**Malala Yousafzai**

At 17, Yousafzai became the youngest Nobel Prize laureate for her humanitarian efforts. She captured the world's attention after being shot by the Taliban in Pakistan on her way to school because she was an advocate for women pursuing education. She is currently working towards her bachelor's degree at Oxford's Lady Margaret Hall while continuing her charity work through her organization, The Malala Fund.

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**Sophie Cruz**

Cruz made a name for herself at five years old when she visited Washington D.C. with her family. As representatives of an L.A.-based immigration advocacy group, they were there to deliver a letter to Pope Francis urging him to speak out on behalf of undocumented workers and support the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans Act. The Pope discussed the issue in a meeting with Congress the following day. Cruz's activism earned her an invitation to meet President Obama in 2016 even though her parents couldn't accompany her because of their undocumented status. She took part in the Women's March in D.C. where, as the featured speaker, she spoke in both Spanish and English saying, "We are here together making a chain of love to protect our families. Let us fight with love, faith and courage so that our families will not be destroyed."
Samantha Smith

Further proof that the words of a child can make a huge impact, Smith was only 10 when she eased Cold War tensions between the United States and Russia with a single letter. She wrote a note to CPSU General Secretary Yuri Andropov suggesting that both countries could co-exist peacefully, which ended up getting published in a Soviet newspaper. Andropov responded with an invitation for Smith and her family to visit his country. This experience earned her the role of "America's Youngest Ambassador" and she later brought her message of peace to Japan. She also pursued a television career as an actress and as a special correspondent for the Disney Channel covering the 1984 presidential election. Following her untimely death at 13 in a plane crash, her achievements were celebrated in her Maine hometown and in Russia where a monument was built in her honor.

Claudette Colvin

Colvin was 15 when she became a major player in the Civil Rights Movement by refusing to give up her bus seat to a Caucasian rider. This was nine months before Rosa Parks was arrested for the same thing. She was one of the four plaintiffs involved in the Supreme Court case that ultimately outlawed segregation on Alabama buses. Colvin has said about her experience, "I feel very, very proud of what I did. I do feel like what I did was a spark and it caught on."
Xiuhtezcatl Martinez

Martinez is an environmental activist who spoke at the U.N. three times by the age of 15 urging leaders to take action against climate change. He and 21 other people around his age are the plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the federal government arguing that ignoring climate change means they are denying the constitutional right to life, liberty, and property. Martinez has even turned his message into music with a hip-hop song called "Speak for the Trees," which was chosen as the theme song for the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Mari Copeny

Copeny, AKA Little Miss Flint, captured President Obama's attention in 2016 after she wrote him a letter urging him to meet with her and her community members who were traveling to Washington D.C. for the congressional meetings on the Flint water crisis. She continues to fight for the people of her hometown in any way that she can including crowdfunding for donations to buy backpacks for students in Flint. Mari is also a youth ambassador for the Women's March, the Climate March, and Equality for Her.
Anne Frank

The teenage diarist passed away in 1945, but the words she put down in her notebook while her family was in hiding during World War II have proven to be timeless. It's a literary reminder of the horrors of war and hate through the eyes of a young girl. Anne's diary has been translated into more than 60 languages since its original publication in 1947.

Alex Scott

Scott was less than a year old when she was diagnosed with cancer and spent her first few years of life fighting against the odds. After receiving a stem cell transplant around her fourth birthday, she vowed to start a lemonade stand to raise money for other children going through the same thing. With the help of her brother, the first stand raised $2,000. The lemonade stand to support cancer research became an annual thing for her family and Alex raised over $1 million before losing her own battle in 2004 at eight years old. Her family continues to carry on her legacy through Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation and has raised over $150 million to date in the hopes of finding a cure.
Ann Makosinski

Makosinski was 15 when she invented a flashlight powered by body heat for the Google Science Fair in 2013. In doing so, she found a way to reduce waste (single-use batteries getting dumped in landfills) and provide light to people who can't afford electricity in their homes. She also invented the eDrink, which cools your hot beverage by turning the excess heat into electricity that can charge your devices. Her inventions have gotten her worldwide recognition including an appearance on the "Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon" and several brand partnerships.

Mikaila Ulmer

Ulmer is another example of how a little lemonade can change the world. After learning about how much bees do for the environment and how they're dying out, four-year-old Ulmer decided to take action by joining a local children's business competition. Her product was a family lemonade recipe sweetened with locally-made honey with a portion of the sales going to organizations fighting to save the honeybee population. She sells her lemonade at public events and has a partnership with Whole Foods.
Cassandra Lin

Lin’s plan to save the world took shape when she was in fifth grade after learning that cooking oil could be turned into biofuel. She started small by convincing local restaurants in her community to donate their cooking oil waste to be recycled. As she expanded the program to other areas near her home, her Project TGIF (Turn Grease Into Fuel) was officially off the ground. Her work has earned her several environmental awards.

Katie Stagliano

Stagliano was in third grade when she came up with her plan to help feed the homeless after growing a 40 pound cabbage in her yard. That single crop fed 275 people at her local soup kitchen. It also inspired her non-profit, Katie's Krops, which builds vegetable gardens for the sole purpose of donating the food to the homeless. Now, there are more than 100 gardens in over 30 states being operated by young people like Katie.
Boyan Slat

At 16, during a fishing trip in Greece, Slat discovered massive amounts of plastic in the water. Two years later, the Dutch inventor launched his non-profit, Ocean Cleanup, to research using circulating currents to address the pollution issue. The group has raised over $31.5 million in donations to help achieve Boyan's goal.

Easton LaChappelle

14-year-old LaChappelle built a prototype for a robotic hand out of Legos and fishing wire in 2011, which earned him third place at the Colorado State Science Fair. As fate would have it, he met a seven-year-old girl at the science fair who had a prosthetic arm that cost $80,000. It was then that Easton's mission became clear — to build a more affordable alternative. Now he runs a startup that uses 3D printing to build prosthetic arms and hands, bringing the price down to just $350 to produce. He also made the design accessible to download by anyone at no cost.
Ryan Hreljac

Hreljac has been working to make clean water accessible to people in poor areas since he was six and first learned about the issue. He began by doing chores to earn money to send to organizations building wells in poor countries before starting Ryan's Well Foundation when he was 10. The charity has brought drinkable water to over 800,000 people in 16 countries. Ryan's Well Foundation also partners with schools to educate children about the situation.

Yash Gupta

Gupta was inspired to collect eyeglasses for children in need at 14 years old after breaking his own corrective lenses and having to wait a week for a replacement pair. He read a statistic that 12 million children around the world are living without the glasses they need to see clearly, which prompted him to launch his Sight Learning organization. The group collects used glasses and delivers them to children who need them. They have given out over $1.5 million worth of eyewear in places like Mexico, Honduras, Haiti, and India.
Louis Braille

Braille was only 12 when he learned of a communication system used by the French army, which laid the groundwork for his own system of reading and writing used by the blind. He completed his alphabet of raised dots by the time he was 15. It was first adapted by France's Royal Institute for Blind Youth until two years after his death at the age of 43. It has since spread throughout the world and is still in use today.

Jack Andraka

As a high school student, Andraka made a major contribution to the health community by inventing a type of sensor that could detect early signs of pancreatic and other forms of cancer. The prototype won him a $75,000 prize in Intel's science fair. He's been called "The Teen Prodigy Of Pancreatic Cancer" by the Smithsonian.