

# THE RYE RECORD

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## One Person Can Make a Difference

– By Olivia Singer –

Over the course of three days in August, I was lucky to be one of over 700 young adults from around the world who attended the sixth annual Youth Assembly. The event was sponsored by the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, and held at the United Nations. We talked with many U.N. officials, NGO (nongovernment organization) community affiliates, U.N. ambassadors from various countries, high school students, and post-graduates.



Each NGO hosted jam-packed workshops, teach-ins, and main conferences in the U.N.'s General Assembly room. The NGOs try to fulfill the main goals set by the U.N. for the 21st century – the Millennium Development Goals. The MDGs were created to fight poverty and hunger, and are also global development priorities emphasizing the creation of a sustainable environment with social and economic progress.

For the duration of each day, I attended workshops where representatives of NGOs – such as Grameen America – talked about their organization and what they do to improve global circumstances.

One particularly motivating workshop was Invisible Children, which helps children from Africa who are abducted and used as soldiers. The two representatives from the NGO were college students who brought the issue to the attention of their community and to the eyes of politicians. Even though these girls were just students they went to Capitol Hill and transformed themselves into lobbyists. After days of pursuing political support the college students gained the trust of U.S. senators who aided them in reaching their goal, to end the suffering of abducted children. Motivational workshops and conferences like these show how great the power of youth is and the potential that everyone has to put an end to tragic global phenomena – eliminating HIV/AIDS, eradicating hunger, and promoting education.

Before going to the Youth Assembly I didn't understand how much of a difference one person could make. In three days my eyes were opened. The main importance of the Youth Assembly is to impress into peoples' brains that without youth taking action, troubles in the world will not end.

The author is an RHS sophomore