



An initiative by



Romeo Dallaire, Mia Farrow, Magic Johnson and world renowned leaders join 6,000 students in movement for global change at We Day

- Access event photos at weday.com/press or watch the live webcast at weday.com –
- Connect to the We Day movement #weday, @freethechildren @craigkielburger, www.facebook.com/weday –

Waterloo Region, ON (November 16, 2011) – Today, an epic line-up of iconic social activists and inspiring entertainers will take centre stage at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium Complex for the world's largest youth empowerment event of its kind – **We Day**. An annual initiative of international children's charity and educational partner, Free The Children, today's event will empower and show thousands of passionate youth from over 200 schools from the Waterloo Region they are not alone in their journey to make a difference and further ignite a youth-driven movement for global change. Hundreds of thousands more from around the world will join the **We Day** movement by watching the live stream of the event at www.weday.com starting at 9:15 a.m. EST.

Leading the electric crowd will be hosts television personality **Jessi Cruickshank** and MuchMusic VJ **Jesse Giddings**. To help them tackle some of the most pressing issues of today, youth and educators will have the opportunity to hear from world-renowned speakers including author of award-winning book *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*, Lieutenant-General, the Honourable **Roméo A. Dallaire**, basketball Hall-of-Famer legend and philanthropist, **Magic Johnson**, award winning actress and activist, **Mia Farrow**, speaker, activist and daughter of Former Archbishop Desmond Tutu, **Naomi Tutu**, former international president of *Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders* (MSF) and Chair of Global Health at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, **Dr. James Orbinski**, **Munro Chambers** and **Aislinn Paul** of **DEGRASSI** and **Craig** and **Marc Kielburger**, international children's rights activists and co-founders of Free The Children.

Sharing their own personal journeys of overcoming obstacles will be Me to We motivational speakers, former child soldier **Michel Chikwanine**, **Spencer West**, **Noah Kaplan** and **Robin Wiszowaty**. Pumping up the crowd with energizing performances will be Canadian rock band, **The Midway State**, Canadian pop band, **Neverest** and platinum selling, JUNO Award winning Canadian pop icon and producer, **Shawn Desman**. Shawn will also be leading this year's We Day dance and is offering students the opportunity to dance with him at We Day events across Canada through a video contest at www.AOL.ca/weday.

"Youth coming together to lead global change is the movement of our time. We Day proves to youth that a better world is possible and they are not alone in their commitment to social justice," said Craig Kielburger. "Though individual actions may seem small, if you shift your perspective you'll see that together the impact is huge. Last year alone these actions added up to 1.7 million volunteer hours logged and \$5.4 million raised for more than 500 causes locally and globally. We Day is truly a movement and a force of social change."

The Midway State's frontman Nathan Ferraro agrees. "We are so excited to be a part of We Day with all that it represents and inspires. Experiencing the powerful voices, determination and compassion of our youth being cultivated and celebrated makes us feel profoundly optimistic for the future."

Made possible by





We Day is free of charge for all students and educators to attend thanks to the generosity of sponsors, including title sponsor Research In Motion (RIM).

“We are thrilled to bring We Day and RIM’s Build A Village Awards to the Waterloo Region for the second time,” said Heidi Davidson, Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications. “We are proud that RIM is partnering with Free The Children and look forward to sharing the We Day experience with our community.”

For the second time, RIM is offering students the chance to further connect to global experiences through RIM’s Build A Village Awards Program. This program will give 50 students from the Waterloo Region and surrounding areas the opportunity to participate in a life-changing Me to We volunteer trip and visit Free The Children projects overseas. Applications for the scholarship will close January 15, 2012. Full details can be found at <http://weday.freethechildren.com/buildavillage/>.

We Day is not just an event. Motivated by powerful speakers and performers, students take the messages learned at We Day back to their peers and begin planning their year of action through a unique educational program provided by Free The Children (www.freethechildren.com/weschools). Through the program they will pledge to take one local and one global action and will be able to see the positive results of their efforts during the school year. This unparalleled educational opportunity has led to increased student engagement in schools and communities and has contributed to a greater commitment to philanthropy, stronger academic achievement and caring school cultures.

Beyond the classroom, everyone can join the **We Day** movement with one simple action. ‘Like’ We Day on Facebook (www.facebook.com/weday) and join the over half a million others who receive daily tips and ideas on how to live ‘we’ every day. Even better, for every ‘like’ sponsors will donate \$1 to Free The Children, up to \$1 million dollars.

We Day momentum continues to sweep the country stopping next at the MTS Centre in Winnipeg on November 23 and Théâtre St-Denis in Montreal on February 29 and March 1, 2012.

Note to Press:

Visit the **We Day** online press room (www.weday.com/press) to:

- Access photos from today’s event as of **3:30 p.m. EST**
- Download high resolution photos of We Day speakers and performers
- Request an interview with Co-Founders of Free The Children, Craig and Marc Kielburger
- Access background information on We Day and Free The Children

Web Links:

Official We Day website: www.weday.com

We Day on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/weday.com>

Free The Children website: www.freethechildren.com

Live webcast: www.weday.com



About We Day

Youth coming together to lead global change is the movement of our time. We Day (www.weday.com) is the manifestation of this movement. Harnessing the energy and passion of this young community of change-makers, We Day brings youth together in an unparalleled setting to show them that they are not alone in their journey to make a difference. We Day is not just an event. It's a movement.

We Day is part of an unparalleled educational opportunity called the We Schools in Action program. Throughout the year-long program, young people turn their inspiration into action by committing to take one local and one global action throughout the school year. In the 2010/2011 school year alone, youth volunteered 1.7 million hours in their communities and raised more than \$5.4 million to support local and global organizations.

We Day events are completely free of charge to students and educators, thanks to the support of generous sponsors who believe in the power of youth to change the world.

We Day events will be held in Toronto, Vancouver, Waterloo Region, Winnipeg and Montreal throughout the 2011/2012 school year.

About Free The Children

Free The Children (www.freethechildren.com) is the world's largest network of children helping children through education, with more than one million youth involved in our innovative education and development programs in 45 countries. Founded in 1995 by international child rights activist Craig Kielburger, we are a **charity** and **educational partner** that believes in a world where all young people are **free to achieve their fullest potential as agents of change**. Our domestic programs **educate, engage** and **empower hundreds of thousands** of youth in North America, the UK and around the world. Our international projects have brought over **650 schools** and **school rooms** to youth and provided **clean water, health care and sanitation** to **one million** people around the world.

Free The Children has a proven track record of success. The organization has received the World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child (also known as the Children's Nobel Prize), the Human Rights Award from the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations, and has formed successful partnerships with leading school boards and Oprah's Angel Network.

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For more information or to speak with someone directly, please contact:

Lauren Stasila
Manager, PR & Publicity
416-558-9310
lauren.stasila@freethechildren.com