

INFLUENTIAL MEN



HOPE
Exhibits

www.HopeExhibits.org

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"The World's Most INFLUENTIAL MEN"

- a global photography exhibit of positive male role models
20 Photographers / 20 Nations

INFLUENTIAL MEN provides positive male role models for boys,
aims to promote positive gender roles and welcome more gender equality.



1. To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.

ETHIOPIA - © MARIE SWARTZ

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- 2. Research shows that fathers who are close to their children are happier, healthier and engage in less risk behaviors. Proud young father with his baby girl, Bangu, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

BRAZIL - © JON SPAULL



- 3. **"The World's Most Influential Men" - a cross-cultural global exhibit**

20 photographers and 20 nations

Father on a walk with his 3 children, Hong Kong, China.

Perhaps the most influential people in the world are not the powerful politicians, corporate CEOs, the ultra rich or the celebrities we see in the papers... Could it be that the most influential people in the world are - you and me?

The fathers, the mothers, the sisters and brothers, the teachers, the neighbors, the football coaches, the mentors - the supportive friendships and interactions we have with each other daily in our local communities? Could it be that you are much more influential than you think, to those near and dear to you... or in the life of a child?

The World's Most Influential People - you and me.

HONG KONG - CHINA - © BOOGIE CHIU



- 4.

"Being There "
Father and child holding hands, Red Cross Hospital, Johannesburg,
South Africa
SOUTH AFRICA - © GEORGE HALLETT

- 5.
"I did not understand what it really meant to be a father until I witnessed the birth of my daughter. That was the start for me. This is what I'm here for. Her every hope, dream and chance for a life of love and promise is in our hands—her mother's and mine. Ambitious on my part, yes, but at that moment I knew deep in my soul that the responsibility to offer her the best of everything within reach was the very least I could do and I would not fail. Because to fail would in turn, negate my purpose here on earth."
/ Chuck with daughter
USA - © CAROL ROSS



- 6.
We are all more alike than different. We all want the very best for our children.
PAKISTAN - © PERNILLA NORSTRÖM



- 7.
"She is my greatest motivation. I understand what it would mean to give my life for hers. I am her protector for life."
/ Jason with daughter.
USA - © CAROL ROSS



- 8.
Nothing is more contagious than example. What we focus on we get more of.
Teacher in Kanchipuram, India, surrounded by his students.
INDIA - © RICHARD LEWISOHN



- 9.
A happy childhood is a gift for life for every child.
VIETNAM - © NICHOLAS PITT

-
- 10.
Baby sleeping comfortably. The family is a shared possibility.
Most things we share together become more enjoyable. Our "worlds"
become closer, and so do we.
HONG KONG, CHINA - © Ping-hang CHEN

-
- 11.
Children with positive male role models in their lives become safer
and more secure adults.
PERU - © DAVID ISAKSSON



- 12.
"My dad left when I was a kid. I want to be here for my kids, no
matter what."
SPAIN - © VIKTORIA ROXIE



- 13.
Gender inequalities will disappear the minute that all fathers, husbands, brothers and sons refuse to accept that their mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters should be treated worse or lead lives with less rights or opportunity merely because of their gender.
This change will happen sooner once it is understood that gender equality is not a threat to anyone, that nothing will be 'lost', but rather that everyone wins as gender equality leads to development for the entire society and thus all children, women and men.
Let us envision a world where current gender violence, discrimination, and inequalities are replaced with future cooperation, equality and a more thriving and peaceful society.
VIETNAM - © NICHOLAS PITT



- 14.
The organization 'Hand in Hand' makes micro loans a reality for women.
In the community of Kanchipuram, India, many children who used to be child laborers are now able to go to school.
The men - who at first weren't sure about their wives' entrepreneurship and participation in the paid work force - now testify that this change has brought a better life for their entire families and community - with more children going to school, families being able to buy more and better food, improve their housing, and even being able to afford health care.

Now, the men in the village welcome the change as they see that it has benefited everyone.

INDIA - © RICHARD LEWISOHN



15.

"Baby Admired." Gender equality does not merely mean empowering women and improving the opportunities for girls and women. Men and children also benefit from being closer together. Gender equality is directly linked to economic, health and social development - and even to increased peace. Research shows that for every 5% more women represented in government, the nation is 5% more likely to have peace.

NICARAGUA - © DAVID ISAKSSON



• 16.

"Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it's the only thing."

(Albert Schweitzer, 1952 Nobel Peace Prize) "

Sometimes it's important to ask ourselves what connotations we have when we think of what we consider to be manly, or womanly.

Are the qualities traditionally referred to as "machismo," being 'tough' and cool, not be afraid to fight, or maybe even to have many sexual partners what we think about when we think of the words manliness or manhood? Or, could it be that it's even more manly to be a cool dad, a good boyfriend, or the kind of big brother that younger siblings aspire to grow up like?

It's just a matter of attitude really.

And perhaps what we teach children to be considered manly - and "cool".

PERU - © JAN SANDBERG



• 17.

In South Africa, many fathers are not present in the lives of their children and many children grow up without male role models in their life. There tends to be an inherited vicious cycle to this pattern. Helping fathers to become more active in the lives of their children - and for children to have more access to male role models in their lives - is a powerful way to start healing many social problems and create better possibilities and futures for coming generations.

SOUTH AFRICA - © PAUL WEINBERG



• 18.

"The father teaches the daughter how to choose a companion that will treat her right. The son knows how to treat women with dignity and respect." / Kendrick with daughter and son.

USA - © CAROL ROSS



- 19. Leia & Lennon fishing with Great Uncle Erik.
Many children lack a voice, and too many even lack basic human rights. What if thought of all children as our children? One kind gesture, one person showing they care may make a world of difference. A caring Teacher, a present Grandfather, an involved Football Coach, a friendly Neighbor, a trusted Friend, or a Great Uncle taking an afternoon to teach the little ones how to fish.. The forms of positive role models can be many.
Family can be biological, but family can also be created, just like community.
SWEDEN - © VIKTORIA SAXBY



- 20. *"To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch... to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded!" (Emerson)* Pamela reading with her father.
BRAZIL - © NAOMI ONAGA



- 21. Douglas Yungo, HIV+ single dad of 6, living in Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya.
After his wife and sister died of AIDS, Douglas cares for his own three children, as well as his sister's three children. In Douglas Yungo's household, all six children get to go to school and grow up in a loving home.
Douglas has also started a "living positively HIV+ support group" together with his friend and neighbor, Melvin, also he a single dad of six children.

The Aids pandemic has left over 15 million children orphaned. Preventative work is vital in curbing the spread of HIV. This includes promoting gender equality.
Since many mothers are children's main caregivers and a majority of infections affect young women, children are affected when their mothers are. It is more important than ever to include fathers as active caregivers of children. Also, research shows that men who live close to children engage in less risk behaviors.
KIBERA, KENYA - © DAVID HERDIES

- 22. Neiva with her cousin Roque.
'Whatever you are, be a good one!'
Neiva is lucky to have a good cousin who plays with her and makes her feel important.
'Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of

caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.'
(Buscaglia)

BRAZIL - © JON SPAULL

- 23.
We must never forget what it was like to be a child - completely dependent on the adults around us.
EL SALVADOR - © DAVID ISAKSSON

- 24.
Miguel Moreno left gang life and is now mentor to Sammy. After losing his brothers, and being both shot and stabbed, Miguel finally left gang life behind. He now mentors kids, like Sammy, through the Hope for Youth Alliance.
"If I would have known all the losses that gang life had to offer, I would never have chosen to be in a gang. Now I want to help others."
NEW MEXICO, USA - © DANIEL ARELLANO

- 25.
SUDAN - © SOPHIE JOY MOSKO
Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or write their own name. The additional money needed to put every child into school is less than 1% of what the world spend every year on weapons. Yet, it hasn't happened. Let us choose again:
Achieving universal primary education for all children, with an extra effort to include girls, is vital for development. Today, two thirds of all illiterate adults are women, and two thirds of the children not in school are girls.
Yet, research shows that an educated girl knows her rights, marries later, has fewer, healthier and better educated children, is less likely to get infected with HIV or other diseases, is more likely to get herself and her family out of poverty, re-invests in her community, and partakes in peace developments.
Educating all children - including all girls - is equal to ensuring positive development for the entire world.
SUDAN - © SOPHIE JOY MOSKO



- 26.
"Making sure that my daughters get the best education possible is my way to offer them the best life possible."
AFGHANISTAN - © LISBET HELLEBERG

- 27.
"There is more hunger for love and appreciation in this world than for bread."
 Teaching life skills to children growing up in institutions increases their possibilities for a better future.
 MOLDOVA - © JAN SANDBERG



- 28.
 Abdullah Griffith (left), Social Worker for the United Federation of Teachers in New York brought Bobby Willis (right) out of his then gang and back to high school.
 After getting his MBA, Willis returned to his old neighborhood, redeveloped burned out and abandoned tenement housing in the Bronx community into new residential housing.
 Griffith now has 30 years of gang intervention experience and continues to serve the youth in his community.
 THE BRONX, NY, USA - © ROB SCHOENBAUM



- 29.
"Children need role models, not critics"
 Teacher with his class of students from Sudan at a refugee camp in Yemen.
 The school is a place to teach children about equal rights, healthy gender roles and attitudes.
 YEMEN - © LISBET HELLEBERG



- 30.
 A preschool teacher is playing with his class. The young boys and girls are happily playing alongside each other... We are all more alike than we are different.
 ETHIOPIA - © MARIE SWARTZ



- 31.
 Providing a loving home and alternative family for abandoned children and for children with alcohol and drug addicted parents can be both lifesaving and have positive effects for the rest of their lives. Also for future generations, as it allows for breaking the vicious cycle of addictions.
 LITHUANIA - © NICLAS RYBERG



- 32.
 Born with mental and physical challenges, this boy's parents chose not to care for him.

But his grandfather did. "He is my greatest joy! I hope I will stay strong and healthy long enough to care for him during his whole childhood!" At the day-training center for children with disabilities in St Petersburg, Russia, they get the support they so much need.

RUSSIA - © PERNILLA NORSTRÖM



- 33. " "Everyday Heroes 1. " "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve."

A young boy receives health care in Kashmir, Pakistan after the earthquake.

PAKISTAN - © NICLAS RYBERG

- 34. " "Everyday Heroes 2 " Mine clearing team in action.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA - © NICLAS RYBERG



- 35. Somali football team saying NO to Female Genital Mutilation. In Garissa, Somalia, FMG is still the norm. Just like for the other 2 million girls still undergoing genital mutilation each year, the practice is detrimental to the health of the girls and women of Garissa. The young men have chosen to make a statement against the harmful practice by wearing football shirts saying NO to FGM."

SOMALIA - © MALIN SÄVSTAM



- 36. "The boxing club "Luta Pela Paz" is located in the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Marco (grey T-shirt) started training and studying there as a young boy. He is now training and mentoring other youth.

The club successfully keeps youngsters from a street life of gangs and drugs.

Luta Pela Paz is a place where local kids come to box, compete, and study.

A place to gather and meet friends, trainers and mentors that provides both the young boys and the trainers with a place of purpose, joy and hope."

BRAZIL - © PERNILLA NORSTRÖM

- 37. "In my children, God gave me a responsibility, a gift, a teacher. I love being a father, a single parent. My children are a lifetime of beautiful experiences"

/ Jackie with son
USA - © CAROL ROSS



- 38.
Text by Alexander Ahndoril, (not photographed), Author, Stockholm, Sweden:
"My wife and three daughters are the people I love most in life. I can't just accept that they will receive less pay, worse medical care, and fewer chances in life simply because they are female. We men need to stand up for gender equality. It benefits everyone."
Photo: SPAIN - © VIKTORIA ROXIE

INFLUENTIAL MEN is presented by Hope Exhibits - a non-profit organization producing exhibitions on humanitarian themes and positive developments globally.

To create long-term, sustainable change, it is necessary to work on
removing "root causes"
- which includes changing attitudes and consciousness.

Rather than putting band-aids on symptoms, Hope Exhibits works to change attitudes that lead to behavioral change - with the potential of creating lasting positive change and development.

Research shows that fathers who are close to their children become
happier,
more empathetic individuals and engage in less risk behaviors.

Children with positive male role models in their lives become more safe
and secure adults.

"The World's Most Influential Men" - PROJECT GOALS:

1. Promoting Positive Male Role Models for Young Boys
2. Engaging Men in Achieving Gender Equality
3. Strengthen healthy gender attitudes / a positive male role
= increase gender equality globally

Long-term positive results include a win/win situation for all:
less violence, better health, better life quality for women,
children & men,
as well as social, peace and economic development.

"Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it's the only thing"

/ Albert Schweitzer, 1952 Nobel Peace Prize

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What we focus on- we get more of.

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Save the Children works for children's rights in 110 countries.



www.swedenabroad.com/brasilia

The Embassy of Sweden, Brazil. Foreign Ministry of Sweden.



www.menengage.org

A Global Umbrella Organization: Member organizations include UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, Planned Parenthood, EngenderHealth & 500 Member NGO's Worldwide



www.engagingmen2009.org

Global Symposium, Rio de Janeiro Brazil, 30th March - 3rd April
2009
(Also world premiere "Influential Men" Exhibit)