

NEWSLETTER 41 - Autumn 2016

THOUSANDS CELEBRATED THE FIRST “WORLD VALUES DAY”

Hundreds of thousands of people joined in the lively and highly successful international campaign leading up to the culmination of the inaugural World Values Day on 20 October 2016. Our Chair, Charles Fowler, is an inspirational member of the UK Values Alliance Steering Committee and is the driving force behind this project which has set so many hearts aglow. The Foundation itself played a central role in organising and supporting the Day.

The objective of the project is to raise and deepen the awareness and practice of values all around the world. The hashtag [#WorldValuesDay](#) “trended” worldwide on Twitter on the Day itself and is estimated to have reached millions of people in 65 countries through all the key social media. This is an incredible result for the first ever [World Values Day](#).

The message that was sent far and wide across so many diverse countries ranging from Algeria and Angola, Mongolia and Bhutan, to Venezuela and Zimbabwe, was simple but compelling. Values are what make us who we are. They are the compass guiding everything we do – our choices and our actions. **Our values show us the way.** When we forget that compass, we are inclined to take the wrong turn. It’s the same for our families, for our communities, for our organisations and indeed for everyone throughout the world.



Charles Fowler opening WVD 2016



"I value..." posts

Those keen to participate in the global celebration were encouraged to choose a motivational value central to their own lives, act on it and then use social media platforms to share with others their selfies and what they were doing and nominate someone else to take up this challenge and pass it on. The enthusiastic and creative responses were full of energy and love and were greatly enjoyed.

OUR PART IN WORLD VALUES DAY 2016

Thanks to the generosity of two of our supporters, who would like to remain anonymous, we were a Partner of World Values Day. This gave us a relatively prominent place on the World Values Day website and we have been able to publicise our association with the initiative in our own PR and marketing. The name Human Values Foundation and our logo have been displayed on the World Values Day website since the start of the campaign in July and this association has given us an abundance of opportunities to raise awareness of our resources and activities, especially since WVD site visitors were referred back to our website.

Our work and resources were mentioned frequently on the [WVD Facebook](#) and WVD Twitter outlets and, for the duration of the project, we much appreciate the creative postings regularly added by our helper Serena Jones to our own [HVF Facebook](#) and [HVF Twitter](#) pages. Our profile has been considerably boosted and we now have over 500 followers on Twitter, many of whom have a considerable interest in children's education, wellbeing and development.

Values-themed story-writing competition for children aged 7 to 11

One of the major themes of the World Values Day project was Education and so we held a [Stories on Values Competition](#) and invited schools and children's organisations from all over the world to take part. Children aged between 7 and 11 were to write original stories about their favourite value. The stories were to be no more than 300 words long and could be illustrated, although that was not mandatory.

Around 350 entries were enthusiastically submitted for the competition, including quite a large number from schools run by UNRWA, the UN agency responsible for looking after Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The children from the Agency's five fields of operations were so eager to participate that we agreed as a special case to accept quite a number of stories written in Arabic. We would like to express our appreciation to Rahaf Konbaz, Reem Alani, Nadine Baz and Hala Gharib for so kindly translating the stories from the UNRWA schoolchildren.

We are enormously grateful to Ann Greenwood, Libby Hume and Sian Harkin for carrying out the preliminary judging of the 300+ stories, many of which were beautifully illustrated. As they came in, we posted several excellent entries on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

The winners of the story-writing competition

We would like to thank Sir Anthony Seldon, Laura Hyde and Ann Greenwood for being on the panel that selected the best eight entries for the competition. A total of £300 worth of book tokens have been awarded to the schools or other organisations of the winner, the runner up and six other highly recommended entries so that they can buy books for their school libraries.

We will be collating the very best stories and illustrations in an electronic booklet which will be made available on our website early in 2017. Certificates have been awarded to the writers and illustrators of the winning eight submissions and we will be awarding certificates to all the other children whose commendable work was posted on our media pages and to the children whose work will be published in the Values-themed Stories booklet.

Here is a full list of the prize winners:

Place	Story	Author	Age	School	Country
1st	Garden of Hope	Janna	10	UNRWA Battir Primary School	Lebanon
2nd	Hope Saves the World	Jed	8	St Paul's CofE Primary School, London	UK
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:					
	Friendship	Milana	7	Croftway Primary Academy, Blyth	UK
	Generous Joy	Helena	10	The Abbey Junior School, Reading	UK
	Honesty	Ankita	9	New Horizon Public School	India
	I Love Life	Islam	9	UNRWA Marka Middle School for Girls	Jordan
	Love People As They Are	Delicia	8	NITTE International School	India
	Tribunal of Environment	Samiyha	11	UNRWA Al-Hussein Preparatory Mixed School	Jordan

To read their stories, go to the VALUES STORIES section on our website or [click here](#).

Some comments from the story-writing competition entrants

We had a fantastic celebration of the World Values Day on 20th October. All the children enjoyed the carefully planned activities in their class and everyone enjoyed the day and appreciated all the values shared with one another, in particular when all the staff stood in front of the whole school sharing their personal values.

Our children really enjoyed writing their Values Stories. World Values Day provided an opportunity for UNRWA students to reflect on key values, and this very much aligns with the overall approach of the UNRWA education programme delivered to 500,000 students, which seeks to develop their skills, competences, and values to enable them to realize their own potential, as well as to respect and value others.

Outcome from the World Values Day project

We feel strongly that with all the initiatives generated from the World Values Day there is now beginning to be a much stronger wind behind values education as an integral part of the school curriculum and we are looking at how the Human Values Foundation can help drive this process forward - we sense that there are now some very exciting opportunities to build on the many connections and collaborations arising from World Values Day 2016 to do this.

WHAT IS WELL-BEING?

Applicable to a person or community: the state of being healthy, happy, or prosperous; physical, psychological, or moral welfare. (Oxford English Dictionary)

“Well-being cannot exist just in your own head. Well-being is a combination of feeling good as well as actually having meaning, good relationships and accomplishment.” Martin Seligman

PROGRESS SINCE OUR SPRING NEWSLETTER

Since the end of March, 35 schools have taken a copy of our EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES (EHV) or our SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL EDUCATION (SEE) programme. In practice this means that around another 7,000 children may now begin to benefit from practical lessons that will develop

their ‘values literacy’ and self-efficacy. The knowledge and skills they gain, underpinned with well-considered values, will be conducive to them not only feeling they can make good choices in relation to all aspects of their daily lives but also that their new proficiencies will have positive effects on their academic progress, their general well-being and their prospects.

Recent comments from headteachers

“Since receiving the materials in November last year, we have used them in our whole school assemblies and House Assemblies. The children have learnt some of the songs and the Music for Reflection is a lovely quiet way of beginning and ending our daily worship. In fact, it is nice and calming to play in my office too! Our weekly House Assembly is where we teach and embed human values as part of our Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic education (PSHCE) curriculum and where many of the aspects of your programme are covered. We used human values as the theme for our whole school writing task in the spring and some of our work is displayed in the school hall. Recently we held an open afternoon where parents, grandparents and children worked together to decorate mayflies representing the things they cherish most - family, friends, health and freedom.”

“Really grateful for this resource! I have even promoted it to other schools.”

HOW VALUES EDUCATION CAN BENEFIT TEACHERS AS WELL AS LEARNERS

Anxiety, stress and unsustainable workloads

Recent commentators indicate that we are reaching a point where a disturbing number of teachers are saying that the combination of unmanageable workloads, very long hours and a poor work-life balance is having such serious implications for their physical and mental health that they are planning to leave the profession within the next five years.

Surveys this year suggest that significant numbers of teachers in England feel that they are near breaking point as they try to cope with an unprecedented scale of reform affecting their classroom practices; expansion of the amount of data teachers must collect and record for each pupil; and the pressures associated with being judged against certain pupil-progress targets. Additionally, high-stakes accountability, particularly the latest regime of Ofsted school inspections, as well as budget cuts, is adding to anxieties. Indications are that staff recruitment and retention are reaching crisis levels, with many headteachers reporting that they are struggling to recruit and retain teachers and predicting that things are going to get worse, which will severely affect students.

It is hardly surprising that some teachers feel they are coming to see children as data walking around rather than young humans.

How can values education help?

Our practical programmes enable teachers to nurture every individual child and develop their pupils, not just academically but as people. The focus is on benefitting each child rather than being able to tick a box for the school. Additionally, the process builds teachers’ professionalism, encouraging them

to be conscious of their own most important values and the extent to which they are actually living them.

The whole-school approach that we advocate means that all members of the school community – comprising teachers, non-teaching and other support staff, parents and carers, the governors as well as the pupils – are developing a deeper understanding of the empowering and life-enhancing effects of positive values and in particular how well-chosen values can enrich all aspects of a child's development and well-being. They begin to recognise how the consideration of values is relevant at all ages and in all contexts, whether the child is at home, at school or anywhere else.

Indeed, authoritative research shows that high quality, explicit, systematic Values Education:

- is essential to effective schooling
- positively impacts all the important educational measures
- is a worldwide, contemporary phenomenon
- fits well with updated brain and pedagogical research, and
- is a means to holistic student and teacher well-being.

MEET THE HVF TEAM – NEWLY APPOINTED TRUSTEE, ANN GREENWOOD

After serving on the Board for 14 years, **Jill Bell** felt that it was time to step down. At the Trustees' meeting in October, enormous thanks and appreciation were expressed to Jill for her invaluable wisdom and all the contributions she had made to the HVF both in her capacity as a Trustee and for many years prior to her appointment. She will be sorely missed but at future AGMs we look forward to seeing her and Kevin Bell, also a former Trustee.

We are delighted to welcome onto the Board **Ann Greenwood**, who brings with her a wealth of experience gained over 30 years having held teaching posts in both primary and special schools as well as being a Local Authority consultant in Additional Educational Needs. During her time as a headteacher Ann was very proactive in introducing values education into the curriculum.



We wish Ann every success with the blossoming of her more recent work as a Play Therapist and the owner at [The Rainbow Tree Wales, Play Therapy and Children's Wellbeing](#).

DONATIONS

At the start of each financial year we draw up a budget, knowing that without the wonderful generosity of donors, even with great care, our expenditure will exceed our income. The Human Values Foundation has survived over the years from those who recognise what a difference our work can make to young lives and the fabric of society but in these tough times the tank is running low.

We are very appreciative of the magnificent support we receive from our Friends and Members in the form of annual subscriptions. We would also like to thank those who have so generously made anonymous donations along with each of these kind donors: Jacqueline Clark, Bob and Mary

Greenhead, Linda Jones, Iain Lee, Tim Lipscomb, Audrey Nightingale-Young, Anthony and Nicole O’Flaherty, Mike Roberts, Penelope Sapiro, Nigel Shamash, Tonia Silk, Geoffrey and Ann Steinberg, Polly Stone and the trustees of The Allen Charitable Trust and the Miss W E Lawrence 1973 Charitable Settlement.

Legacies - To extend our work even further, please would you consider making a bequest to the Human Values Foundation (Charity number 1048755) when drawing up your will. Your legacy will help to build a better world.

VOLUNTEERS

What would we do without the extraordinary generosity and dedication of all those who so readily give of their time and talents? We are enormously grateful for the excellent contributions made by our volunteers, especially Sheila Evered, David Mullier and Gwen Clifford.

AND FINALLY ...

THANK YOU for all your contributions, involvement and support that enable us to make things happen. Your generosity and encouragement means we can create more opportunities for young citizens to become increasingly “fluent in values” to the benefit not only of themselves but society generally. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Rosemary Dewan at:

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Alternatively call 01403 259711 or email: yes2values@hvf.org.uk

The website is: www.humanvaluesfoundation.com

We wish you all a happy and peaceful winter with Seasons Greetings from us all at the Human Values Foundation

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Patrons: Michael Morpurgo, OBE, FKC, AKC; Prof Kamran Mofid, PhD; Dr Kevin Auton, PhD
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