PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

People Who Made a Difference

COMPILED BY HOWIE BAUM
Well-behaved women rarely make history

Soar like Amelia
Rescue like Harriet
Stand like Rosa
Empower like Malala

Heal like Florence
Conserve like Jane
Embark like Ruby
Dissent like Ruth

Rise like Maya
Create like Frida
Speak like Kamala
Explore like Sacagawea
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The richer we have become materially, the poorer we become morally and spiritually. We have learned to fly in the air like birds and swim in the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers.

Martin Luther King Jr.
History's moments of kindness

When Rosa Parks was assaulted and robbed in her home at the age of 81, Little Caesars pizza founder Mike Ilitch began paying her rent every month in a safer place and continued to do so for more than 10 years, until she died. He kept the act of generosity a secret until it was discovered in 2014.
ARISTIDES DE SOUSA MENDES

Aristides de Sousa Mendes, the "Portuguese Schindler" saved 30,000 Jews from the Nazis. He was consul in Bordeaux during WWII, and risked everything by defying orders and issuing visas for Jewish refugees. "There will be no more nationalities, races or religion." He told them, "I cannot allow all you people to die."
At 9 years old, Audrey Faye Hendricks was the youngest known marcher arrested during the Civil Rights movement. In 1963, she and thousands of other children stepped into the street singing “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Round” before being arrested. In 1969, she attended her first desegregated school, and went on to work with children and low-income families for 25 years and earned a Master’s Degree, writing a thesis on women in the Civil Rights Movement.
You will always be ‘too much’ for some...
too loud... too soft... too this... too that.
But you will always be perfect
for the people who really love you.

KATHARINE HEPBURN
When Laurence C. Jones heard about a town's 80% illiteracy rate, he founded a school with $2 in a sheep shed. In 1918, Jones survived a lynching by demonstrating his passion to teach children, and the white supremacists actually ended up donating money to his school. Jones said "No man can force me to stoop low enough to hate him".
In 1939, the Daughters of the American Revolution barred Black singer Marian Anderson from performing under a "white performers-only" policy. When Eleanor Roosevelt found out, she resigned from their organization and with President Roosevelt and the NAACP arranged for Anderson to sing at the Lincoln Memorial, broadcast nationwide. She sang with "tears in her eyes" as over 75,000 people showed up.
HENRI DUNANT

As a child, Henri Dunant would help his mother give to the poor. He joined the Geneva Society for Alms giving at 18, and started the “Thursday Association” to help the poor. At 24 he founded a local YMCA, and helped form the international YMCA. When he saw the devastation of the battle of Solferino, he organized people to care for the wounded. This led him to form the International Red Cross. And that led to the first Geneva Convention. His firm went bankrupt and he was broke, shunned, and forgotten, but devoted himself to helping people. He was finally redeemed when a magazine told his story, and in 1901, he won the first Nobel Peace Prize. He used the prize money to buy the first hospital in Paris.
Never heard of Frances Perkins? Now you have.

Frances Perkins was the first female presidential cabinet member. To fight sexism from coworkers, she had a red folder called "Notes on the Male Mind" that helped her use gender stereotypes to her advantage, such as looking 'motherly'. Congress tried to impeach her and failed. She was largely responsible for social security, unemployment insurance, minimum wage, and child labor laws.
Frederick Douglass had many photos taken of him. He believed photography would help end racism because a photo can't lie. And unlike caricature drawings of African Americans, a photo showed “the essential humanity of its subjects.” He didn’t smile in them as he did not want to be portrayed as “the happy slave.” In his time, Douglass was the most photographed person in the world. There were more photos taken of him than of Abraham Lincoln.
Bet you didn't know this about Maya Angelou

Poet Maya Angelou wanted badly to be a streetcar operator when she was 16, but was turned away for being Black. Her mom told her not to give up and to go sit there every day and "read your big Russian books." After two weeks, they asked her why she wanted the job. She replied "Because I like the uniforms." Maya Angelou became San Francisco's first Black female streetcar operator.
The 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote almost wasn't ratified until Harry Burn, a senator against it, received a letter from his mother telling him "I have been watching ... be a good boy" and to vote for ratification. He broke the deadlock the next day and the 19th Amendment was ratified.
Ruby Bridges and President Barack Obama view the painting by Rockwell in the White House.
In 1959, police were called to a segregated library when a Black 9-year-old boy trying to check out books refused to leave, after being told the library was not for Black people. The boy, Ronald McNair, went on to get a PhD in Physics from MIT and became an astronaut. The library that refused to lend him books is now named after him.
In the 1880s, the Harvard Observatory director was frustrated with his staff, and would say “My Scottish maid could do better!” So, he hired his Scottish maid, Williamina Fleming ran a team for decades, classified tens of thousands of stars, & discovered white dwarfs and the Horsehead Nebula.
During the U.S. Civil War, Robert Smalls stole a confederate ship disguised as the captain, rescued his own and other enslaved families, and escaped to the Union where he took command of a ship, and became captain. He then educated himself, became a successful businessman, bought his ex-owner's house, and served 5 years in Congress.
“I’m telling you there is hope. I’ve seen it, but it does not come from the governments or corporations. It comes from the people.”

— Greta Thunberg

“You must unite behind the science. You must take action. You must do the impossible. Because giving up can never ever be an option.

— Greta Thunberg
You punished the wrong kid...

Thurgood Marshall was a mischievous student, he was suspended twice and didn't take school seriously. As punishment, the principal made him sit in the basement and read the U.S. Constitution. While reading it he realized that Black people were not granted the same rights as white people. He decided to do something about it and went on to be the first Black Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.
Harriet Tubman wasn't just a conductor on the Underground Railroad, she was an **armed scout and spy** for the Union Army who helped lead a raid on Confederates in South Carolina that **freed** hundreds of enslaved people.

She fought for women's suffrage and founded a home for the elderly. **Tubman was a true freedom fighter** until the day she died.

She's one of the most significant figures in American history. If anything, she's probably under-credited like many Black women in US history.

@BreeNewsome
In the 1960s, rat infestation had become a serious problem in the poor neighborhoods of Washington, D.C. Seeing the government's inaction, activist Julius Hobson took matters into his own hands. He began capturing the rats in cages and threatened to release them in neighborhoods where the rich, white, and wealthy people lived. Soon after, the city set up rat control programs for the poor neighborhoods.
RUTH BADER GINSBURG

FIGHT FOR THE THINGS that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others TO JOIN YOU.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Benjamin Franklin left $2,000 to Boston and Philadelphia to help young people in those cities. But he stipulated in his will that the cities could not draw the balance for 200 years. In 1990, it was worth $6.5 million. The money has been used to fund scholarships, women's health, and help firefighters and disabled children.
ANNE FRANK
In the Olympics, athletes used to march behind their country's flag at the end. During the tense 1956 games, a 17-year-old boy named John Ian Wing wrote in a letter to the Olympics that he was sad seeing athletes used as political "pawns". He suggested they walk as "one nation" so that "war, politics and nationality will be all forgotten". They have done so ever since. He was even given an Olympic medal for his contribution.
ANNE SULLIVAN WHO ASSISTED HELEN KELLER

After so much anger and frustration, Sullivan spelled w-a-t-e-r into Keller's hand then placed that same hand into water. That's when Keller immediately realized that all things had names. It was the eureka moment they both needed.
BRUCE LEE
ANNA PAVLOVA
President Ronald Reagan presents Mother Teresa with the Presidential Medal of Freedom at a White House ceremony as First Lady Nancy Reagan looks on, June 20, 1985.
ANNIE BESANT
DALAI LAMA
When Sir J.M. Barrie passed away in 1937, he left the rights to his most famous character, Peter Pan, to a local children's hospital. Those rights have helped fund the hospital ever since.

THE END