

The New Community Project presents

Spending Money

Sweatshops, deforestation, child labor OR
Creating a better world for everyone everywhere?
It depends on how you spend your money



We'll toss 130 million mobile devices in the USA this year, and spend \$15 billion on video gaming. Running games creates 7 million tons of CO₂.

Fast food? Not so fast! Every meal creates a pound of trash and requires 1400 gallons of water to produce (burger, fries and soft drink). Beef production is the leading source of greenhouse gases, and we pitch 50 billion soda cans a year - a huge waste of resources and energy!

Driving cars is killing the planet (1 gallon of gas = 20 pounds CO₂) - and 1 million squirrels and other small furry creatures in the USA every day.

Your sneakers? A young woman in Indonesia was paid 50 cents an hour to make them. Globally, 60 million people work in sweatshops; 85% are young women 15-22 yrs old. Long hours, low wages and lots of abuse, but big profits for somebody!

US'ers spend \$16 billion a year on bottled water. And we throw away enough empties to build a tower to the moon every 48 days! Globally, 1.1 billion people don't have clean water to drink, leading to 1.8 million deaths each year...

Spending on or by US teenagers tops \$91 billion every year; around the world, UNICEF says half of all children are "denied a childhood" by poverty, war and the AIDS crisis

Hot cocoa? In West Africa two-thirds of child workers on cocoa plantations aren't in school, and thousands are under 14 years old.



"... turning the world upside down."

New Community Project

Peace through Justice • Earth Care • Experiential Learning

Knowledge is Power!

Know the product

- Who made your clothes or sports gear – and how were they treated? Where were the minerals mined for your i-Thing – and where did it go when you recycled it? Any rainforest-wrecking palm oil in your food or cosmetics? Find out at responsibleshopper.org or the NCP website.

Know your needs – and the needs of your neighbors

- US teenagers spend \$120 a week on themselves; globally 175 million child workers earn little or nothing and often do dangerous work.
- College students spend \$11 billion a year on snacks and beverages; every day around the world 20,000 children die of malnutrition.
- US young adults spend over \$500 per person per year on personal care items; young women in poor countries often lack sanitary materials or toilets.

Know the enemy

- Corporations put profit before people or planet. Learn more at globalexchange.org, citizen.org, planetfriendly.net, killercoke.org.
- Every year, advertisers spend \$1000 on each of us, telling us we ARE what we drink, drive, dress and drool over—resist!

Know the Truth

- “You who trample the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end... who deal deceitfully with false balances... who buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals. Surely I will never forget...”

The Prophet Amos

- “The corporations’ greatest fear is that you will open your eyes.”

Charlie Kernaghan, Institute for Global Labor & Human Rights

Sources for Spending Money: State of the World (World Watch); NLC.org; UNDP; Earth Policy Institute; Planet Ark; State of the World’s Children (UNICEF); Made to Break (Giles Slade)



Our Neighbors’ Predicament – Our Response

“The harassment begins when they hire you—they line the girls up and pick the pretty ones. Then once inside, there’s so much pressure to produce, we didn’t take restroom breaks. And if we complained, the foreman said, ‘There’s the door—there are 20 more people outside who will work for less than you.’”
Former clothing factory workers in El Salvador

“I decided I had to give up chocolate – and I hated to, because I love it! But I’ll still eat Fair Trade.”

Young adult from California after learning that some cocoa is harvested by child workers in West Africa

“The biggest thing I’ve realized is that even though I always seem to ‘need’ something, I’m not in need at all. That’s why I’ve decided to give my money to the people of the village.”
High school student sending NCP money she’d been saving for school clothes after taking part in a Learning Tour to Central America



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Invest Yourself!

Spend your money on things that support your values. Get your friends involved in selling Fair Trade coffee or chocolate. Give up something yourself for a month; send the money to help your peers—like this young woman from Nepal, where they say “to be born a daughter is a lost life.” Girls there are often trafficked into the sex trade or other horrible work.



Get involved by seeing the world for yourself as an NCP Solidarity Worker or on an NCP Learning Tour to Africa, Asia, Central America, the Amazon or Arctic.

Visit our Sustainable Living Center in VA. Organize your friends to start a Green Club at school.

Support young women, millions of whom are out of school and out of luck. NCP’s Give a Girl a Chance program gives girls the education or skills they need to have the future they deserve.



- \$20/\$35 – buys school supplies/uniform and shoes for a girl
- \$18 – provides a hygienic kit of essential supplies
- \$5 – 15 pays a month’s tuition in Nepal, S. Sudan or Burma



Be an example for your classmates and your co-workers, helping them see a better way for the planet and for our neighbors.