

Local youth reach out to help beyond Halton Hills borders

During March Break, eight students from Acton District High School joined with thousands of Canadian and British youth at the first-ever We Day UK in London.

Together, they heard inspiring educational speeches on a diverse range of issues from some of the world's most influential speakers, including Malala Yousafzai, Al Gore, Prince Harry and Sir Richard Branson.

The students also participated in "Take Action Day", where they will take

part in volunteer activities in the community. The aim is to take what they learned at We Day UK and be empowered to make a positive change in their own communities back home.

"I'm actually going to go back and talk with my principal about starting a peer support group for students with mental health issues at my school," said Tahira Kraemer. "It's already been in the works for a while, so coming here and speaking with people and getting so much inspiration has made it a lot



Me to We in Africa
A couple of Georgetown teens spent their March Break with a group of Milton high students who traveled to Ghana with the Me to We philanthropic organization and helped build a school in the African country. Aaron Stefens (left) and James Robinson, both Grade 11 Georgetown District High School students who play club football with the North Halton Crimson Tide, are pictured with children in the village where they were working.

Photo submitted



Me to We in U.K.

Acton High School students Tahira Kraemer (far left) and Samantha Hutchison (second from left) are on stage with Me to We founder Craig Kielburger during a Q&A session at the Be the Change dinner in the U.K. during the March Break. *Photo submitted*

easier for me. It has made me a lot more passionate about starting it and I'm really excited to go back and do that."

"I've learned so much about finding my voice and my passion," said Samantha Hutchison. "I didn't really think about what my passion was until We Day—bullying. I was always bullied and so was my younger brother. So many people around the world are."

"I'm going to help organize more of the anti-bullying stuff at the school. Me to We does all of that at our school. I want to get more involved with those things."

"Seeing so many people from all around Canada that are involved in Me to We just gives me a lot of courage to

do what I can about everything because I know there are other people with me," add Kraemer.

The Acton High School students sold plans and bouquets at Christmas time to help raise funds for their journey.

The group travelled to We Day UK with EF Educational Tours—the educational travel partner of Me to We, in support of Free the Children. Through this partnership, EF and Me to We deliver a series of life-changing Service Learning tours, where students provide valuable volunteer service in impoverished communities in which Free the Children is active (Kenya, Ecuador, Nicaragua, India, China, Ghana and Arizona.)

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