

# Unionville lad gives peace prescription

By STEVE HOUSTON  
Staff Reporter

Twelve-year-old Matthew Westendorp of Unionville wants the world's peoples to "get it right this time."

Such was his prescription for a better world in the Christmas peace book Dear World: The Canadian Children's Project. It earned him a trip to Ottawa to promote the book and to meet Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Thirty-one other children, representing all the provinces and territories and whose work appeared in the book, also made the trip.

Matthew's drawing of a conductor standing before a musical note that surrounds Earth was chosen along with 400 other submissions for the book.

The colorful caption accompanying the illustration has the conductor commanding the musical note (and world) to "Get it right this time."

Several smaller notes champion other characteristics he believes are missing in today's society: tolerance, kindness, forgiveness, unselfishness, co-operation.

## Aiming for \$700,000

"The thought of harmony — that came to me quite quickly," said Matthew at his Village Parkway home recently.

Dear World: The Canadian Children's Project is the brainchild of Methuen Publications in Canada. The firm hopes to raise \$700,000 for Toronto-based charity Global Ed/Med Supplies Inc. (GEMS).

Methuen will donate \$7 from the sale of each copy to GEMS for health care projects in Haiti, Jamaica and Liberia.

GEMS founder Doreen Wicks and internationally syndicated cartoonist husband Ben, suggested the idea that Canadian children be used to produce the book when approached by Methuen last January.

The results are more than satisfying.

## Global prescriptions

The book blends humor, inspiration and childish innocence in its pages, all with prescriptions to cure global woes.

The children cover everything from water and air pollution to nuclear arms.

Of the 20,000 entries submitted by children across Canada for the book during the year, 400 were culled and published.

A panel of judges that included Mila Mulroney and author Margaret Atwood chose the 32 children for the trip to Ottawa.

"It really was exciting," said Annette Westendorp, Matthew's mother. "A lot of major people pulled together to help the project out."

She also said GEMS is "counting on" Canadians to buy the book and allow for the health care relief projects to materialize.

Matthew's next undertaking is to get out into the neighborhood to sell as many copies of the book that he can.

Given his 12-year-old energy and drive, chances are he'll be a best-selling seller.



Get It Right This Time is Matthew Westendorp's entry into the Christmas book Dear World: The Canadian Children's Project.

The 12-year-old Unionville lad just returned from Ottawa to promote the book.

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