Global Kids, Inc. Presents

UNICEF’s
A World Fit
For Children

In Teen Second Life

December 23rd

Dec 11-15, 2006
In 2002, world leaders developed the "World fit for children" agreement. This fall, they will gather again to measure their progress. How can youth learn more and get involved? UNICEF, with help from Global Kids, decided to use a virtual world to show how. Learn more in...

Voices of Youth in Teen Second Life

Greetings from Mexico!
My name is Mariel. I'm sixteen years old and I live in Mexico City.

Mariel has been a member of UNICEF's Voices of Youth (VOY) website for the last two years. She recently participated in a joint project between VOY and Global Kids on Teen Second Life (TSL).

TSL is a 3D virtual world with youth from all over the globe. Each teen is invited to create their own avatar, make friends, and even build digital objects, like a ski slope.

With such powerful building tools, imagination becomes their only limitation.

But how can youth use a virtual world to make a difference in the real world?

Through Global Kids and UNICEF's a World Fit for Children contest.

During the contest, teens participated in fun workshops to learn about the issues.

Participants then used their building skills to create a structure to educate others about what they learned.

They tried to explain what a world fit for children would be like, and why it is important to work towards that goal.

Through the contest and the related activities, teens had the chance to offer their own insights and ideas.
There was also a scavenger hunt. They made pictures to represent an issue while the others guessed what it was depicting. Many people around the world do not have access to clean water.

Contestants could build anything they wanted - from an exhibit to interactive games. But first they were taught about these issues in a fun, two-hour workshop.

The World Fit for Children Commitment is a global agreement focused on four main issues:

**Education**
How can children from all over the world have access to quality basic education?

**Abuse/Exploitation**
How can children live in an environment in which they aren't attacked or exploited?

**HIV/AIDS**
How can the pandemic that is putting children's lives in danger be controlled?

**Health**
How can all children have access to the health care they deserve whenever they fall sick?

So what did you guys learn?

In the fall of 2007, world leaders will meet to assess the progress they have made in reaching a world fit for children (WFFC). But the world leaders are not the only ones responsible - you are responsible too! All young people need to be aware of the WFFC agreement and need to hold their countries accountable. Listen as Mariel explains...

Millions of children under five die every year from lack of basic social services.
Hi, everybody. My name is Mariel. I come from Voices of Youth, a space where young people get together and discuss world issues.

A world fit for children is one in which all children can go to quality schools and where they can grow up in safe environments. That’s a world fit for children.

So what is A World Fit for Children? A WFFC is a goal that all governments have set, but we all have to work for it.

I’m really proud of everyone because they’re making great projects!

Many youth came, displaying their character’s name above their heads.

Some advice – everyone should think first of what issue to address. Once you’ve determined what to do, get some friends to visit and give you their opinions. Also, read about your issue!

May I ask a question? Who does A World Fit for Children Agreement protect?

It protects every single child in the world, no matter where they live, or how old they are...

Which includes all of us!
Each team received the same amount of virtual land upon which to construct their entry.

To show this, they built a school/orphanage to represent the need children have to live in a safe environment.

My name is Vivian and we are team zen. We are building an orphanage to illustrate the concept of "safe, secure, and healthy environments for children in families, communities and nations."

Children need clean housing and plumbing, educational facilities, food, attention and affection, and appropriate entertainment.

My team is the sexy sploders. We are working on a shrine to explain the problem of world hunger and how it can be prevented.

It was called "A World Fit for Food" and displayed various facts about hunger throughout the world.

It is a big problem all over the world.

Teens need to learn how to take action, which is the goal of our project.
They built a representation of a school in Afghanistan sponsored by UNICEF.

I am from the team "A World United". This contest is a good way to promote learning. When I become a lawyer, I will fight against child abuse and I will know my stuff better.

The blackboards, benches and even the balls in the little gymnasium represented a real school quite well.

The house included web links, facts and suggestions for how to take action.

One team created a school that could be built in a low-resource area like Southern Africa where children would have access to a safe environment to study.

Each of the five floors of the house they built exhibited poverty and hunger amongst different classes.

Our team, team Porot, means reindeer in Finnish, which is where we are from. Our school is about education, and we built something that could be made in small villages.

There was information about education in countries all around the world.

We are team F&V. We chose the problems of health and starvation.

TODAY’S LESSONS:
- Mathematics
- Geography
- Religion
- History
- English
- Art
The bookshelf offered books containing facts about developing countries.

Half the world—nearly three billion people—live on less than two dollars a day.

Clicking takes you on the web to the Voices of Youth site!

Clicking on the map takes you there as well.

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There is a pin board on the wall that tells a story from Voy about Ibrahim, a boy in Niger with polio who was determined to go to school.

Polio is a viral disease that causes paralysis in the arms and legs. It affects millions of people around the world today...

"When I was eight," Ibrahim says, "other kids my age were going to school while I stayed at home. I did not like that. So, I pestered my parents until they finally let me go to school..."

The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that it is every child’s right to get an education, and that children with disabilities should have equal access to schools.

Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names.

More than 115 million children of primary-school age are not in school. Click here for more facts!

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Eventually the deadline arrived and voting began by the teen judges, composed of representatives from Global Kids, Voy, and Teen Second Life.

Each entry was judged on creativity, aesthetic value, educational content, and level of interactivity.
By the end of the contest, 80 teens competed on 13 teams, while almost 1,000 youth visited their buildings.

And the winner is...

They created the most educational and interactive entry, and it looks great!

I learned tons of facts about kids around the world.

I learned how I can make a difference.

It gathered teens from around the world who were concerned about creating a world that was fit for children.

Nafiza, a teen judge, said the event was important.

To find out ways that you can get involved, join the voices of youth community online!

Explore, speak out, take action,

For more information on UNICEF’s Voices of Youth site, go to: www.unicef.org/VOY

For more information on Global Kids, go to: www.globalkids.org

For more information on the World Fit for Children contest, go to: holymeatballs.org/second_life/unicef

For photos from the contest, go to: tinyurl.com/yqkwqv

For videos from the contest, go to: tinyurl.com/ys09ll