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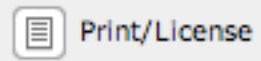


GIVING BACK

Emphasizing the importance of childhood play

PAUL WALDIE

Globe and Mail Update
 Published Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010 6:57PM EST
 Last updated Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010 7:01PM EST

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Keith Reynolds


Playground Builders

When we first profiled Keith Reynolds in 2008, he had just created Playground Builders and built 27 playgrounds for children in the West Bank, Gaza and Iraq. Since then, the organization has completed 46 more playgrounds, including 37 in Afghanistan. Mr. Reynolds, who lives in Whistler, B.C., has made three trips to Afghanistan to oversee the projects, which are all built with local workers. "We have more than 150,000 children in Afghanistan who now have a place to play," he said. Mr. Reynolds stepped down from his full-time duties at a forestry company he co-founded in order to devote all his time to Playground Builders as a volunteer. Like many charities, donations are hard to come by but Mr. Reynolds said his group still manages to attract donors because "we've got a happy story to tell." He added: "If we want to have a peaceful future we've got to start with the children."

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