

Catherine McCauley

While reading Marc and Craig Kielburger's book *Me to We—Finding Meaning in a Material World*, Catherine was so moved that she found herself writing notes in the margins by the third chapter. By chapter seven she was motivated to write Marc Kielburger a letter, and by the end of the book she had accepted a position with Free The Children. Her work is motivated by a belief in a direct connection between the Me to We philosophy and the educator's ability to lead positive change in the world.

Through her role at Free The Children, Catherine empowers teachers to bring social issues into their classroom programs by creating elementary and secondary curriculum. Her presentations explain the benefits of active global citizenship and show educators how they can implement Free The Children programs in their schools, engaging students while fulfilling curriculum requirements. Catherine is committed to providing educators with the resources they need to see these programs through. She wrote *Creating We Schools—A Resource Guide for Educators*, a guide and collection of lesson plans which link the Me to We philosophy to educators' own philosophies, practices and potential leadership roles in schools. Most recently, Catherine wrote *Inspiring A Generation of Youth to Change The World—An Educator Resource Guide* to support educators during National Me to We Day's year-long initiative.



With 15 years of diverse education experience, Catherine has worked as a teacher and guidance counsellor in the public and independent school systems, at both the elementary and secondary levels. She has worked as a lecturer and faculty advisor at the University of British Columbia and assisted families in finding the right schools for their children as an educational consultant.

Catherine's passion for teaching social issues began when she challenged her elementary students to think critically about the world around them. As a guidance counselor, she encouraged high school students to take overseas volunteer trips and leadership training programs. She believes that community service projects are the most authentic, active global citizenship experience we can offer students, and that these projects hold the greatest potential for youth and educators alike to discover their own power to change the world.

Catherine holds a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Communication Studies) from Wilfrid Laurier University, a Bachelor of Education (Elementary) from York University and a Master of Education (Curriculum and Instruction) from the University of British Columbia. Her areas of research interest included educational change theory, global education and action research.

Catherine's dedication to the young people extends beyond the classroom. Alongside her husband Dave, Catherine raises her two children to be socially-conscious, motivated and courageous global citizens.

To book Catherine please contact Marianne Woods at 1.647.259.3455 or Marianne@freethechildren.com

Workshop Topic

Young people are often told what to do as opposed to being consulted on the issues that are relevant to them. The message is clear: Young people need to stop hearing that they are the leaders of tomorrow and start believing and acting as leaders of today.

While imparting knowledge, skills and attitudes, educators also have the opportunity to nurture active global citizenship in their classrooms every day. Teachers who have implemented Free The Children and Leaders Today programs describe a new sense of empowerment, a revitalized passion for teaching and a powerful way of building a teaching legacy.

Students who get involved in social issues, especially through volunteering, are able to build connections with people, develop new skills and prove themselves worthy of trust. Studies show that students who volunteer get better grades, are less likely to drop out of school, have higher self-esteem and better attitudes towards society. Young people who are involved in their communities tend to be more productive and less likely to make harmful decisions. In a world rife with challenges, it is now more important than ever that educators empower students to embrace social involvement.

Catherine McCauley, Director of Teacher Development at Free The Children, combines her experience as a classroom teacher and curriculum developer to facilitate a workshop to this end. She makes the connections between philosophy and pedagogy in order to help educators understand, “why they should care and how it will work in their schools.”

This 2.5 hour interactive workshop will include a multimedia presentation, case studies and activities to achieve five objectives:

1. Discuss how social justice fits within the broad goals of education and character education.
2. Stimulate reflection and discussion on the educator’s role in nurturing active global citizens.
3. Identify opportunities within elementary and secondary curricula as well the Character Education Ontario Ministry of Education initiative.
4. Demonstrate how Free The Children resources—*Creating We Schools*, *Inspiring A Generation of Youth to Change the World* and *Global Voices*—can be used in classrooms and schools.
5. Guide teachers to develop an action plan for their school implementation.

This interactive workshop is suitable for:

- school district professional development days, district meetings of social studies teachers (e.g., Civics, Geography, World Issues and Family Studies) and faculty of education students
- school staff who wish to explore implementation of Free The Children’s Me to We philosophy
- groups of educators who coordinate community service planning, leadership or character education programs across their school district.

Note: Catherine will work closely with you to tailor a workshop that reflects your priorities and initiatives.

233 Carlton Street
Toronto, ON
Canada M5A 2L2

Tel: 1.416.925.5894
Fax: 1.416.925.6855
Email: info@freethechildren.com

www.freethechildren.com
www.leaderstoday.com
www.metowe.org

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Testimonials

Catherine made three presentations on the Me to We program to 115 pre-service teachers and it was a hit! I have had many, many comments on the program's relevance, urgency and helpfulness for teachers as they attempt to integrate active citizenship into their classrooms.

This kind of networking and out-reach to Faculties of Education is so critical as you catch many teachers prior to them becoming immersed in the system, suggesting to them that they can make a positive world of difference. I thank Catherine for her ability to translate ideas into practical classroom experiences, openness to questions, and willingness to stay and talk to students after the presentations were concluded.

- Todd A. Horton, PhD, Faculty of Education, Nipissing University, North Bay ON

The workshop that Catherine delivered was extremely informative and was very well received by our staff. It was particularly good for showing how the different curriculum areas could best utilise the information within their departments. Catherine's knowledge and passion for the subject, showed through in her manner, which was both friendly and understanding. Her presentation gave us plenty of ideas and suggestions, which we are gradually starting to implement.

- Ann O'Brien, Chaplain, Monsenior Poldwyer Catholic High School, Oshawa ON

Audio Visual Requirements

- LCD Projector
- White Screen suitable to the size of the audience and room
- Wireless lapel microphone (to be discussed based on audience numbers)
- Connection for sound system to be hooked into lap top
- White Board with markers & erase
- Flip Chart with markers