

## Second-place winner

### Doing Something about Injustice

When I entered the REAL. LIFE. Exhibit, the suffering of people around the globe was like a faint fog in the back of my mind. I knew it was there, but I couldn't imagine how horrible it was. Besides, how could I, a single eighth grade, do anything to stop that suffering?

As I left, my mind was in a state of shock and disbelief. These horrors I was told of did not seem possible, and yet I knew they were true. Through the shock, I wondered vaguely why I had complained about homework, when children in Africa, Indonesia, and Mexican garbage dumps searched in vain for food and sanitary water. Why had I never really thought about how blessed I am to have parents who love me, when children in Romania were deprived of all affection? People were being enslaved, starved, and dying. I knew that I would have to do something about these injustices.

As I thought about the possible things I could do to help, I realized that many options weren't open for me. If I volunteered, I would miss school. I could donate, but I don't have a lot of money. Therefore, I have prayed. I have prayed that we can help the people in need of love, hope, clean water, and medicine. I have prayed that one day, I'll have a chance to make a bigger difference in the lives of these people. I'm only one person, but I can make a difference!

#### **Kate Ashley Jesse**

Christ the King Parish School (Milwaukie), 8th grade  
Age 14  
Teacher: Francine Buker