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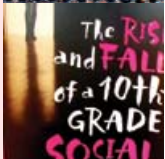
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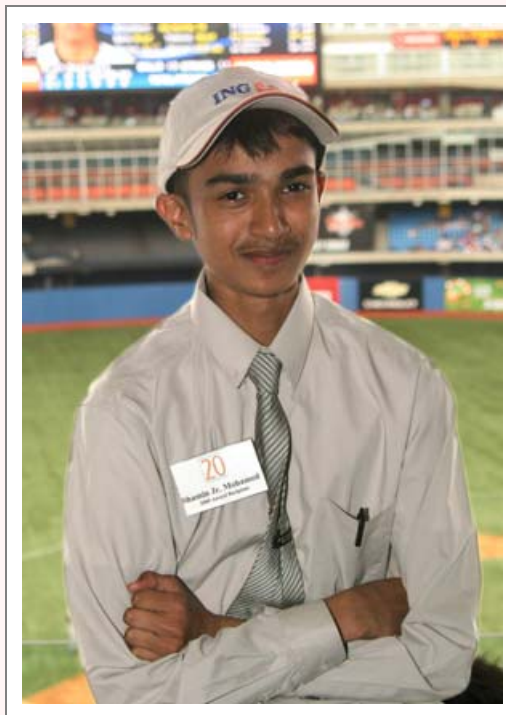


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## Children's AIDS Health Program



by Suniya Kukawadia, **What's HERS** Teen Correspondent

AIDS is a deadly disease that causes massive pain and suffering and has already turned into a ravenous epidemic sweeping across the sub-Sahara region of Africa.

Since the beginning of this terrifying epidemic, it is estimated that 15 million people have already died and it is also estimated that in 2004 alone, 2.3 million adults and children have lost their lives to this epidemic. Lack of education on prevention, medical personnel, medication and hospitals have all contributed to the rapid spread of the disease. Funds are desperately needed in order to help the people in Africa suffering from this disease, and two Toronto teens have answered the cry for help.

At first glance, Shamin Mohammed, Jr. and Robin Hodge seem like your average high school students. Both are 17 years old, and are in their final year at Toronto's Runnymede Collegiate Institute.

These students have come together to start the Children's AIDS Health Program. The goal of this organization is to provide medical and moral support for children under 16 suffering from AIDS who wouldn't otherwise have any help.

Shamin and Robin, who are both very active in their school and community, share an ambition to help those in need, and wanted to do something to help children suffering from AIDS all over the world. So they sat down for an intense and extensive brainstorming session. After coming up with some fantastic concepts, they took their ideas to some people interested in the organization as well as those who already worked with the pair on various volunteer efforts. Then they set out to fill out the massive amount of paperwork needed to register the organization with the government. Many hours later, their work paid off with the birth of the Children's AIDS Health Program.

The Children's AIDS Health Program has set out to encourage youth to get involved with AIDS education, not only teaching children with AIDS, but also spreading massive

education programs on the prevention of this disease. The long-term goal of Children's AIDS Health Program is to build health care centres in developing countries that have a large population of kids suffering from the disease. Aside from treatment and education of AIDS, the organization plans to help children with the disease to live their lives to the fullest and not miss out on their childhood.

Shamin, the organization's president and founder, and Robin, its vice-president, are truly an inspiration for teens everywhere; especially those who want to make a difference in the world.

"For those who want to start something like this, my advice to you is that although it may seem difficult at first, keep trying. Don't be intimidated if you feel that you are too young to make much of an impact," Robin says.

Anyone interested in learning more, getting involved or making a donation to the **Children's AIDS Health Program**, can visit [www.LetsStopAIDS.org](http://www.LetsStopAIDS.org).



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The logo for 'WHAT'S HIS' features the words 'WHAT'S' and 'HIS' in a bold, red, sans-serif font, with 'HIS' positioned to the right of 'WHAT'S'.