

# LOVE, HALLIE Foundation

*“People be nice to each other. Love, Hallie”*

## ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

In May 2004, Hallie Geier -- an eleven year-old American -- died after being accidentally hit by an SUV. Hallie was a writer, artist, and athlete dedicated to making the world a better place. Inspired by Hallie, her friends and family founded the LOVE, HALLIE Foundation – a 501 (c)(3), non-profit organization – to promote youth philanthropy, helping young people take action to improve their communities and the world by volunteering for, contributing to, and raising funds for causes they care about.

LOVE, HALLIE uses Hallie’s impassioned writings and art in its education and awareness programs, publications, and special events to encourage youth service at home, in schools, and in community-based organizations.

Since the foundation’s inception, LOVE, HALLIE has made a significant impact:

- LOVE, HALLIE presented its first grant – along with \$398 Hallie had personally saved to help African children – to Oprah Winfrey on her show. Oprah combined it with *Oprah’s Angel Network* funds to renovate dorms at *Kid’s Haven*, a shelter for abused street children in South Africa.
- LOVE, HALLIE spread the youth philanthropy message to 50,000 students via two publications of Hallie’s writings – *Fierce Wonderings* and *African Poems*.
- LOVE, HALLIE reached 20 million Americans by bringing together all nine US soap operas and *Soap Opera Digest* in the nine-week *Daytime Unites for Africa* campaign to highlight AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.
- LOVE, HALLIE’s youth action division, *Hal’s Angels* has raised more than \$200,000 to help children in sub-Saharan Africa affected by AIDS and malaria.
- LOVE, HALLIE and its programs have reached tens of millions of people through its youth philanthropy messages featured in NPR’s *Weekend Edition*, *The New York Times*, *Time For Kids*, and *CNN News*

### **HAL’S ANGELS Youth Action Division**

*Hal’s Angels* is inspired by the kindness and activism of Hallie Geier, who died at age eleven in 2004 after being accidentally struck by an SUV. Hallie wrote “People be nice to each other. Love, Hallie” on the first page of her kindergarten notebook. Hallie created more than a thousand essays, stories, and poems, including *To Do Something Special*, which speak of the ways she wanted to help our world. She volunteered at soup kitchens and senior centers and saved \$398 in her dresser drawer to help children in sub-Saharan Africa.

LOVE, HALLIE’s youth action division *Hal’s Angels* brings together young people to research, volunteer, contribute, and raise funds for a variety of causes they select.

- *Hal’s Angels* members:
  - Treat other people with kindness and respect.
  - Plan and coordinate philanthropic activities through service or fundraising
  - Share with and inspire others to “do something special”
- If you are under 18 years-old learn how you can get involved with *Hal’s Angels*. Upon parental approval, send your name, e-mail address, and street address (along with your parent’s contact information) to [info@lovehallie.org](mailto:info@lovehallie.org) or write to LOVE, HALLIE, 375 Greenwich Street, New York, NY

## **FACT SHEET**

### **ABOUT THE LOVE, HALLIE FOUNDATION**

The LOVE, HALLIE Foundation is a 501 (c)(3), non-profit organization founded by the friends and family of Hallie Geier, who died at age eleven in 2004. LOVE HALLIE - and its youth-led action division *Hal's Angels* - promotes youth philanthropy, helping young people take action to improve their communities and the world through researching, volunteering for, contributing to and raising funds for causes they care about.

LOVE, HALLIE uses educational programs, publications, and special events inspired by Hallie's impassioned writing and art – to motivate young people and their families to pursue these goals, at home, in schools, and in community-based organizations – as an antidote to the pervasive violence, anger, rudeness, and injustice in our society.

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It's very easy to join *Hal's Angels*! For more information or to start your own chapter email [info@lovehallie.org](mailto:info@lovehallie.org)

### **ABOUT CHILDREN OF AGAPE**

*Hal's Angels* has collaborated in their youth philanthropy work with a group of young South African singers whose orphanage – the *Agape Child Care Center* – burned down in 2005. LOVE, HALLIE has organized five trips by groups of the *Children of Agape* to America during which they lived with the Geier family and encouraged young people to take action to improve their communities and the world. The *Children of Agape* raised funds to help other children as well as to rebuild their home.

To find out more about the *Children of Agape*, visit [www.lovehallie.org](http://www.lovehallie.org). To order the *Children of Agape's* inspiring CD Thina Simunye: We are Together, visit <http://cdbaby.com/cd/childrenofagape>

### **ABOUT VETO THE 'SQUITO**

LOVE, HALLIE's *Veto the 'Squito* campaign to fight malaria provides young people with a compelling opportunity to get involved in philanthropy. One million children a year die from this completely preventable disease that is spread by mosquitoes, and each ten dollars raised by a young person through *Veto the 'Squito* provides an insecticide-treated bed net that will protect a family for up to five years. *Veto the 'Squito* is reaching millions of young people, and tens of thousands of them have joined the fight thanks in part to an article that ran in Scholastic's *Time for Kids* magazine in 2006.

To find out more or to join the *Veto the Squito S.W.A.T. T.E.A.M.*, visit [www.vetothequito.org](http://www.vetothequito.org) or write to Veto the Squito, c/o LOVE, HALLIE, 375 Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10013.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Since its founding in 2004, LOVE, HALLIE has:

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- Reached more than 25 million people worldwide with its message of kindness and positive action, through the LOVE, HALLIE website, special events, publications, and extensive media coverage.
- Built a volunteer team of 200 people.
- Published two inspirational volumes of Hallie's writings, "Fierce Wonderings" and "African Poems."

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

LOVE, HALLIE Foundation

375 Greenwich Street

New York, NY 10013

[www.lovehallie.org](http://www.lovehallie.org)

## Hallie Geier Biography

Hallie Cassandra Geier is the inspiration for the LOVE HALLIE Foundation. Daughter of Ted Geier and Sofia Landon Geier, Hallie was an 11 year-old girl who died in May 2004 after being accidentally struck by an SUV near her home in Sunnyside, Queens.

Although Hallie's death, like the death of any child, was a profound tragedy for her family and friends, public reaction to her death was extraordinary. As reflected in extensive news coverage in the New York papers, the "back story" on Hallie struck a chord with New Yorkers. Hallie was a talented, funny, and fiercely determined young lady who was emerging as a writer, actress, and singer even before her 12th birthday. She was passionate about everything she did and was dedicated to making the world a better place. As reported in the news accounts of her death, particularly in a series of stories in the New York Daily News, Hallie was, on her own initiative, saving all her extra cash to help children with HIV/AIDS in Africa — an issue to which she was alerted through her school.

In going through Hallie's notebooks, which reveal a fertile mind eager to engage the world around her, her family came upon this simple inscription: "People -- be nice to each other. Love, Hallie." Other writings in her notebooks expand on that theme with remarkable maturity. Hallie was the chief peacemaker in her class and someone who rarely had a bad word for anyone. The notebooks embody the same positive spirit, as Hallie expounded -- sometimes ferociously, sometimes hilariously -- on her hopes, joys, and anxieties, and on a range of issues reflecting her love and empathy for people, animals, and the natural world.

Hallie's interests, passions, and commitments have inspired the Geier family and a wide range of friends and neighbors to create LOVE, HALLIE. The organization's first initiatives include *Fierce Wonderings, Volume I*, a sample of Hallie's prolific creations, and the special event *Halliestock*, which the Foundation presented to inspire kindness, respect, and positive action to strengthen communities and the world. The first *Halliestock* was declared "Kindness Day" by the New York City Council, attracting more than one thousand people in a fierce rainstorm, including 150 volunteers, 75 performers, ten nonprofit organizations, and 300 donors.

## LOVE, HALLIE Foundation Statistics on Youth Philanthropy

### Youth Volunteerism/Community Service

- 15.5 million youth – or **55%** of youth ages 12 to 18 volunteer their services.
- Youth contribute more than 1.3 billion hours of community service each year.
- The typical youth volunteer contributes 29 hours per year.
- Young people volunteered at twice the rate of adults with 55 percent of young people volunteering, compared with only 29 percent of adults.
- **Older youths are currently more involved with volunteerism than younger aged youths:**
  - High school students are more likely to volunteer than Junior High Students – 58% compared to 49%.
  - High school students are more likely to be regular volunteers than Junior High Students – 24% and 15%.

Source: Youth Helping America:  
(<http://www.cde.state.co.us/servicelearning/downloads/YouthHelpingAmerica.pdf>)

### Youth Engagement

- 64% of teenagers who volunteer do so primarily through a religious organization, a school-based group, or a youth leadership organization such as 4-H or Scouts.
  - 34% of these teens report that a religious organization was the main reason they volunteer.
  - 18% report that school-based groups were their main reason for volunteering.
  - 12% cite youth leadership organizations.

Source: Youth Helping America:  
(<http://www.cde.state.co.us/servicelearning/downloads/YouthHelpingAmerica.pdf>)

- Only 5% of students say they became involved in their volunteer activity through a school requirement.

Source: Merrill Associates: *Engaging Youth Volunteers*  
(<http://www.merrillassociates.com/topic/2006/02/engaging-youth-volunteers/>)

- **Teens were nearly four times more likely to volunteer if they were asked to volunteer than if not asked.**
  - 93% of teens who reported being asked to volunteer did.
  - Out of the 49% of those who were not asked to volunteer, only 24% reported having volunteered.

- 80% of teens reported volunteering if, as young children they did some volunteer work, were active in religious organizations, or were involved in student govt.
- Youth who have a parent who volunteers regularly are nearly three times more likely to volunteer on a regular basis.
- **Young people today are much more globally aware than previous generations.** They are interested in significant volunteer work that is directly connected to the mission or the cause.
- **Young people like collective action.** They enjoy working collaboratively with all ages.

*Source: America's Teenage Volunteers: Civic Participation Begins Early in Life*  
<http://independentsector.org/programs/research/teenvolun1.pdf>

### **What Youth get out of Volunteering**

- Teens reported:
  - **Doing better in school or improving grades, developing new career goals, and learning about career options.**
  - Learning how to respect others
  - Learning to be helpful and kind
  - Understanding people who are different from themselves
  - Finding opportunities to **develop leadership skills**
  - Becoming more patient
  - Understanding the qualities of good citizenship
  - **An increased interest in attending college (59%)**
- The reasons teens cited most frequently for volunteering were:
  - Feeling compassion towards people in need
  - **Doing something for a cause that was important to them**
  - Believing that if they helped others, other would help them
- Two out of three respondents cited the following major reasons for being kind and caring:
  - "Society is better off when we care for each other."
  - "It makes me feel good about myself when I care for others."
- From their volunteer experience teens reported that they learned how to solve community problems and also -
  - Understood more about good citizenship
  - Became more aware of programs in their communities
  - Learned more about how government and volunteer organizations work.

*Source: America's Teenage Volunteers: Civic Participation Begins Early in Life*  
<http://independentsector.org/programs/research/teenvolun1.pdf>