PERSON TO SET UP A RIDICIOUSLY AWESOME INVISIBLE CHILDREN SEWING PARTY?

Have you ever thrown a party? Have you ever been to a party? Have you ever seen a party on TV? Then this is for you.

Have you ever sewn something? Have you ever seen someone sew something? Have you ever worn something that has been sewn? Then this is for you.

Here are a few steps to help you set up your sewing party.

1. Make sure you have all of the right supplies (see hat and purse manuals for check lists). If you are having a massive sewing party, ask your friends to bring extra supplies. Ask your mom for some extra fabric, find that bin of puffy paint that has been in your garage for the last millennium and dust it off. Tell everyone what you will need ahead of time and you will have more than enough.
2. Figure out where the sewing party will be held. Living rooms are great, and common rooms in dorms are nice spaces as well.
3. Decide on your goals. If you are trying to make 40 hats and purses in one night, it's time to delegate. Have one of your friends be a heart-cutter-outer, an Africa tracer, and Africa cutter, find a few sewers, and your time will be cut in half. Set your goals together, be proud of what you can accomplish, turn up the jams, and let the sewing begin!

BEWARE OF: Sideways Africa's, loose needles, wet puffy paint, scissors that can not cut fabric, markers that bleed through, tracing the stencil on backwards, stitches through hat netting, thick thread, and negative attitudes.

HOW TO PLAN A RIDICULOUSLY AWESOME RUMMAGE SALE

FIRST: Put together a rummage sale dream team. Team members can be anyone – the only requirement is that they are giving of their time and talents. They should also smile a lot. The team members should consist of your basic rummage sale leaders, token publicizers, a few artists, and of course, a substantial group of students willing to sell stuff at the event. In addition to this, you will most likely need a faculty advisor, parent, or community group in your corner to give you support. After you have found all of these people, step one is in the bank.

SECOND: Come up with potential dates for your event. Talk to your team, take into account club members and faculty schedules. Also think about what is going on at your school and in your community. If your rummage sale is on the day after prom, you probably won't have a large turn out. Look at your community calendar and local newspaper as well. Once you have let all of these factors marinate for a while, pick a date (probably a Saturday) that best accommodates everyone's schedules and let the planning begin.

THIRD: Select a venue. The place should be central to the group you are inviting. For example, if the rummage sale is for kids at your school, try to set it up at school. If it is community based find a recreation center or community park. You will most likely need to get a permit for one of these venues. **DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY THE PERMIT PROCESS.** Getting a permit is like getting Willy Wonkas' golden ticket. It seems impossible, but if you eat enough candy bars you just might win. When you apply for a permit or talk to administration, try to talk to the head honcho face to face. Tell them what you want to do and why you want to do it. Bringing them a copy of the movie and information about the cause is always a good idea. Persistence is really the key ingredient here, administrators who are reluctant to grant your request will often do so if you just keep trying. Be sincere, be professional, be concise, be prepared...and smile.

FOURTH: Have volunteers and donors commit to the event. You might want to create a check list of people you need, for example: 15 sellers, 5 cleaner uppers, 4 parents, 2 staff members, community leaders etc. You also might want to ask your local coffee shops to donate some caffeinated beverages for those early morning sellers. If you and your comrades prefer the java from a major corporation such as Starbucks, it is usually the procedure to fill out a request form ahead of time. The early morning treats might not seem important, but it is worth it. Free coffee and snacks help to start the morning off just right.

FIVE: Publicize. Flyers, handouts, posters, articles...the usual forms of gaining publicity are needed in this step. If you are feeling crazy, you might want to try new and unusual ways to get people to come. In the past, kids have taken their flyers and made paper airplanes, sending them all over the school. Other kids have stapled fliers to bags of popcorn at screenings to promote their upcoming event. If you need a visual, go rent the cinematic masterpiece "The 10 Things I Hate About You" (refer to the glorious flyer dropping sequence over the staircase which results in an overwhelming attendance rate at Bogie Lowenstein's Party). While passing out the flyers is important, we might have gotten ahead of ourselves here. You probably want to know what the flyers should say. Start with the basics: time, date, location, explanation, etc. If you want to have more people come to sell, give them a separate start up time, for example: RUMMAGE SALE 7:00-2:00 (if you would like to sell, please come at 5:30 to set up). Flyers are tricky because you want to make sure all of the information is on there without overwhelming the reader. The biggest thing to remember when inviting people to come is that **THIS EVENT IS FOR EVERYONE**. Everyone has too much stuff, everyone wants to get rid of it, everyone secretly wants to buy more stuff, and everyone wants to create positive change this big world of ours. It's a win win situation. Think about it: "sell your trash to raise the cash," "what you give can help a kid," "have a sale- let peace prevail" (if you don't like these slogans, I'm slightly offended but its fine, insert your own witty slogan here).

SIX: Collect your materials, stuff to sell, markers, tape for the posters, poster paper, tables, chairs, boombox with music, blankets, sheets, tarps, price tags, cashboxes with change, trash bags, trash cans, snacks or coffee. Once you have these under control, the club might want to appoint an accountant, (or what I like to

call a “master money manager”) for the event. The reasoning for the “MMM” goes as follows: if there is a lot of money, it can become difficult to keep track of it. If there are a lot of people, it is even more difficult to keep track of it. If there is a “MMM” in action, money problems can be avoided and all of the cash will be accounted for and sent to Invisible Children. So the “MMM” has huge responsibility and should be treated with the utmost respect and reverence.

SEVEN: Check the weather forecast. It is also time to select a few people (lets call them the Weather Warriors) to come up with a back up plan in case of rain, snow, hail, or tornadoes. Weather Warriors of 2005 realized that their outdoor rummage sale would most likely be rained upon. Foreseeing this to be disastrous, the Warriors found large tents to set up over the merchandise, thus keeping everything dry and sellable. The Weather Warriors also worked with the Publicity People to make sure that everyone selling knew what to do if it rained. The fliers were also changed, including and the phrase “come rain or shine”.

EIGHT: So far, this manual has described how to set up your average, run of the mill, every day, rummage sale. But friends, secret’s out, this is not a normal event. In regular garage sales, most people sell their stuff and keep the money for themselves. You are selling your stuff for people half way around the world that you may never meet. THIS IS EXTRODINARY. By participating, you and your comrades are saying that you are caring about something other then yourselves. You are choosing to live simply, so others can simply live. Make sure that people know this when you are inviting them. What you are doing is not run of the mill, it is revolutionary and will serve as evidence that a small group of people can make a huge difference. Set up your tables joyfully and clean up joyfully. Tell people about Invisible Children, encourage them to go to the website and see the film. Make a sign up sheet for the email updates from IC. Encourage everyone to tell a friend. Tell them that by buying your old Backstreet Boy cd from 7th grade, they are helping to change the life of a small Ugandan Child. Do this and you will have already succeeded.

NINE: This step is for all my super sellers. Make sure all of your items are clearly marked. Price tags, signs, one dollar bins...whatever, just make it clear and pretty to look at. Be aware that shoppers (especially intense garage sale groupies) might come half and hour to an hour early to get the goods. If they come before you are ready to start selling, offer them a muffin and let them know when the event will officially begin. Once the event has begun, people are going to want to bargain with you. Your bargain policy can be your own, but realize that the stuffed unicorn that took you on magical adventures through your backyard in 1991 is not worth 50 dollars. Shoppers should feel like they are getting a great deal, so keep your prices low and your flashbacks of time with the unicorn to a minimum.

TEN: Document the event. We want to see pictures of the punk rock guy selling his beanie babies for Africa. We want to watch a video of a stubborn old woman making you sell her your unicorn to her for a dollar. We want to see the Weather Warriors matching purple jumpsuits. Tell us the inside jokes, the nicknames, what worked, what didn’t, why this manual was not helpful...we want it all. So holler at us. Seriously.

Eleven: As the event is drawing to a close, you will probably have a lot of left over stuff to sell. You can do one of three things. One, have everyone take their left over stuff home with them. Two, keep it all to have another rummage sale in the future. Three, and the most popular, give the left over stuff to Goodwill. If you notify Goodwill in advance they can come to your event and pick up your leftovers. This is a great way to not only help the Invisible Children of Uganda but also people in your own community. The end of the day also means time for a clean up crew who should commit to leaving the venue prettier then how you found it. Once you have accomplished all of these steps, your rummage sale is complete. Props.

HOW TO THROW A RIDICULOUSLY AWESOME BENEFIT CONCERT

1. The first step to throwing a benefit show is getting the bands! It doesn't matter how big or small the band is. If you can get Iron Maiden to play because your mom hooked up with Bruce Dickenson back in the day or if you can book your little sister's pop-group because they need the exposure, just get them to commit. Chances are if you're into booking a benefit show for IC you are already involved with music somehow and know a band or two. Make sure the bands know that this show is a benefit show and therefore the money from the door is going to Invisible Children and not them. This rule is not set in stone. If a band needs money for gas, etc, don't trip potato chip, drop them a Jackson and thank them for their sick licks.
2. The next step is to book a venue. The venue will vary depending on the size of your show and what kind of music you will be having, so use your best judgment. You won't want to book Shoeless Joe Hippy, everyone's favorite grass dealer, at the downtown arena, and you likewise won't want to set up Morbideitallicamegaslayer at the local coffee shop. It will be important for you to make sure the venue knows this is a benefit show. Many venues will still take some money off the top because it costs them to be open and running. Just keep an open line of communication and they'll work with you.

You'll also want to make sure the venue has proper equipment for the bands to play. Most rock venues will have everything set up, but you might need to get an amp, PA, and mic or two for that local coffee shop.
3. Step three is to PROMOTE! PROMOTE! PROMOTE! Make sure your flyers have the date, time, bands and how much the show costs. Be creative and make them look epic. Once you have your fliers, put them up on every post in your town. Drop off stacks at any local venues, coffee shops, or local hangouts (the Max from Saved By the Bell, anyone?). Be relentless. There is no reason everyone in your town shouldn't know about the concert simply due to the mass amounts of flyers flooding the streets. You can also flood myspace, facebook, livejournal, and any other cyberworld you're embarrassingly uber-involved with. Don't be ashamed. I have one. If you set it up with enough advanced notice, you can possibly get the local indie radio station to advertise the show or even the local paper. Be resourceful and think outside the box. You can do it!
4. Once the show is set up, call the Invisible Children office for merchandise. You'll be rigorously interrogated by an employee there to make sure you're legit, emailed a contract stating that you won't steal from African orphans, and then finally you'll receive merch mailed to your doorstep to be used for the show.

At the show have all the bands plug IC. You want to raise awareness right? Make sure the audience is aware of the merch in the back, and tell them to get involved!

SAMPLE LETTER TO TEACHERS

An Invitation for you and your students

Dear Teachers,

My name is Emily Sernaker and I am a senior here at Patrick Henry High. Last week, I saw a documentary called "Invisible Children". The movie was made by three college students documenting the ongoing civil war in Uganda. I don't know much about Africa, it's always seemed full of problems, distantly beautiful, and too far away to understand. After watching this film, I understand the depth of one problem, believe the continent to be even more beautiful, and recognize that the faces staring back at me are not too far away.

I'd like to invite you to a free showing of the documentary, Invisible Children, at 7:00 on Friday, December 17th. The showing will be at Linder Hall FUMC (Mission Valley), with a goal of having 300 people attend.

Here is an official summary of the film:

Invisible Children is a film documenting the effects of a rebel group in Africa's Northern Uganda , which for the past 18 years has forcefully and brutally abducted children from their homes. The film chronicles three naive journalists as they discover thousands of children sleeping in the streets. The story unfolds as the filmmakers try and understand why these children run for their lives each night, and who is responsible for this atrocity.

The film is clever, intelligent, and the best part about it is that young people made it. My hope is that you will attend the screening on the 17th and encourage your students to do the same. You might also consider making the event an extra credit opportunity. Feel free to log on to invisiblechildren.com for more information about the movie. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I'm really excited about the screening, these three guys are proof that a small group of people can make a big difference...and maybe even change the world.

Sincerely,
Emily Sernaker
Grade 12

SAMPLE DODGEBALL RULES

- Six people to a team
- Whistle signifies start of play
- If player catches ball, the thrower is out and one previously ejected player on team of catcher can rejoin play
- If a legal shot hits player, player is ejected until further notice from referee
- Any players who pass midline are immediately ejected
- Illegal shots include: if the ball hits the ground before reaching the player, head shots, if the ball hits above neck, groin is also a no no
- Referees are all knowing, all calls are final
- If a player holds ball longer the 3.14 seconds then a delay of game foul can be called and ball will be surrendered to opposing team
- All team members must have uniform outfits in concurrence with designated color (note: award will be given to team with most spirit)
- Full or partial nudity is strictly forbidden
- Tournament is in double elimination style of play
- No fog horns, heckling, or all forms/instruments of obnoxious discordance will be confiscated and owner will be given demerits
- Play will last approximately 10 minutes
- If game exceeds predetermined time, lighting round (sudden death) will ensue
- Lightening round consists of (get ready):
 - A) Election of one representative from each team for lightening round play
 - B) Coin toss determines order of play
 - C) Number of successful shots noted by all knowing referees
 - D) Roles are reversed (thrower becomes dodger: dodger becomes thrower)
 - E) Successful shots are again noted
- Q) Team with most successful shots wins
- If confusion arises, do not be alarmed just keep dodging balls.
- In case of fire, tornado, volcanic eruption, swarm of killer bees, or any other emergencies local, national, or international: play will be reconvened at soonest convenience.

HOW TO THROW A RIDICULOUSLY AWESOME DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

1. Go back to that time in your life where you last dodged a ball. Remember the adrenaline rush? Remember the humiliating blows? Remember the glorious victories? It's time to play again friend. It is your time to shine.
2. Pick a date/ pick a venue: As for the date, go for a time that does not conflict with other major events at your school, think about what is going on in your community as well. Shoot for a Saturday morning/afternoon that works for everyone. When considering a venue try and look for an indoor court. Basketball courts are ideal because they have built in bleachers. School gyms are the best because you can get them for free. If you do get hooked up with a free school venue, it will probably be necessary to have a faculty member/coach present (especially if it is going down on a Saturday). Communication with the janitorial staff will also be key for the bathroom situation: an accident on the court could put a serious damper on your day.
3. Get the right people: Assemble a team within your club of students who love being hit by soft cushy balls and also like the continent of Africa specifically the Northern Ugandan region. You'll also need the following peeps to make the tournament successful: referees, nurses, concession people, checker inners, a money manager...this is serious business. Here is some advice ABC style...

THE EVENT PLANNERS: are, you know, in charge of planning the event. Not only do they set this monster up, but it is also their job to problem solve at the event if something should go wrong.

HALF TIME PLAYERS: Half time gives athletes a break and the audience time to stretch. Although this break is important, there is also a potential for people to get up and leave. That would be sad. To avert this potential catastrophe, we recommend having music (cd or live), and several booths with I.C. gear and info for people to check out. If you do go with a band, make sure the drummer is good looking

BOOTH TEAMS: are glorious because they help to raise awareness and financial aid. Baking teams can create some delectable delicacies to sell for the children of Northern Uganda. Information tables can have fliers, pamphlets, and website info about I.C. and other invisible circumstances in your own community. You might want to ask your compassion fashion comrades to make a cool graphic to put on a commemorative dodgeball shirt. The possibilities are truly endless: have a letter writing table, hold a raffle, go nuts.

CHECKER INNERS: are champions. It might be wise to have the checker inners be the people who have been doing the registration the preceding weeks online. They will need a cashbox and a stamp for peoples' hands. There should be two entrances – one for the dodgeball teams, and one for the spectators. Make sure that the people running the event are not also the referees.

REFEREES: On that note, the refs should be experienced in the art of refereeing. They should know the rules and be able to explain any call if necessary, and will not hesitate to call out cheaters. That's right I said cheaters.

NURSES: Although most may think that the nurses station is silly, people really do get hurt playing dodge ball. You may not have heard of the dodgeball tournament of 05 where an unsuspecting player went to dive for the ball and split his chin open. This heroic player (we later learned to be named Jake) returned to the tournament 3 hours later with stitches to help his team claim the third place trophy. This sad but heart warming tale illustrates the necessity of a nurse's station. Make sure you have two qualified nurses at all times, one to stay and one to take players to the hospital. Hook the nurses up with ice packs, band aids, splints, and any other supplies that they might need to help those in pain.

4. Spread the word about teams: Invite massive amounts of people to sign up for the tournament. Be sure to utilize the internet, myspace, facebook – the usual suspects. People will want to sign up on the day of the tournament, so make sure to leave about five slots open for the Slow Joes and Lazy Lous. To have a team there must be:

- i. A minimum of six players. There can be up to ten players on a team but only six people can be on court at a time.
- ii. An entrance fee (for example five dollars a player).
- iii. A designated age bracket that they fall into.

When signing everyone in on the day of the tournament make sure that every player signs a liability waiver releasing your venue, I.C. and anyone else that could be blamed of any responsibility for injuries. For players under the age of eighteen their parents also need to sign the waiver to make it legitimate.

5. Make a check list of the things you will need. Colored masking tape is a must to create out of bounds lines that are clear to the players. You'll need a good amount of dodgeballs, we recommend having 10 at the event just in case. They shouldn't be that large (think the size of a cantaloupe) and should also be pretty soft. Keep in mind that you want the tournament to be as safe as possible. Think about the people at your event: refs will need whistles, booth runners will need cashboxes. So go ahead, start that check list and get your friends to help you gather the supplies.

6. Have prizes. Cool ones. The better your prizes are, the better your turnout will be. To get sick prizes you are going to need a little help. Talk to all of the cool local businesses and hangouts, see if they would like to donate to your tournament. You might get a few coupons to the ice cream store, restaurant gift certificates, local theater tickets, free tanning, pet grooming coupons, you'll be surprised who will want to help. At your tournament, you will definitely need prizes for the first, second, and third place teams. You can add optional prizes to make the tourney more fun, such as the best costume prize. Make sure costumes are appropriate for an all ages audience.

After you have taken all of these things into account, you are ready to hold a monster dodgeball tournament extravaganza. Good Luck.