

## You CAN change the world

by Audrey Cook

The world is a big place. With over seven billion people, seven continents, and too many countries to count, it can feel impossible to make a difference. But no matter your age or size, everyone can do something for our world. At Uxbridge Public School, students of all ages are participating in a new club (started in 2014, continuing this school year) called 100 Kids Who Care. Inspired by a local club, 100 Women Who Care, 100 Kids Who Care is a club whose only focus is helping the community, the country and the world. Anyone can make a difference in the world, if they just try.

100 Kids Who Care likes to make all its members participate, so we have a "Nomination Box". If anyone has an idea they would like to contribute to the club, they can write it down and put it in the nomination box. Every other month at our club meetings, we pull three ideas randomly from the nomination box. We then let everyone vote on which idea the club should focus on. Every few months we focus on something new to help our world. Students can put in any idea they want, from shovelling neighbours' driveways to making paintings for hospitals.

In the fall of 2014, when the club started, I don't think anyone expected the huge success it would soon have.

We really did help make the world a better place, with over 200 members signing up. Members range from ages three to 14, of all genders and races. Our first mission was do-

nating blankets, drawings, clothes, toys and other used goods to a special orphanage in China. We also gave lotions, soaps and cosmetic items to the kind nannies who work there. The orphanage, Morning Star, is for babies with severe heart conditions. We also lent a hand to Pikangikum. Pikangikum (pronounced Pick-angi-come) is a native reserve in Northern Ontario. Pikangikum is beautiful, but the people who live there just needed a little help keeping warm. We all know how cold Canada can be, especially in the northern parts! Members of 100 Kids Who Care donated hats, gloves and more to help their fellow Canadians stay warm during our harsh winters. We also sent Pikangikum some nice beads so they can do lots of beading and can make some amazing moccasins.

Another act we've accomplished was simply cleaning the streets of Uxbridge. It doesn't sound like a lot, but it sure does make a positive change, especially in the spring.

Our club is open to anyone who's willing to help, even if you aren't a student at UPS. We encourage you to join and help us by checking out our website (search 100 Kids Who Care weebly) to follow our current acts. You can also give us ideas for acts (contacting our school) and we'll put it in our nomination box and it could potentially win our votes.

So, yes, there's a lot of work to be done; but with a positive attitude and determination to make a difference, anyone can help. No matter your age, size, gender or race, everyone can do something. Whether it's putting ideas in a nomination box or donating used goods, everything helps.