

INTERNATIONAL DevelopmentWeek

2013 Global Citizen Award Winner



Joan Rink

Joan Rink has educated young people throughout her adult life. From Peru to Regina, she took seriously her role as educator, and sought to provide her students with an education that would transform them not just into good students, but into confident, competent, and capable citizens. In 1989, she was invited to be part of the Centre for Encounters and Dialogues in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and was immediately instrumental in the first Cuernavaca Project high school student trips. She took her responsibility to these students very seriously, engaging them not just in rigorous pre-departure training in good global citizenship, but also using experiential learning to guide their personal growth

What do you feel are some of the biggest challenges currently facing our global community?

In the past we struggled with a tremendous sense of individualism. Our society's preoccupation with individual rights and self, contradicted the need for a global responsibility to community and the good of our Earth. With the internet drawing us closer together, the multi-cultural diversity of our city and the extensive travel experience of people, there is a global awareness emerging.

Where do you find your inspiration?

Watching young people develop from the "me" stage to wanting to make a difference in the world gives me hope. Listening to their dreams and desires, experiencing their fresh energy and their ideals helps me wake up each morning with a smile, anxious to journey with them. I am very grateful to God for having gifted me with the vocation of teaching.

What advice would you give to today's high-school graduates?

It has been my passion to teach young people to get involved, involved in their communities and their world. I encourage them to care deeply and know that even one sole teenager can make a difference in bringing peace and justice to our world.



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I am making a difference!



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