

Sarah Bright

January 25, 2012

Period 7

Ms. Kirk

One Voice Is All It Takes

There are many things in the world that people wish to change, but they never take the initiative to do something about it. This is because nobody expects to be successful, for they are just an average person, and they are only one voice. What most people don't realize is that sometimes, one voice is all you need. Jodee Blanco, the author of *Please Stop Laughing at Me...*, Trevor McKinney, from the movie *Pay it Forward*, and Mohandas Gandhi, were all average people. However, each of them proved that one person could change other people's lives, their community, and even their world.

Jodee Blanco always cared for other people, and often was a victim of abuse because of it. However, the taunting didn't make her stop helping others, and she ended up impacting many lives. One person she helped was a girl named Noreen, who was an outcast like Jodee. Jodee, however, showed compassion to her and gave her some self-confidence. Another person she helped was a deaf girl named Marianne. Jodee defended Marianne from the teasing of her schoolmates, and befriended her. Jodee also defended one of her friends, Jason, when her other friends were saying hurtful things to him about his hard time at home. Jodee was always fond of the Special-Ed kids at her school as well. She did many different things to help them, including volunteering during her study hall, and even organizing a prom for them. After she

graduated and grew up, she began taking action against school bullying. She began an anti-bully program called "*It's NOT Just Joking Around!*" which is very successful, and has made an impact on many students across the country. It has been presented to a combined audience of over five-hundred thousand students, teachers, and parents nationwide, and has earned thousands of dollars in grant awards for schools and organizations.

Trevor is a bright, young 7th grader in the movie *Pay It Forward*. Trevor's idea of "pay it forward" was originally for his Social Studies project, but ended up spreading across America. "Pay it forward" was a system where you help three people, and instead of those three people paying you back, they each must pay it forward to three more people. The first person Trevor decided to help was a homeless man named Jerry. He brought Jerry to his home, fed him, let him shower, and gave him some money to buy clothes for a job interview, so he could get his life back on track. The second person he helped was his teacher, Mr. Simonet, by setting him up with his mom. The third person he helped was his friend Adam, by saving him from being beat up. His idea also ended up reuniting his family. His mother stopped drinking, his grandmother came home, and Trevor had a fatherly figure in his life. Though at first, Trevor thought his idea failed, it ended up being the opposite. It was very successful, and spread to many different places. It began making the world a better place, one person at a time.

Gandhi is one of the most well-known people in history. He did many things to change the world, all in a peaceful manner. He inspired many other famous figures in history, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., HH the Dalai Lama, and Haile Selassie I. One of his most famous protests was his march to the sea. He began this in order to

help free India from British control. Salt was very commonly used in India, and the Salt Tax that Britain was making Indians pay was more than they could afford. He led a march to the coast, and began to collect salt when he got there. This was only one of his many protests. He called these protests "satyagrahas." Despite being thrown in jail many times, he continued with these movements. He changed the world in ways that nobody could imagine, and his name will live in history because of it.

Jodee, Trevor, and Gandhi all saw something in the world that they wanted to change, and took action. Jodee wrote books and began an anti-bully program to stop bullying in schools. Trevor thought of an idea that would create a world where people help one another, which became a huge success. And finally, Gandhi led many protests to change the world, all in a non-violent way. They each showed that it only takes one person to stand up for what is right, and that anything is possible if you set your mind to it.

Works Cited

Benner, Alana. "The Gandhi Salt March 1930." *WebChron*. N.p., 2003. Web. 25 Jan.

2012. <<http://thenagain.info//.html>>.

"Jodee Blanco Bio." *JodeeBlanco.com*. N.p., 2011. Web. 24 Jan. 2012.

<<http://www.jodeeblanco.com/.htm>>.

"Mohandas Gandhi (1869-1948)." *BBC History*. BBC, 2012. Web. 24 Jan. 2012.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk//_figures/gandhi_mohandas.shtml>.

"Others On Gandhi." *Gandhiserve.org*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Jan. 2012.

<http://www.gandhiserve.org/information/_on_gandhi/_on_gandhi.html>.

Pettinger, Tejvan. "Mahatma Gandhi Biography." *Biography Online*. Oxford, 21 Aug.

2008. Web. 24 Jan. 2012. <<http://www.biographyonline.net/politicians//.html>>.