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something that will cause a ripple effect and urge others to join in and make it a reality - to make a difference. *For if we see a need and reach out with what we have, invite others - friends, family and even strangers along, by the passion and zeal we exude, we can achieve, one person, one need at a time.*

When we disregard color, race, sex, age and all the so-called “differences,” we can truly say we will make a difference. I remember growing up hearing the saying “it takes a village to raise a child” this is a truth as old as time. I can confidently say also that it's a truth that cuts across people, race, societies and nations. Growing up, it was not just the parents that had the responsibility of seeing a child grow, thrive and become an adult, but the siblings, uncles, aunties, community. Everyone sowed something worthwhile toward raising a responsible and wholesome adult.

*If this little angel, de-*



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*spite her own difficulties, can give back to thousands of children all over the world, children she does not know, children who are not facing her daily realities, what is your excuse?*

Maybe it's time for us to see a need and think of ourselves as having the power to fill that need to help a person, a cause; build a better community, nation. It is time for the “haves” to give and pull along the “have-nots,” for

the have nots to dig in and see what they truly do have to contribute.

*What do you have to give? What are you doing? What is it that you have access to that can be of benefit to someone, to your community?* It is not only through monetary giving but in skills and the sharing of knowledge. If we can start bringing awareness to others, of the need for a paradigm shift in the way we think, the way we live and show compassion, then a change can, and will be effected.

It could be big businesses

grooming small businesses through support and advice till they are able to stand on their feet without falling and they in turn, supporting others in their community till everyone is standing. Big companies could support their host community to grow by employing their qualified labor and motivating those in the community to get educated by offering scholarships to train people in their field of operation.

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Giving back could be in the form of group or, one on one mentoring. The possibilities are endless. Imagine leaders of industries willing to teach their skills and areas of expertise to others who want to learn, such as fundraising, grant writing? Imagine offering your time, your services to impact others; using your resources no matter how small, to give back. It would be an investment that could have a rippling and far reaching effect.

Giving back is contributing what we have, to achieve a greater good. A person, a project, a cause, anything at all, one at a time because, if we don't, who will? Remember the tale of the Stone Soup? Exactly! Bring what you have, it can make a difference.