

# THE WELL WISHES CD PROJECT

## PART 1: KIDS IN AMERICA TO IRAQ



"Peace Explosions  
Worldwide"  
--Jake and Warren  
Grade 8"



This award-winning CD is successfully sending love and establishing unprecedented lines of communication between the world's youth.

Endorsed by Dr. Jane Goodall, Iraqi scholars, American teachers, parents, grandparents and music industry icons, this remarkable collection of spontaneous thoughts, songs, and raps has been created through interviews of kids ages 3 through 19 by the award-winning composer/producer Ruth Mendelson in her travels throughout the US. Her mission included interviewing American kids to generate a collection of well wishes for the people of Iraq and the rest of the world, as well as thoughts and insights about peace and life.

Originally provided in both English and Arabic, the CD is now being translated into 7 languages upon request from refugee camps around the world.

### **Grammy Listed: Best Spoken Word Album for Children (2007)**

Listed: "Top 100 Products in K-12" -District Administration Magazine, K-12 education leaders  
Recipient of The New England Roots & Shoots Service Award

*All of the artwork on these pages was created by kids across the US. These and other hand-made cards/letters/artwork are being shipped with each case of CD's sent abroad.*

**NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED TO CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS GLOBALLY.**

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE:**

### **IRAQ:**

The CD has created international lines of communication resulting in Iraqi infants receiving successful medical treatment at AIMS Hospital in Cochin, India.

### **KENYA**

The CD is being used as a tool of reconciliation and has prevented murder amidst the uprisings throughout 2008. CD distribution continues throughout 2009.

### **DENMARK**

The CD has served as a template for kids in Europe to make a WELL WISHES version of their own.

### **JAPAN**

The CD is now being translated into Japanese for book publication.

### **THE CONGO AND TANZANIA**

Youth leaders in refugee camps are requesting CD's. The CD is now being translated into French and Swahili for this purpose.

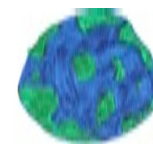
### **GLOBALLY**

The CD was featured at the first JANE GOODALL YOUTH SUMMIT (Spring 2008) upon Dr. Goodall's personal request.

[www.WellWishesandBlessings.com](http://www.WellWishesandBlessings.com)

[www.EagleVisionInc.org](http://www.EagleVisionInc.org)

**WELL WISHES AND BLESSINGS  
(KIDS IN AMERICA TO IRAQ)**



# WELL WISHES AND BLESSINGS: COMMUNICATIONS FROM LISTENERS IN IRAQ

“When I listened to the Well Wishes and Blessings CD I thought these are the words that everyone in the two countries and in the world should know, say and spread for their heart-to-heart innocence. It is essential that such words as selflessness, tolerance and empathy be in our mind before we say or do anything. Many thanks to you for having the friendly words from the friendly souls said and heard.”

Dr. Ahmad Al Hadidi

Fulbright Scholar and Research Assistant,  
School of Medicine, Mosul University, Iraq



“I'd like to inform you that I received the Well Wishes And Blessings CD's, we listened to the CD's and it touches our hearts directly and we do not know how to express our feelings by using words, it has a great impact on us as Iraqis and it will have the same effect on our children because it is full of honest feelings coming from the Americans towards the Iraqis and it shows that they do care for us. Thank you very much again we will distribute them to the broadcast.”

Regards

Mohammed”

“I've spent the past three years traveling from place to place around the world and America — meeting people and showing them the face of the Iraqi civilian. I've recently begun playing the 'Well Wishes' CD as part of my presentations in the US. The voices of the children are having a great impact on audiences. For now, Iraqis know only the voices of arms, and faces of troops. To bridge the gaps between nations, we need to find ways to see faces and hear voices, words of love, sharing, and cooperation. I am certain that the children's words on the 'Well Wishes' CD will have an even greater impact as they reach the ears of Iraqis.

Ms. N. H., Professor, Parasitology and Invertebrate Biology, University of Baghdad  
Founder, New Horizons for Women”

“thanx for the effort that is the best thing I've heard from the states since the onset of the war.  
regards from an Iraqi citizen”

“Hope this email finds you in your best. I listened to 2 of these songs online and they're just wonderful and touching. My younger sister who is 16 years old liked them too. I would love to help you distribute these songs among Iraqis. I've told my close friend about this CD and she liked it a lot and I think she emailed you too. Thank you and thanks to the kids and youth on the CD. It was a nice thing of you to think of Iraq. It's reassuring to know that people who care about others are still out there. Let me tell you a little about myself, I'm 23, a medical student in Baghdad University. I'll graduate in a few months. Wish me luck.

Best Wishes,  
M.”

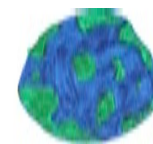
“We are the Iraqi Democratic Coalition for Youth Empowerment IDCYE located in Baghdad/Iraq. We would like to inform you that we will have the honour to distribute the Well Wishes CD's in our beloved country Iraq, in fact it is a creative work that expresses the feelings of the American children and convey their feelings to the Iraqi children. We appreciate your efforts in performing such a great work.

God Bless you. Regards,

M.A.A., Executive Director of the IDCYE/Iraq”



Be the change.  
Spread Love.



## WELL WISHES AND BLESSINGS: COMMUNICATIONS FROM LISTENERS IN KENYA

"I had the motive of revenging for loss of loved ones and property of my tribe in the ethnic violence but after listening to the CD, my heart softened and now I will continue to pray so that peace may return to our beloved country. The cards are also like the prescriptions I got from the Doctor. May God bless the people of America for their concern."

- Lucy Wairimu, Nakuru, Kenya

"Thanks for the CD; its really inspiring and it has brought in my house a sense of understanding, love, assurance, hope, and confidence especially after what our country went through, the gift was timely, i hope and trust that such sensitizing program should also be started here; it will help my children learn that inspite our ethnicity difference we are still one people.they were so moved and asked me, "how come American do care a lot and are always the ones who are much more willing the help whenever need arises than any other people the world?"

-Nancy Nyambura ( Nairobi City Council)

"I have never seen or listened to other CD by children with such strong message of peace and hope, this children speak so bluntly and so candidly,i wish we can borrow from them and avoid un necessary wars and distructions.The work Ruth has done i amazingly human,thank her for the brilliant and noble idea of coming up with this Cd's where the students have turned into teachers and teachers into students."

-Ruth Okoba

"This is the mot refreshing CD that i have ever listened to, its message is so touching ;it a taste of a bitter past and a better and rich tomorrow'. A must listen to by people of all ages who really care and value humanity."

Charles m Esilaba, Baraton University of Eastern Africa

"The Cd's -- i gave them all to my colleagues, you know that was the greatest gift at a time of national physic dislocation and in trauma.The CD'S, "WELL WISHES AND BLESSING" were the mot powerful tool that provided instantly the badly needed rehabilitation from the spread of ethnicity cleansing that was going on in villages/slums around our campus to restore us and others to senses; what we know,should know for a moment to be truthful right and forgiving. Although i will be trans faring this fall one thing am certain is that many people have and will still benefit alot after listening to it."

-Michael Ayoro, second cohort of Egerton-WMU Twining program, Egerton University-Nakuru Town Campus.



# WELL WISHES AND BLESSINGS: COMMUNICATIONS FROM TEENS IN THE U.S.



This pillow was made by Mikayla, age 16, as an offering to kids in Iraq. Embroidered is the Chinese symbol for love.

“I LOVED it. I loved listening especially to the translated part of it, because when I hear the Arabic, I know that’s what is going to help the kids literally understand what we’re trying to tell them and its so awesome to listen to!! When I first started thinking more about it and it actually brought tears to my eyes because now, listening to it all together as a whole, made me feel so happy to hear what the kids are hearing all the way in Iraq, and I know that when they hear this they’ll feel much better and I know they need it. Its so special because the CD is the connection for kids all over the U.S. as well as in Iraq. When I was listening to it, I actually felt a connection to the other kids in the U.S. who spoke on the CD, because we were all a part of it and I know that many other kids in the U.S. also feel the same way we do. And being able to let the kids in Iraq know this, is such a good feeling because otherwise, there would really be no way for them to know that we actually do consider the way they feel about the circumstances, and we really DO care about them. Its important because what they see everyday leads them to believe otherwise.” --Hyatt, age 16

“My vision of a world in harmony is one filled with music. Music is joy and life, hope and spirit all wrapped in one. So just let the music play until the last note fades into the atmosphere.”  
–Jasmine, Youth C.A.N.



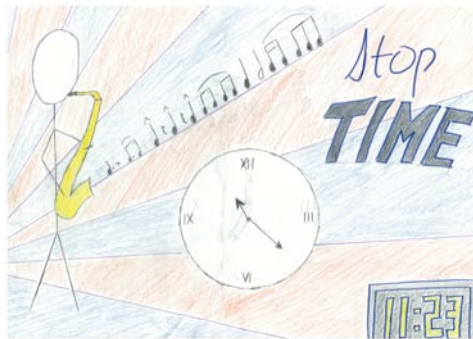
“It touched me in my heart. They should make more hit tracks like the ones we heard. I wish I was on the track to tell them how I feel.” --Cordante, age 17

“This was very inspirational, and its cool how they had the children speak. I think it was nice how the teenagers spoke how they felt and how caring they were. And it was real cool how they just show love.” --Leila, age 17

My Vision of Peace:  
Where people can come to an agreement without a vicious battle. Where no lives are lost to fists, guns or knives. Where people understand one another. ~~Where people understand one another.~~

Explanation for My Peace:  
These are three of my personal photographs that show what I believe to be overused, hidden Peace. This is the right what I feel are present words and emotions. On the peace sign is how Peace is written in other languages because I feel that peace is a worldwide desire. And then the blue writing are descriptions from dictionaries something agreed upon.

--Shannon, Youth C.A.N.



“My idea of a world in harmony is simply stopping time and listening to the beauty of the world—the music. In my drawing, time stops and a man plays the saxophone. The world, to fully understand harmony, should simply reflect on what has happened and stop time, if only for a second.”  
--Andy, Grade 8

“I think it’s good that they made this for Iraqi children, to let them know that we care and feel for them.” --Darius, age 17

“I feel bad for the little kids because they should not have to live through that.” --Shatori, age 14

“I don’t really have a vision of the world in peace, but, obviously, a world without war and hate... but I can’t explain the deep longing I have, except through music.” – Mike, Youth C.A.N.

For additional Listeners’ comments, please visit us at [www.wellwishesandblessings.com](http://www.wellwishesandblessings.com).

WELL WISHES AND BLESSINGS  
COMMUNICATIONS FROM TEENS IN THE U.S.



Be the change.  
Spread Love.

## WELL WISHES AND BLESSINGS:

### Public Reviews: Organizations and the Music Industry

“A large 'Thank you' from Baghdad to the students who are on the Well Wishes and Blessings CD. One of the most devastating effects of living in a war zone is the pervasive sense of isolation that works to break the spirit. ‘Well Wishes and Blessings’ has broken through this wall and brought smiles and hope to people who badly need both.”

--Bruce Wallace, Founder, 121Contact Project

“In times of great pain, my father once told me, seek advice from an artist. On the world stage today, these are, indeed, times of great pain. “Well Wishes and Blessings” extends a hand rather than a hand-out, engages the heart rather than the battlefield, and lifts –rather than levels- the playing field. “Well Wishes and Blessings” is not simply a palliative for troubled times; it is a motivator and an urgent call to peace. With life precariously hanging on the balance, this project could not have come at a better time.”

--Dr. Fred Mednick,, Founder, Teachers Without Borders

“In war we orphan our children and their future. Terrorism and hatred are taught. They are not acquired or instinctive. Children *are* the future. I believe it is very important that the Well Wishes and Blessings CD is connecting kids around the world. Kids here in the U.S. are also having a hard time. What I like about your CD is that it is completely communicated by the kids themselves—they’ve created the bridge, a vehicle driven by innocence.”

--Terry Howard, Multi Grammy winning producer-Ray Charles, Merle Haggard, Fleetwood Mac, Barbra Streisand, James Taylor, Gladys Knight, Stevie Wonder, Nora Jones

“This project is not only timely but necessary. It speaks to the oneness of our humanity and strengthens the bonds connecting us all. 'Well Wishes and Blessings' deserves our highest honor. Listen to the children!”

--Richard Ragland, Recovery Program Coordinator, Indonesia Delegation  
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



*The Quilt* “ My vision of a world in harmony is like a quilt, where each square co-exists with another square to create a beautiful design.”--Eliza, Grade 8

“When the 'Well Wishes' CD arrived, I put it on and just wept at the beauty of those children and their clear perceptions of how to make peace, their heartfelt love, their music, their creative expressions. As a mom and grandmother, I give them highest accolades — they are our best and highest good, progenitors of what is to come (lasting peace). Thank you so much for what you are doing. Thank you for teaching this teacher that hope is kindled in all of our children and it is up to us to fan those flames of love, goodness and caring always and without despair in these dark times.”

-- Ellen Louise Kahne, Grandmother, Mother, Teacher

“Besides being expressed entirely by children, what makes this audio project powerful and unique is that everything the kids say on the CD is also accompanied by an Arabic translation. In addition to letting the children of Iraq and the rest of the Arab world know exactly what the American kids are saying, the Arabic translation also lets Americans experience the Arabic language in a way that they rarely hear outside the stereotypical "angry terrorist" sounds depicted in American films and TV shows. Well Wishes and Blessings -- Kids in America to Iraq is an audio project that every human being--whether child, adult, American, Iraqi or anything else--could benefit from hearing. It conveys a universal message that, when heard in the words of children, is easy to understand and support.”

--Fett, Technology Editor, Performing Songwriter Magazine

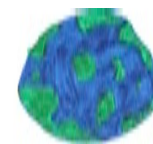


--Elisha  
19 years old

WELL WISHES AND BLESSINGS:  
Public Reviews and Endorsements



Be the change.  
Spread Love.



## WHAT'S NEXT:

### WELL WISHES PART 2

(KIDS IN THE US TO KIDS AROUND THE WORLD)

## HERE'S WHY:

In response to growing requests for WELL WISHES CD's from countries around the world, producer Ruth Mendelson has recognized the need to create an expanded follow-up CD that will include topics not covered in the original.

For example, there are increasing requests for CD's from children's refugee camps throughout the Congo, where rape is a common reality for girls. Self esteem for these girls is at an all time low. As a result, Ruth has decided to include a section for kids and youth about what it means to have a positive feminine self-image—what *girls themselves* have to say about the beauty and power of being a girl, what boys have to say re: what they respect about girls and women.

Other topics discussed on **WELL WISHES PART 2** will include:

- **The Environment**
- **How to stay out of gangs**
- **Inventions that would create a better world**
- **What does it mean to love? To be a friend?**
- **How kids feel about art, dance, music, etc.**
- **Whatever else the kids want to talk about as necessary members of society**

Like in WELL WISHES Part 1, in Part 2 will present a dazzling array of spontaneous interviews, original songs, raps and instrumentals all provided by the kids themselves.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP!

This is a grassroots effort in which everyone is invited to participate.

ALL kids are welcome to be a part of the CD.

ALL adults are welcome to help with monetary gifts.

Detailed budget is available upon request.

All gifts are tax-deductible. Checks can be made out to ONE HUMAN FAMILY.

Please write "for WELL WISHES" in the memo section of the check and mail to:

Eagle Vision Initiatives

19 Ridge Rd. #3

Lincoln, Ma 01773

contact: [info@WellWishesandBlessings.com](mailto:info@WellWishesandBlessings.com)

WellWishesProject.com

EagleVisionInitiatives.org

(617) 304-5715

**MANY THANKS and BLESSINGS TO ALL!**



# ABOUT THE PRODUCER, RUTH MENDELSON

*“Welcome!*

*I feel that each person on this earth is endowed with purpose and unfathomable potential to impact the world and his or her immediate community. Simple expressions of love have the innate capacity to transcend all borders and boundaries, bringing forth healing, hope and new beginnings. This concept is more than just a dream; pure, innocent communication is the vehicle that connects us all from heart to heart.*

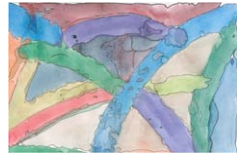
*My vision is simple: it is for us, as Global Citizens, to care for one another and the land that sustains us. Through love and compassion, mutual understanding and healing are not only possible, but are inevitable. Children and youth offer the beauty of not having grown away from themselves, making them remarkably wise teachers at this time.”*

*- Ruth Mendelson*

## **BIO:**

**A New York Times Critic’s Pick, Composer/Multi-Instrumentalist/Producer/Arranger/Editor Ruth Mendelson has been writing award-winning scores for film, HBO, A&E, Discovery Channel, Disney, Animal Planet, The Learning Channel, PBS, CBS, and NBC (among others), as well as creating innovative multi-media “surround-scapes” for over 20 years. She was the first woman in the history of Berklee College of Music (Boston, MA) to teach in the Film Scoring Department, which she enjoys part-time to this day. An active studio musician, Ruth has been featured playing a number of instruments in a wide variety of genres with artists in LA, New York and Boston. She is also a guest lecturer, music director and author. She has performed at the United Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland, as bassist for the One Human Family Gospel Choir, and is currently collaborating with renowned primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall on a variety of youth empowerment and environmental projects. Ruth is founder and president of Eagle Vision Initiatives, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving society through communications and the arts.**

**Her deepest commitment is to be of service and assist in bringing love, compassion and positive change to society via a wide range of creative projects and programs.**



*“This painting shows that the world can be united, identities can blend, yet be separated, the world can work as one, while being the person we want to be.”--Rory, Grade 8*