

YOUTH ACTION PLAN: Child Labor Free Shopping Trip to the Mall, Day before Thanksgiving, Quincy, MA

Kayla, 14, Broad Meadows Middle School, Massachusetts, USA
(*Youth Network for Children's Rights*, Sept and Oct '04)

Hello, my name is Kayla. I'm a 14 year old at Broad Meadows Middle School in Quincy, Massachusetts. I'm like every other kid. I play basketball, and I do activities like drama. But on Friday's, I'm in something a little different. I go to Operation Day's Work (ODW), a great program that fights against the use of child labor. We raise money to help spread education to children in poor countries, and we try to stop the labor of children.

So how do you do this? Well on the day before Thanksgiving, we're spreading the word to schools across the country about a *child labor free shopping trip*, or "*Shopping with a Conscience*". Now, **here's what you do:**

- Get a list of stores from your local mall.
- Write one store on each index card.
- Divide your group into teams of two or three.
- Put all of the index cards in a hat and randomly have each group pull out stores. Make sure each committee gets one "superstore," like GAP or Disney, Abercrombie & Fitch, Nike Town, and 6 more. Your "super-store" has already been accused of having child labor, so save the best for last!!

Now that you know what to do, do you know **what to say** in each store? If not, here's a good example: "Hello, I'd like to buy your clothes/food/accessories, but first I need to know, *Does your store use child labor to make its clothes/food/accessories? Is everything you make guaranteed child labor free?*"

To leave them with this curious question, we have tons of **postcards** (received from NYC's National Labor Committee) saying, "We love shopping at the mall, but we won't buy items unless they are guaranteed child-labor-free."

Hopefully, these postcards (signed by the students) will be forwarded to the corporate headquarters of the stores visited on the shopping trip.

The students at Broad Meadows hope that the *Shopping with a Conscience Day* spreads. We are willing to ship postcards to interested schools.

That's just about everything you need to know. Now it's up to you. Do you want to help put an end to the abuse of children??

If you want to join us on the day before Thanksgiving, send an email to blindley@iccle.org with a postal address and we'll ship you postcards! Wouldn't it be great for one school in each state to go "Shopping with a Conscience"?

Sincerely,

Kayla, 14, O.D.W. Broad Meadows Middle School, Massachusetts, USA