

All-Win Examples by Mary Duffield

Mary has set up a program to teach English to young offenders in juvenile hall (the American prison for young people), so that they can log onto and learn to play the *World Game* while in prison. The frustrations of not being able to speak, read or write the language places many young people in the US on the fringe of society and outside the job market. When asked on the World Game in which language they wish to play almost all say they wish to participate in English. The building of a positive self-image is an important aspect of this initiative.

As a part of the language course, she finds that encouraging them to first write and then tell their life story on audio/video tape beside being a useful language learning tool helps to provide an urgently needed sense of dignity and self-worth which empowers young people who speak English as second language as they gradually improve their English.

In the context of the UNICEF Chapter which Mary founded *the Literacy Center* in Santa Cruz, California, USA, a translation service for the many foreigners who visit Silicon Valley and/or the University of California at Santa Cruz, which is gradually being taken over by other communities. This service, greatly contributed by the Baha'is, a spiritual organization which exists in over 203 countries and territories, pools valuable expertise existing in the Santa Cruz area and builds a bridge between youngsters, seniors, and whole families. Participants take turns raising funds and getting donations of computers.

Raising money for UNICEF

Mary Duffield, an inspiring friend of children and young people, has raised as much as \$6000 singlehandedly for UNICEF (The United Nations Children's Fund) in one year. UNICEF is one of the few ways in which individual people and peoples' organizations can contribute to the UN's work for the well-being of children. Mary has a number of projects in Santa Cruz, California, USA

Educating young people to communicate across national boundaries.

For many years she helped young people work with ham radio and get their ham radio operators' licence. She organized many activities that the young ham operators could participate in to promote peace and understanding among youth from different national and cultural backgrounds.

One year, for instance, she heard that one of her young friends was suffering from an acute terminal disease. She asked him to chair an international meeting of young ham radio operators. Under his chairmanship, the young people decided to plant trees for Earth Day; many asked their schools and fellow pupils to participate, some even asked the schools of their friends and relatives to join in. When Earth Day arrived, Mary sat with her calculator while the young chair received the tally from around the world. Together the young people had planted *one million trees!!!* The chair thanked all participants, deeply grateful. "If I never do another thing in my life", he said, "I shall feel that with this initiative my life has been worthwhile". Two weeks later he passed away.

For years Mary took young people, who had their ham radio operators' licence on her sailing boat to sail down the California coast to South America. After some time on board the young people would often experience tensions from being in a confined space. Just as they would feel like pushing one another over board, Mary would sit them down and say, "Planet Earth is just like a sailing boat only bigger and with many more people. Now you see how conflicts arise between people. How can we live together peacefully on board and on Earth?" The young people would meet with young ham operators in schools along the South American coast and exchange peace making and peace building experiences.