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Jericho's Christopher Yao Visits White House

Christopher Yao, a sophomore at Jericho High School, was invited to represent young Americans at a White House holiday reception and briefing for his international charitable work in enabling youth to give back to their communities, fighting child-related diseases, funding millions of dollars worth of innovative research and surgeries, promoting long-distance education, and spreading the American spirit of volunteerism.

Yao founded Kids Change the World in 2007, one of the world's largest youth-led nonprofit organizations dedicated to leveraging the power of young people to change the world. The award-winning program is responsible for funding nearly half a million dollars worth of cleft surgeries, treatments, and local surgical training for doctors.

Furthermore, Kids Change the World has established the Daos Children's Centre in Mombasa, Kenya for orphans affected by post election violence and created an educational website, Education Preparation, with hundreds of free materials for students around the world. Additionally, the program has enabled thousands of youth to take action in their communities by providing free websites domains, legal help, press release writing, and other grassroots services. To date, Kids Change the World has grown to more than 19,000 dedicated volunteers and supporters in 34 countries.

Yao's award-winning work has earned him well-deserved awards including the President G.W. Bush's Daily Point of Light Award in 2009, Prudential Spirit of Community Award in 2010, President Obama's Presidential Volunteer Award in 2010, Kids of Distinction Award in 2011, Giraffe Heroes Commendation in 2011, and the Nestlé Very Best In Youth Award in 2011. His work has been featured in Yahoo! News, The Wall Street Journal, MSN Money, Scottrade, FOX Business, The Huffington Post, and Market Watch. He has been commended for his work by Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor John Venditto, Nestlé CEO Brad Alford, Prudential Financial CEO John Springfield, National Association for Secondary School Principals, Los Angeles Clipper Basketball's Blake Griffin, and CSI:NY's Hill Harper. In addition, he has been invited to the United Nations in New York City, and Universal Studios Hollywood on numerous occasions for all that he has done.

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama personally invited Yao to The White House in recognition for his extraordinary work. In Washington, D.C., Yao met with key congressional officials and even the President and the First Lady themselves.

Yao said that he plans to pursue an education in business or medicine in which he can apply to his charitable career.



Christopher Yao (left) shares some information on his charity work with High School principal Joe Priszano (center) and Jericho's Curriculum Associate for Social Studies, Business and Libraries Eric Sundberg.