

## Riverside students address global poverty

The Forgotten International founder visits Riverside High, describes conditions

Written by : Cheryl P. Allen : Greater Greer News : Oct. 7, 2013



Thomas Nazario stood inside a dimly lit auditorium before a large

audience of Riverside High School students. Their eyes fixated on a large projector screen in the background.

Images on the screen depicted a dismal reality: poor families, sad children and crowded slums. They included a little girl in Thailand who was prostituted and contracted AIDS, a woman with leprosy, Tibetan nomads and a woman in India carrying a bucket of human waste on her head because there are no toilets in her village. It was all part of a presentation he made last week to students at Riverside High.

“Two and half billion people don’t have a toilet,” said Nazario, author of “Living on a Dollar a Day” and founder of The Forgotten International. The California-based nonprofit is dedicated to alleviating poverty in various parts of the world.

As part of that effort, the foundation is working with Atlas, a cultural awareness

group at Riverside and other schools across the country.

Atlas formed five years ago at Riverside. Membership has grown from 15 to nearly 100 students, said Anne Snow, adviser to the group and math teacher. They were introduced to the foundation as well as several grass-roots programs around the world. Each year, Atlas members adopt a program.

“We talk about human rights,” Snow said. “It gives them a portal to all the different qualities of life out there.”

The first year, students raised a few hundred dollars for a slum school in New Dehli, called The Greenfield Paramount School, Snow said.

“The small donation enabled the school to purchase basic necessities such as fans for the classroom,” she said. Since then, they’ve also supported an orphanage in Lima, Peru, and a bamboo school in northern Thailand. This year, they raised \$3,100 for the Nest Orphanage in Limaru, Kenya.

Atlas members said Nazario’s presentation was a true eye-opener and further helped them to see how their efforts were benefiting others around the world.

“A lot of kids are having fun and raising money while we do it but sometimes, we don’t really realize ... how much people need it,” said Nikhil Gandhi, a senior at Riverside.

Thomas Nazario stood inside a dimly lit auditorium before a large audience of Riverside High School students. Their eyes fixated on a large projector screen in the background.

Images on the screen depicted a dismal reality: poor families, sad children and crowded slums. They included a little girl in Thailand who was prostituted and contracted AIDS, a woman with leprosy, Tibetan nomads and a woman in India carrying a bucket of human waste on her head because there are no toilets in her village. It was all part of a presentation he made last week to students at Riverside High.

“Two and half billion people don’t have a toilet,” said Nazario, author of “Living on a Dollar a Day” and founder of The Forgotten International. The California-based nonprofit is dedicated to alleviating poverty in various parts of the world.

As part of that effort, the foundation is working with Atlas, a cultural awareness group at Riverside and other schools across the country.

Atlas formed five years ago at Riverside. Membership has grown from 15 to nearly

100 students, said Anne Snow, adviser to the group and math teacher. They were introduced to the foundation as well as several grass-roots programs around the world. Each year, Atlas members adopt a program.

“We talk about human rights,” Snow said. “It gives them a portal to all the different qualities of life out there.”

The first year, students raised a few hundred dollars for a slum school in New Dehli, called The Greenfield Paramount School, Snow said.

“The small donation enabled the school to purchase basic necessities such as fans for the classroom,” she said. Since then, they’ve also supported an orphanage in Lima, Peru, and a bamboo school in northern Thailand. This year, they raised \$3,100 for the Nest Orphanage in Limaru, Kenya.

Atlas members said Nazario’s presentation was a true eye-opener and further helped them to see how their efforts were benefiting others around the world.

“A lot of kids are having fun and raising money while we do it but sometimes, we don’t really realize ... how much people need it,” said Nikhil Gandhi, a senior at Riverside.

**Staff Writer Cheryl P. Allen can be reached at 864-298-4026 and followed on Twitter @CPAllenNewz.**

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131007/YOURUPSTATE01/310070066/>