

Parents Matter

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An Out of the Box Idea

What can happen when we think out of the box? When we push ideas and dare to dream big? When we look to our brightest and greatest resources and envision ways they can positively influence some of our darkest problems?

That's what Ivan Suvanjieff did 15 years ago. Walking the streets of downtown Denver during a summer riddled with violence and gang activity, Suvanjieff talked to teenagers caught up in the street life about the Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu and his philosophy on peace. To his surprise, the young men not only knew about Tutu and his ideas, they agreed with his approach of using nonviolence to create positive change in the world. Suvanjieff let his imagination roam. What if these teens could meet and work with other Nobel Peace Prize Laureates to bring peace to communities like theirs? He dared to think big.

Suvanjieff and Dawn Engle presented their vision to the Dalai Lama. He agreed to participate, along with other Peace Prize winners: Desmond Tutu, Aung San Suu Kyi, and President Oscar Arias. And PeaceJam was born.

Fifteen years later the organisation is still going strong, fulfilling the mission of creating a new generation of leaders committed to positive change for themselves, their communities, and the world through the inspiration of the Nobel Peace Laureates. The organisation serves as a reminder of what is possible when people look at problems in creative ways.

One of the best ways to open our children's minds and jumpstart this type of creative thinking is to share such stories of people harnessing power in unique ways to influence the world around them.

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Another Parent Tip From...

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