

HANDS FOR A BRIDGE

HFB Auction BY ISABELL GRIFFITH FILLIPO, RACHEL POLLARD, GRACE NAKAHARA

The Hands for a Bridge auction on November 23, 2013 was successful. Both students and parents worked hard to procure items, and make a great night to celebrate our community and raise funds. Some of the many items up for bid that night were student made baked goods, art work, a photo shoot, or donated items-- in addition to the more traditional items like a signed football from the UW team as well as 2 tickets to the Apple Cup and a weekend getaway on Lopez Island. Who could forget raffles such as the Macklemore Basket, including 2 tickets to his sold out December concert and a bundle of signed merchandise, or the extraordinary hand embroidered pillow with the names of all the 2014 HFB South Africa and Seattle students? And it wasn't just bidding that night. There were Roosevelt students on piano and cello for musical background, as well as trays of appetizers, refreshments and a whole lot of singing.

This year's auction was one of the most successful HFB fundraising events, raising enough funds for the HFB 2014 group, as well as supplementary funds for bringing future students here from Northern Ireland and South Africa. The Hands for a Bridge Class 2014 is grateful to everyone who participated in any way with the auction especially the auction committee made up of HFB 2014 parents, as it gives we, the students, the opportunity to continue dialogue in our communities with Northern Irish and South Africans about the social issues that

shape society today.



Hank Pollet & Raven Wade holding Give effect Grant

organization submits a list of wishes they would like the Seattle community to help fulfill. They are hung on a "giving tree." Individuals can select a wish to grant. The Give Effect culminated in a Family Day at the Gates Foundation Visitor's Center on December 28th. It was an opportunity to celebrate the community.

As part of last year's Give Effect the Gates Foundation decided to make a community grant to an organization chosen by the teen committee. Last year's \$10,000 grant was split between Hands for a Bridge and Seattle Children's Hospital. Simone Archer-Krauss, a 2014 Hands for a Bridge participant, who is also a teen leader in the Gates Foundation teen committee that organized the Give Effect/Family Day event, nominated and presented Hands for a Bridge to the teen committee and secured a \$5,000 grant.



Guests browsing auction items

The Give Effect BY SIMONE ARCHER-KRAUSS & TIANSHU SONG

Last fall the Hands for a Bridge Foundation received a \$5,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in honor of Nelson Mandela's life and work. The grant was part of the Gates Foundation's winter program, the Give Effect. Through the Give Effect the Gates Foundation partners with several Seattle-based non-profit organizations with local and global outreach. Each

Sherman Alexie BY CELESTE NYGREN & LIAM TODD

On September 27th, 2013, the Hands For a Bridge class got the privilege to talk to the Native American writer, Sherman Alexie. He offered up his time to come speak at a HFB fundraiser. Prior to his more public talk (which many of us also attended), he talked to both HFB Seattle and our South African visitors. His slightly humorous, personal approach had everyone engaged from the beginning and paved the way for his more meaningful message; saying things like "Those hipster glasses that make you look cool? I just think they make you look poor." ; and "If you're happy with yourself then you'll be happy anywhere". Mr. Moss lead the group (including Mr. Alexie) in the South African Chicken dance, and Bunny (one of the South Africans) went and danced Mr. Alexie's chicken dance with him at the front of the room. Alexie even pulled out his iPad and shared something he had just written the night before. It was a great experience to enter into conversation with someone who is known for addressing social issues and challenging cultural norms.



The Lunchroom Project BY HANK POLLET

One of our class' most eye opening assignments was "The Lunchroom Project." The goal of the assignment was to learn about the social barriers that exist, not only in our society, but within Roosevelt High School. The project had us sit with ten different groups in the lunch room on ten different days.

Often the conversation turned toward the idea behind the project, how we stereotype other groups and rarely interact with each other. Other times people talked about how much homework they had. Occasionally there would be a true gem, people would say something like "I've sat at a table next to theirs for 2 years and never said a word to them." It truly shocked me how insular our school is, but when the project ended I went back to my same old group, eating at the same old spot, keeping separate from all the other groups. The biggest outcome of this project was the awareness that we who took part in it gained. There will always be groups and groups will always stereotype each other, but if enough people know about them maybe, eventually, those barriers will disappear.

Bosnian Visitation BY AMIE STEVENS

On October 31, we were visited by a group of Bosnian students. It also happened to be Halloween that day, so lots of our students were dressed in costumes and not our usual garb. But that did not stop them from being accepting and friendly to us. They taught us about the history of their country and the current issues they are facing. Hearing their personal thoughts and feelings was touching and gave the group inspiration to open up and use our voices too. We also shared songs and nursery rhymes in our own languages. Even though it was a brief visit it is always a pleasure to connect with those who come from a different place and are willing to share their culture and lives with us.



HFB Seattle and Bosnians on Halloween

Songs we sing

BY ANTHONY WEINAND

Anyone who has been to any Hands for a Bridge event will have experienced our music. Mr. Nolet's classroom is littered with lyric sheets and five guitars are hung up on the walls. There's a piano, a couple drums, and even a chord organ, though that last one doesn't get much use. Singing songs is a very important part of our day. It brightens the mood, raises energy, and promotes poetic response and discussion.

In the wake of Nelson Mandela's passing, we learned the Hugh Masekela classic "Bring Him Back Home" which protested the continuing imprisonment of Mandela in 1987. The lyrics eerily fit the situation yet expressed the tremendous good he did for his country. We recorded a couple minutes on Mr. Nolet's iPhone to send to Mr. Moss, a teacher at Langa High School in South Africa.

Since the beginning of the year we have been learning "The Music of Healing" by Tommy Sands. Sands is a folk musician and activist from Mayobridge, Northern Ireland. Like many of his works, it is a ballad of peace.

We are currently perfecting "Dancer to the Drum" by Beth Nielson Chapman. This song is sung by Roy Arbuckle, a musician from Derry/LondonDerry whom those of traveling there (fingers crossed) may get to meet.

We look forward to sharing both works with all of you at our next event!



Seattle & South Africa HFB students singing Lean On Me

Research Projects

BY FORREST ALLISON-BROWN

With our trips nearing on the horizon, we found ourselves knowing very little about our destinations; in fact, many of us knew nothing at all. However, that was soon to change.

At the end of November, we began an in-depth research project which was divided into four sections per trip. The Northern Ireland group delved into the topics of partition of Ireland, the Troubles, paramilitary groups, and the peace process, while the South Africa travelers explored imperialism and Apartheid, the South African AIDS Epidemic and post-Apartheid era, resistance movements, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Come presentation day, every group had created an interactive board that artfully displayed their topics. Through an altered rotational system, each traveller saw all seven other groups' presentations. We received a detailed history of South Africa's and Northern Ireland's past difficulties and how they have moved forward to become the countries that they are today.

As a result of this experience, we have a much more extensive knowledge of the countries to which we are travelling. Once there, we will be able to use our understanding of the past to our advantage in discussions with locals who have experienced much of what we learned.



Amie Stevens at the first car wash

Summer Car washes

BY JAYME MINA & CHRIS HARRIS

Over the summer HFB hosts several car washes. Last summer they pulled in record totals. Every few weeks the current HFB students gathered at a gas station in the Seattle area. We spent all day washing the cars of the people who stopped by to support us. Former HFB students often stopped by to support us as well. During slower points in the car wash we offered to wash peoples' bikes, motorcycles, babies, friends, and public buses. At one of our car washes we actually got to wash a motorcycle.

Some really nice cars stopped by as well. We once washed a Ferrari and the owner had special clothes to wipe down the car himself so it wouldn't get scratched. A few times little kids helped us wash their parent's cars. At our last car wash we decided that it would be a neon themed car wash. Needless to say though, no one really dressed up (except Claire Shearer).

South Africa Visitation **BY MERRILL LIDDICOAT, COLE GARRY, CLAIRE SHEARER & RAVEN WADE**

Ten wonderful HFB students from South Africa came in mid September to meet with our HFB class in Seattle and explore what social justice means. It was a busy ten days, and every moment was something to be treasured. One of the most memorable experiences we shared with them was when we split into groups and took trips to other high schools in different parts of Seattle. We were able to see the distinct differences between the schools in terms of programs, racial divisions, and diversity. This is something that opened our eyes to the inequalities that are still prevalent in Seattle. Later on, we all sat down together and talked about our experiences at each schools, it showed us just how deep our own city's divides are, and how they still affect our lives today. I'm glad we had the opportunity to do this because it was something I won't forget.

We made sure to take the South Africans around Seattle and show them the sites! We ventured to pike place, the arboretum, we even went on a ferry ride on the way to the retreat where we had plenty of in-depth conversations that really helped us grow as students.

The weekend retreat we spent with the South Africans was eventful to say the least. It rained hard all weekend, trapping us in one single room for almost the entire trip. We bonded through lots of dancing and singing, which was very fun. Not only did we become closer with the South Africans but the Seattle HFB class also became closer.

The time that the South African students spent here was life changing.

Their energy and enthusiasm was always evident, and it rubbed off onto us. We learned so much about their lives, and it was eye opening to hear about the divide in South Africa directly from them. I think that they, more than anything else, taught us all what it meant to be a part of Hands for a Bridge. We missed them greatly when they left for the airport. None of this would have been possible without the radical support of all the HFB parents and every person who donated to the program. We are very thankful that we, as HFB students, have so many people supporting our mission of social justice.



Welcoming our South African guests at the airport

Brazilian Youth Ambassadors BY HENRY MULLIN

On January 15th, nine students from all across the vast country of Brazil arrived in Seattle. These nine



Bosnian students performing for the HFB class

students were part of a 36 student group that was selected out of thousands of applicants by the Youth Ambassador program in Brazil to travel together to Washington D.C. There, they attended leadership and community building seminars before splitting into smaller groups and spreading out across the United States. In addition to Seattle, groups of nine Brazilians went to Tulsa, Charlotte and Bozeman.

I had the opportunity and privilege to host Pedro Ribeiro, a 17-year-old from Boa Vista, a city in the far North of Brazil. He was part of my family for the week -and-a-half that he was here; sharing stories at the dinner table about his mother and father back home, going sledding in the mountains (They had never seen the snow before) and even dressing in a suit and tie for Roosevelt's winter formal.

The Youth Ambassadors had a very busy schedule of their own as well. They went on tours at Boeing, Microsoft and the Gates Foundation, did a scavenger hunt around the Pike Place market and visited the Seattle Aquarium. But their trip was not just sight seeing the sights that Seattle has to offer. The group volunteered at a food bank downtown and planted trees in a local park. Coming from low income families, these students recognized similarities between the problems in Seattle and problems in their own cities.

Margaret BY ANNI HONG & HAYLEY BARTON

"BE YOUR GENUINE SELF, NOTHING CAN DESTROY YOU."

— — MARGARET

Real Change is a Seattle newspaper that employs homeless people as salespeople. The paper's goals are to provide vendors with some income and, perhaps, a way to escape homelessness, as well as educate the public about problems and solutions relating to homelessness in Seattle. We were asked to buy a paper every week and have a real conversation with the vendor and share with the class. One vendor we met along the way was Margaret, who typically sells papers at the PCC on 40th. We invited Margaret to speak to our HFB class about homelessness and her personal experience. The conversation with her helped us to understand the homelessness issue on a more personal level instead of merely hearing about it. More than that, her words have meanings beyond the homeless issue and touched the heart of everyone there. Margaret was reluctant to tell us about her personal experience, but she did provide insight into the mind of a real change vendor. Margaret's discussion with us was incredibly inspirational- not just because of her situation, but because she stands for something that we can all hope to be a part of. Margaret's message is to start with yourself: Before you can help the homeless population of Seattle, you must first gain self-confidence and not be afraid to be yourself.



Margaret's Real Change station at PCC