



World Of Children Award Goes To Founder Of Kids For Peace

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The 2010 World of Children Founder's Youth Awards take place on Nov. 4. One award will go to Danielle Gram, founder of non-profit [Kids for Peace](#), who started her organization at age 16. Kids for Peace provides children with opportunities to learn about other cultures, participate in community service, and learn how to be peace-builders.

Danielle Gram started Kids for Peace way before she experienced any personal violence. Kids for Peace now has 100 chapters all over the world. The idea stemmed from an idea and an awareness of her surroundings. Gram was 12 years old when September 11th happened and remembers the start of the Iraq war. She knew there had to be a better way, and started talking with people about how to create the world she wanted to see. This was the impetus for Kids for Peace.

Now a student at Harvard University, Gram has come a long way, and so has her organization. Last year, her only brother was murdered without any explanation. "My whole family has a renewed conviction to be peace-builders," said Gram. "I know how it feels to lose someone, and I deeply understand the pain of violence. Now I want to help heal the wounds of others."

That is the unique aspect of Kids for Peace. The kids get to be the peace builders. "When the organization started out, we gathered a group of children and asked them what peace means. We built the program around their answers. Our programs are based on environmental activism, peace-building, and art," said Gram. The program is geared towards children ages 3 - 10, but students in middle school and high school can participate as leaders.

"I've grown up with this organization, and I've realized that this program can be incorporated to help children heal their own communities. My vision for the future is to bring the Kids for Peace program to war-torn areas, abuse centers, and refugees all over the world. I want children to be able to experience personal healing as well as the opportunity to heal their communities," said Gram.

Gram has already worked with children abroad. "The biggest joy is the energy I get from the kids. They want to make the world a better place. In 2009, I had the opportunity to bring the program to an abuse center in Bolivia. I saw how greatly it can impact kids," she said.

Gram plans to use the grant she gets from the 2010 Founder's Youth Award to expand Kids for Peace. "It's a huge honor, but most importantly the children will be able to do more, and I will be able to do more," she said.

Gram is currently studying religion and sociology, with a focus on children in crisis and conflict.

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