

## Francis kids collect pennies

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— ADA — **PeaceBuilders** at Francis Elementary School in Ada are collecting pennies now through March 31, 2009, to help remote, underserved communities in Pakistan and Afghanistan build schools. Inspired by Greg Mortenson's best-selling book, "Three Cups of Tea," PeacePartners, Inc., the owner of the **PeaceBuilders** program, has invited all of its more than 600 sites, serving more than 250,000 children, to participate in this global community fund-raising event.

Francis Elementary School will collect pennies from students, staff and community.

Their donation along with donations from other **PeaceBuilders** sites across the nation and in U.S. Territories will be sent to Pennies for Peace™, a program of Central Asia Institute (CAI), co-founded by Mortenson. All CAI projects are initiated by the village community and involve community participation and funding to complete the project. According to the Pennies for Peace website, "Our best hope for a peaceful and prosperous world lies in the education of all the world's children."

'Help Others' is a **PeaceBuilders** principle; and raising money to help other children obtain an education is a proactive way for our children to build world peace. When young people help others, they gain important social skills including the ability to recognize those in need and take the appropriate steps to make a difference.

"Children have an innate desire to help others, but they might feel too small to help do such grand things as build schools in countries half way around the world," says Michelle Molina, president of PeacePartners, an organization that teaches youth how to interact in a peaceful environment. "By encouraging children to donate loose change they've collected, we teach them that even something as small as a penny – or a child – really can make a difference."

Youth and other individuals who wish to participate in this effort should turn in their donations to a licensed PeaceBuilders site. To find a participating location, e-mail pennies@peacebuilders.com or phone toll-free 1-877-4-peacenow.

PeaceBuilders is owned and operated by PeacePartners, Inc. **PeaceBuilders** is the renowned anti-violence youth program approved for the federally funded Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act.

It is a comprehensive community-based program that shifts the entire organizational climate to a peaceful, productive and safe place for children, parents and the community.

The experienced corporate team manages the PeaceBuilders program to work seamlessly with any organization seeking peaceful solutions.

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