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London boy helps save DRC gorillas

# London boy helps save DRC gorillas

Posted By Mark Spowart

Posted 20 hours ago

If asked what he did on his summer vacation, James Brooks of London may have the best answer yet – he is helping to save the gorillas in the Congo.

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James, a student at Kensal Park French Immersion, was 11 years old when he founded a project called 1,000 classrooms in association with Canadian Ape Alliance.

His plan calls for 1,000 classrooms in the Western world to donate \$3 per room. The money is then used to purchase a dozen eggs from widows of park rangers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who were slain by poachers, while they protecting the endangered Eastern Lowland Gorillas living in the country's Kahuzi-Biega National Park.

Through 1,000 Classrooms and another program, titled Eggs for Kids, the widows are given an opportunity to earn an income, the children and teachers are given nutritious food and the gorillas are in turn made safer as there is less demand to kill them for food or to encroach on their habitat. The program ensures each child and teacher at the school is given one egg per day.

"I want people to know what is happening in the Congo," James says. "If I do get to 1,000 classrooms, I'll have told over 20,000 people about what is happening."

Through his efforts James has been catching the eye of several organizations and received an impressive list of awards over the last year.

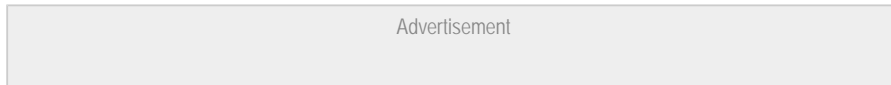
He was selected as a 2009 Top 20 under 20 by Youth in Motion, the next closest in age was 16. He won an opportunity to attend Archbishop Desmond Tutu's dinner when he was in London in May. He was recently awarded a \$250 cheque from the Toronto Zoo and given a rare opportunity to view the primates from an exclusive viewing area.

The money he received will go towards buying 1,000 eggs for his project. He has also had the opportunity meet and talk with Jane Goodall, world renown for her 45-year study of chimpanzee social and family interactions.

As of June, James efforts to connect with classrooms, as well as any other groups who might be interested had raised just over \$1,900, enough to buy 7,846 eggs.

James explained his program also supports the United Nations eight Millennium Goals. They include:

! End Poverty and hunger – it gives families both an income and nutritious food.



! Universal Education – it is for a school in Africa and also educates the kids who support it all over the world.

! Gender Equality – this allows the widows to have an income and be self-sustaining.

! Child Health – this ensures the kids get nutritious food and safe environment.

! Maternal Health – by empowering the women of the village this should help mothers.

! Combat HIV/AIDS – while this project does not -specifically address this issue, it does help to further the education of children in Africa where the epidemic is so widespread.



James Brooks, 11, recently was given the opportunity to meet with Archbishop Desmond Tutu during the Nobel Peace Prize winner's recent visit to London. James received the honour after being named to the 2009 Top 20 under 20 list by Youth in Motion for his work in saving gorillas in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Mark Spowart Photo

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Environmental Sustainability – the project directly helps gorillas and their habitat. The kids go to an -environmental school and learn about protecting the environment.

Global Partnership – we are getting kids from various countries all connected with each other to help people, gorillas and our planet.

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- En Pointe
- Funny Farm Kids Camps
- Hockey Registration
- Hyde Park Lions Club's Country Cruizin - Cruise Night
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- North East Community Fair

