



# The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large

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## Goals for Our World

# Learn Your MDGs

Ten years ago, as we entered a new **millennium** (a period of 1,000 years), an important meeting took place at the United Nations in New York City. Officials from 189 countries



made a promise to try to achieve eight goals to make our world a better place by 2015. These are called the Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs.

On Sept. 20-22, government representatives will meet again to talk about the progress we've made. They'll also discuss what more must be done in the next five years to achieve the MDGs.

This week, The Mini Page learns more about the MDGs and how kids are working to help meet these global challenges. Read this issue with your family or teacher and talk about the goals.

## What is the United Nations?

The United Nations is a group of 192 member countries. They **cooperate**, or work together, for security, human rights, peace, and the development of **economies**, or countries' money systems.



## Goals, Targets and Results So Far



### Goal No. 1: End Hunger

Every day, 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes — that's one child every five seconds. Many of these deaths can be prevented. When children eat food regularly, they are healthier and more active.

**For this goal, the targets include: Cut in half the number of people who live on less than \$1.25 per day. Find work for all men and women.**

### Success story

In Ghana in Africa and Guyana in South America, the schools feed children, helping to improve performance in the classroom and attendance in school.



### Goal No. 2: Education for Everyone

School gives you an opportunity to learn about the world and to begin thinking about what you want to be when you grow up. About 70 million children around the world do not attend school because of cost or other reasons.

**Target: Ensure that boys and girls will receive a full primary education.**

### Success story

The African countries of Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya and Zambia have made elementary school free for all kids.

## Do what kids do best: Stand up, make noise!

On Sept. 17-19, people all over the world will join to Make a Noise for the MDGs! U.N. officials hope to make people more aware of the goals and gain support for projects. For instance, in Harlem, a neighborhood in New York City, a gospel choir will give a concert. In Thailand, people will bang spoons on empty plates. In Africa, drum circles will make a big noise.

Why not plan a Make a Noise event in your neighborhood or town? Be sure to take photos!

# How Kids Are Helping

## Lil' MDGs

Dylan Mahalingam hears what a lot of kids hear from their parents at the dinner table: Don't waste food. Dylan thought, how could I give my food to a person somewhere else who needs it?

Dylan traveled to India when he was 9, where he saw poverty and children working instead of going to school.

"This was shocking to me," he said. "It made it real." With his older sister and cousins, Dylan came up with the idea for Lil' MDGs. Now 14, Dylan is a youth speaker for the United Nations. Lil' MDGs is involved in many different projects to help kids and adults.



photo courtesy Lil' MDGs

Children make and donate stuffed animals for kids. This project was organized by Lil' MDGs and Build-A-Bear Workshop.

## Dylan's advice

Dylan said kids who want to help others should think about which problems they feel most strongly about. "Follow your passion. You have to try a lot of different things before you find what you're passionate about," Dylan said. For him, the reward has been getting people together to work toward unified goals.

## Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts are used to helping others. So in 2008, Girl Scouts began projects to help reach the Millennium Development Goals. Each year, the Girl Scouts choose one of the eight goals, and then local councils or troops create projects for that goal.

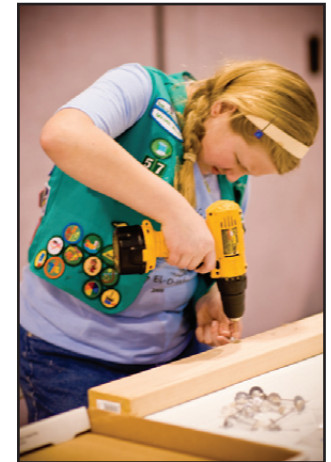
The Mini Page talked with a program specialist at a Girl Scout council in Fresno, Calif., to learn about the projects they've worked on.

## Malaria

In 2009, members held a penny drive to raise \$3,000 for mosquito nets. Mosquitos can carry a deadly disease, **malaria**, and infect people they bite. Scouts collected a penny for each pair of shoes they own and a nickel for each TV in their home.

## Ending hunger

For 2010, Girl Scouts worked with Heifer International to provide animals, such as cows, to families in need. The families raise the animal and then pass on one of its babies to another family in need.



In 2008, Girl Scouts built 300 water pasteurization indicators, or WAPIs, to send to South America and Africa. These simple tools tell people when water is safe for drinking.

photo courtesy Girl Scouts of Central California South

## Ready Resources



The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

### On the Web:

- [www.endpoverty2015.org](http://www.endpoverty2015.org)
- [www.lilmdgs.org/home.php](http://www.lilmdgs.org/home.php)
- [http://solarcooking.wikia.com/wiki/Water\\_Pasteurization\\_Indicator](http://solarcooking.wikia.com/wiki/Water_Pasteurization_Indicator)

Pasteurization\_Indicator

- [www.standagainstopoverty.org](http://www.standagainstopoverty.org)
- [www.un.org/pubs/CyberSchoolBus/mdgs/index.asp](http://www.un.org/pubs/CyberSchoolBus/mdgs/index.asp)

### At the library:

- "The Kid's Guide to Service Projects" by Barbara A. Lewis



Words that remind us of the Millennium Development Goals are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, EIGHT, ENVIRONMENT, EQUAL, FOOD, GOAL, HEALTH, HUNGER, KIDS, MALARIA, MILLENNIUM, NATIONS, PARTNERSHIP, POVERTY, UNITED, WATER, WORLD.

YOU TOO CAN HELP!



## Learn MDGs TRY 'N FIND

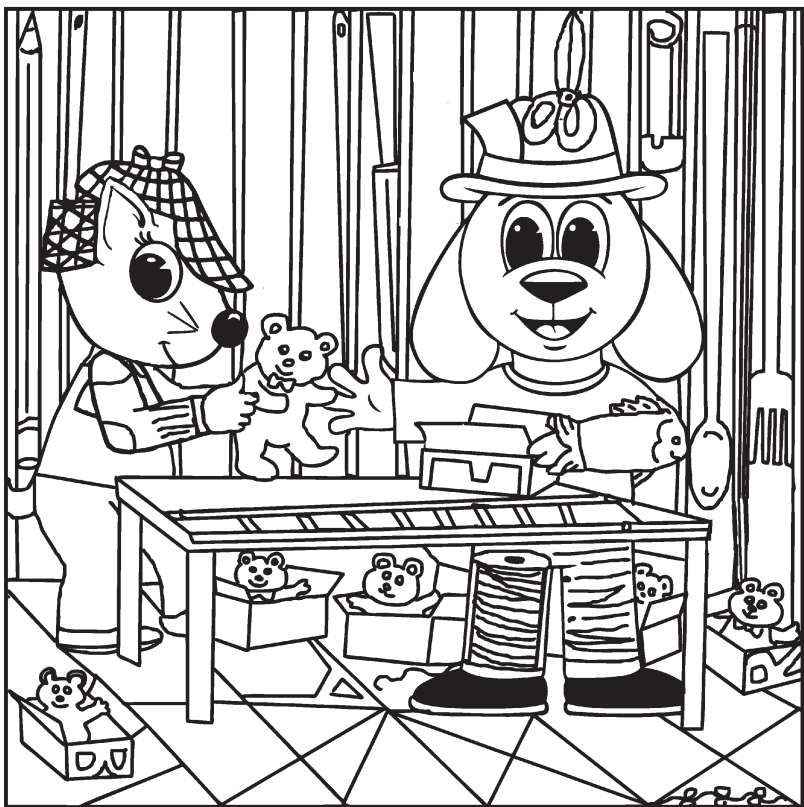
T	N	E	M	N	O	R	I	V	N	E	V	L	N	E
G	O	A	L	P	A	R	T	N	E	R	S	H	I	P
Y	I	H	T	L	A	E	H	K	I	D	S	G	D	K
T	T	U	G	I	J	F	B	M	L	T	H	S	E	U
R	A	N	W	F	O	R	A	R	C	T	X	N	T	Y
E	C	G	J	O	E	N	O	M	A	L	A	R	I	A
V	U	E	D	T	U	W	S	L	A	U	Q	E	N	Z
O	D	R	A	V	M	I	L	L	E	N	N	I	U	M
P	E	W	C	T	N	E	M	P	O	L	E	V	E	D

# Mini Spy . . .



Mini Spy and Basset Brown are boxing up toy bears for a United Nations project. See if you can find:

- letter B
- letter E
- letter A
- letter R
- pencil
- kite
- fork
- word MINI
- knife
- spoon
- sock
- flyswatter
- fish
- needle
- ladder
- safety pin
- scissors
- spool of thread



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## Rookie Cookie's Recipe Kanji

### You'll need:

- 1/2 cup whole green mung or other beans
- 1/2 cup parboiled rice (the red variety is more commonly used) or double-boiled rice
- salt
- toppings such as pickles, cooked vegetables, nuts, fruit, cinnamon or honey

### What to do:

1. Bring 2 cups of water to boil. Add the mung beans and cook until the beans get mushy.
2. Bring three cups of water to boil. Add rice and cook until the rice gets mushy. (Don't strain the water from the rice if there is excess water.)
3. Add to the rice the cooked mung beans, salt, and toppings of choice. Serves 2.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

*Kanji is an inexpensive and wholesome rice gruel that is the staple food of the poor throughout India. It is also easy to digest by people who are sick with flu or fever. Thanks to Dylan Mahalingam for sharing this recipe with The Mini Page.*

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## Meet Joey and Selena

photo by Alan Markfield, courtesy Twentieth Century Fox



Joey (right) and Selena

Joey King stars as Ramona, and Selena Gomez stars as Beezus in the movie "Ramona and Beezus."

Joey, 11, grew up in Simi Valley, Calif. She began appearing in commercials when she was 4 years old and began acting in TV shows when she was 6. She was the voice of Katie in the movie "Horton Hears a Who!" and the voice of Beaver Girl in "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs."

Selena, 18, was born near Dallas, Texas. She began acting in the TV show "Barney & Friends" when she was 7. She is best known for her role as Alex in the Disney Channel's "Wizards of Waverly Place." She has starred in other TV shows and in several movies. She was the voice of Helga in "Horton Hears a Who!" She has also sung on movie soundtracks.

Selena serves as an ambassador for UNICEF. She also supports other charities, including Raise Hope for Congo and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

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NEW!

## The Mini Page® Book of States

The Mini Page's popular series of issues about each state is collected here in a 156-page softcover book. Conveniently spiral-bound for ease of use, this invaluable resource contains A-to-Z facts about each state, along with the District of Columbia. Illustrated with colorful photographs and art, and complete with updated information, The Mini Page Book of States will be a favorite in classrooms and homes for years to come.



By Betty Dehmann

To order, send \$15.99 (\$19.99 Canada) plus \$5 postage and handling for each copy. Make check or money order (U.S. funds only) payable to Universal Uclick. Send to The Mini Page Book of States, Universal Uclick, P.O. Box 6814, Leawood, KS 66206. Or call toll-free 800-591-2097 or go to [www.smartwarehousing.com](http://www.smartwarehousing.com).

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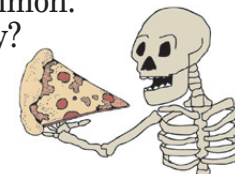


MIGHTY  
FUNNY'S

## Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common.  
Can you guess the common theme or category?

**Paul:** What is a skeleton's favorite pizza?  
**Petra:** Pepperboni!



**Peter:** What would you get if you stacked up thousands of pizzas?  
**Pam:** A leaning tower of pizzas!



**Patrick:** Why are banks useful when you want to make homemade pizza?  
**Payton:** Because they are loaded with dough!

# More Goals for Our World



## Goal No. 3: Gender Equality

Girls around the world do not have the same privileges as girls in the United States.

When girls are treated equally, they have a better chance at not living in poverty.

**Target:** Make it possible for girls to get the same education as boys in all levels of school.

### Success story

Within 10 years, even with poverty and natural disasters, Bangladesh was able to have equal numbers of boys and girls in school.



## Goal No. 4: Child Health

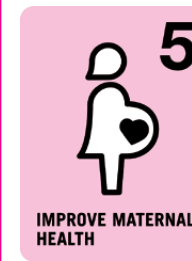
In poor countries, about 29,000 children under the age of 5 — 21 every minute — die

each day, many from lack of food and medicine. Poverty and poor nutrition make it hard for kids to stay healthy.

**Target:** To significantly reduce the number of child deaths by 2015.

### Success story

In 2006 in Bangladesh (in Asia), with help from UNICEF and the World Health Organization, 33.5 million children between the ages of 9 months and 10 years old were vaccinated against measles in just 20 days.



## Goal No. 5: Mothers' Health

About 343,000 women in developing countries die while having a

baby or shortly after each year. Many don't have hospitals or medical professionals to help them through childbirth.

**Targets:** Cut the number of women who die in childbirth and make medical care available to all.

### Success story

Honduras, in Central America, now has a program for pregnant women that has cut deaths by 50 percent.



## Goal No. 6: Fight Disease

Malaria (a disease spread by mosquitoes) kills a child every 30 seconds. Malaria makes

kids weak, so they can't go to school. Most poor children don't have bug spray, medicine and bed nets to help prevent bites.

**Targets:** Stop the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and provide treatment to all who need it.

### Success story

With more people getting bed nets, many countries with mosquitoes carrying malaria have reported a 50 percent drop in people who are infected.



## Goal No. 7: Protect Our Environment

One billion people on Earth have clean drinking water, but 2.5

billion people don't have access to toilets. Thousands of grade-school kids around the world drop out of school to help their moms collect water.

**Targets:** Control our use of natural resources. Cut in half the number of people who don't have access to clean water.

### Success story

South Africa has created a Free Basic Water Program that gives poor households 1,585 gallons of water per month.



## Goal No. 8: Global Partnership

Poor countries around the world must work toward the first

seven goals. But richer countries must help them with aid and fair trade.

**Targets:** Develop a fair money and trade system. Work with drug companies to provide medicines. Help with new technology, such as computers.

### Success story

Richer countries are letting Nigeria stop paying back loans and use the money for training new teachers.

The Mini Page thanks LeanneMarie Rios, communications analyst with the U.N. Millennium Campaign; Sarah Lippens, program specialist with Girl Scouts of Central California South; and Dylan Mahalingam, founder of Lil' MDGs, for help with this issue.

Next week, The Mini Page is about the last scheduled space shuttle mission.