

*Aim: To - by the end of this project - be able to honestly say: "I feel that I have made a difference in the world"*

The class 12 project... this big huge scary thing that gets every Waldorf student thinking from the moment they first hear about it...

Sierra Leone is a country trying to recover from a civil war that came to an end in 2002 after 11 years.

10.000 child soldiers, the displacement of 2, 5 million people, and 15.000 deaths resulted from this war.

The Goderich Waldorf School is an organisation trying to give children in Sierra Leone a chance to heal, develop, learn and believe in a better future.

My name is Anna Sprekeling and I currently attend the Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School in Wellington , New Zealand .

I started thinking about my class 12 project early this year. (Definition class 12 project: A project done in the last year of Waldorf Education, "The Class 12 project is about doing something, and experiencing self empowerment and growth in the process. It is based on a topic or theme that is self selected by the student out of their own interest.")

A few keywords I wrote down were: travel, south/central America , dancing, cooking, helping, and different languages/cultures.

I left those thoughts for quite a while but as the 2008 class 12 project presentations came closer I picked up my notebook again and started scribbling down some more things.

I researched volunteer organizations in South and Central America and thought it'd be "pretty cool" to pack my bags; fly to Rio de Janeiro and save street children.

Yeah Right. That was literally my parent's reaction to my master plan.

They would rather have me going somewhere more familiar e.g. a Waldorf community.

Visions of me knitting jumpers at a Kindergarten in Germany haunted me day and night until Friday the 29th of August. (The day before the class 12 project presentations)

I went out for dinner with my dad and as we ate the best curry in town I remembered Philip (my art teacher) telling us about a Waldorf School somewhere in Africa .

Great I thought, it's Steiner, but also challenging!

My dad still had his doubts about me going to one of the poorest countries in the world, by myself.

So I said... "Why don't you come with me?"

Silence as I awkwardly reached for my drink, not daring to look my dad in the eyes.

Thank god this "tumbleweed moment" was broken when my dad said "yes ok, that's not such a bad idea actually"

My dad (an experienced Steiner dude) could work with the teachers there and I

could dance, sing with the children. Cook, clean, and do whatever I can to help the school. Yes! It was perfect!

The next day I got out the Lonely Planet for Africa, and “how de body?” written by a Dutch journalist who went to Sierra Leone and was captured by the rebels. (This book also made me realize that this was going to have a huge impact on my... everything! Mainly my innocent, happy, rich, spoiled, western view of the world)

After the project presentations I was so inspired that I asked Mo at the flight centre Lower Hutt to check out the cheapest flight to Sierra Leone. It's not that far I thought, closer than Europe, I expected a maximum of \$2000, - dollars for a ticket from Wellington to Freetown .

\*burst\* went my bubble as Mo painfully told me that the best he could do was \$5000, - per person, since flights to Freetown only depart from London and Los Angeles .

I realized that this project wasn't going to be easy. But then again, people who know me probably agree that once I'm passionate about something, I'll do absolutely anything to make it happen.

I looked on the website of the Goderich Waldorf School in Sierra Leone and told my dad that I decided that we were going there, no matter what. I want to do anything I can to help Shannoh and the other teachers at the School...

For more information and to see how you can help me help the Goderich Waldorf School please visit [www.helpmehelp.tk](http://www.helpmehelp.tk)