

ing teens in Half Moon Bay and San Mateo County to join an international Youth Advisory Council for the upcoming book.

Stone Soup for the Teenage World will touch teenagers' hearts and inspire many more of them to discover how they, too, can become a hero by helping others. Statistics show that teens who help others, feel better about themselves. Those who taste the joy and experience the meaningfulness of volunteering are far less likely to drink, do drugs, get pregnant, drop out or act out. They are more motivated to stay in school, get good grades, graduate, go onto college, get jobs, and contribute to the world.

"What we saw among the volunteers who worked together on the Vineyard in the initial leadership training and the subsequent programs for youth was a real shaping of their lives," said Larned. "Some of the kids we worked with are now in major jobs with big agencies and corporation— it not only motivated them in service to their community but helped them focus on the individual potential."

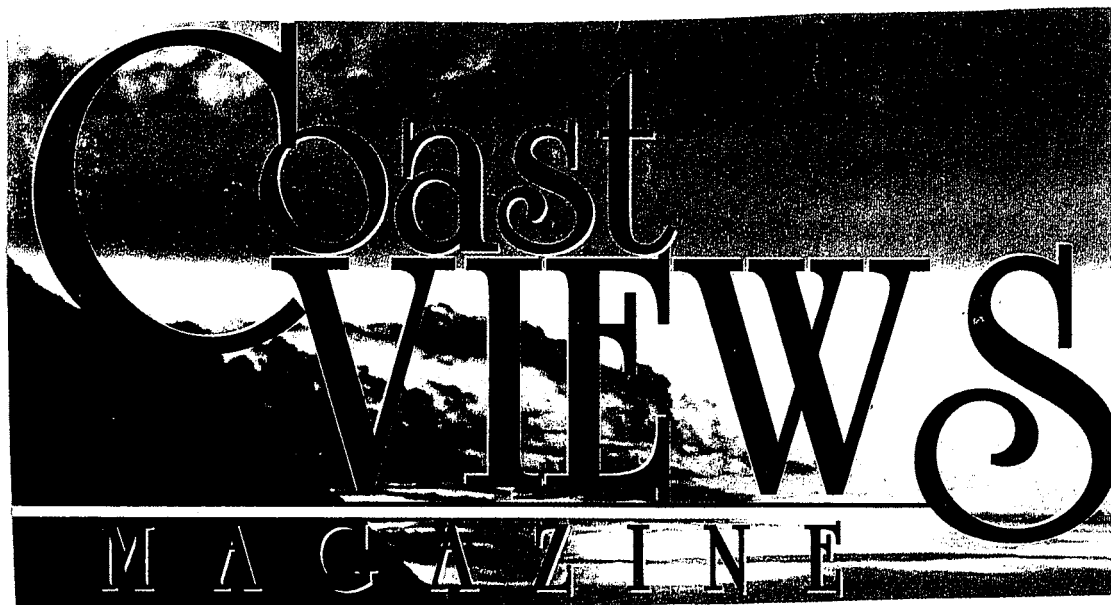
To learn about volunteering for the Stone Soup Leadership Institute's International Youth Advisory Council and for a listing of other summer volunteer opportunities in San Mateo County, please call Jenny Girard at the Volunteer Center of San Mateo at 650-348-4319, or email jgirard@vcsmc.org.

The Ritz Carlton is featuring special hardback copies of the book, *Stone Soup for the World*. Copies can also be purchased on the website: <http://www.soup4world.com>. Publication date for *Stone Soup for the Teenage World* is 2002.

Marianne Larned will be speaking at functions on the Coastside and in San Mateo County throughout the next several months as she opens a West Coast branch of the Stone Soup Leadership Institute. "The spirit of community here has been inspiring," she says. "I'm grateful to all those who have welcomed me so warmly."



Marianne with David Levin and students from KIPP Academy at Barnes & Noble in New York City for the World's Largest Booksigning. In honor of National Volunteer Week, the Stone Soup Foundation invited people featured in the book, *Stone Soup for the World*, to sign books and recruit new volunteers in 40 different communities.



Stone Soup: Building a better world

Stone Soup, A Folktale

There was once a man who had been traveling for a long time. Having run out of food, he was weary and hungry from his journey. When he came upon a small village, he thought, "Maybe someone could share some food."

When the man knocked at the first house, he asked the woman who answered, "Could you spare a bit of food? I've traveled a long way and am very hungry." "I'm sorry, but I have nothing to give you," the woman replied.

So the traveler went to the next door and asked again. The answer was the same. He went from door to door and each time he was turned away.

But then one villager said, "All I have is some water." "Thank you," the traveler said smiling gratefully, "We can make some soup from that water. We can make stone soup."

He asked the man for a cooking pot and started building a small fire. As the water started to boil, a passing villager stopped and asked him what he was doing. "I'm making stone soup," the traveler replied. "Would you like to join me?" The curious villager agreed.

"First, we must add a special stone," said the traveler. "One with magic in it. He reached into his knapsack and carefully unwrapped a special stone he'd been carrying with him for many years. Then he put it in the simmering pot.

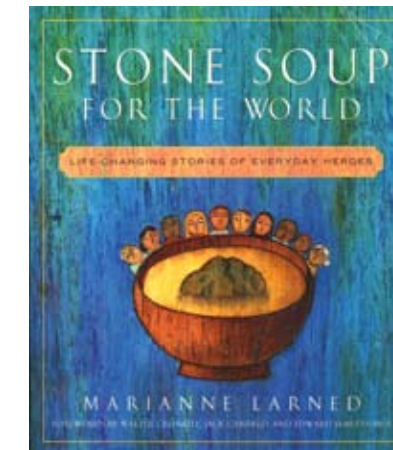
Soon people from the village heard about this strange man who was making soup from a stone. They started gathering around the fire, asking questions. "What does your stone soup taste like?" asked one of the villagers. "Well, it would be better with a few onions," the traveler admitted. "Oh, I have some onions," he replied.

Another villager said, "I could bring a few carrots." Someone else offered, "We still have some potatoes in our garden. I'll go get them."

One by one, each villager brought something to add to the pot. What had started as just some water and a magic stone, had now become a delicious soup, enough to feed the whole village. The traveler and the villagers sat down together to enjoy their feast, and the miracle they'd help to create.



Creating an educated constituency of Americans is the most critical issue of our time. Our country needs people who are prepared to address the challenges facing us and our world. People want to hear about these kinds of ordinary heroes in the book, *Stone Soup for the World*, who overcame obstacles in their lives and are helping to make the world a better place.
Walter Cronkite



My father used to say that one person could make a difference and each of us should try. This book tells the stories of people who have made that difference, and they are an inspiration to us all.

Caroline Kennedy

We all know that we need each other more than ever before in our fast-paced society. Here on the Coastside, we have many role models— people who reinforce healthy values and inspire the rest of us to action to help our community. But for those of us who need a renewed vision of where they can make a difference in the community or a little inspiration to rekindle the human spirit in business, Marianne Larned has a few ideas— and has created a convenient and practical guide.

Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Kindness and Courageous Acts of Service is a book with a mission and vision: to help young people become leaders of the new millennium. More than just a "feel good" book, *Stone Soup* offers a pro-active approach through stories of how one person or group can make a difference. Called a "handbook for humanitarians," it shows us what is working in the world and what it takes to build a healthier

tomorrow. It challenges all people to think what each one of us can do to make the world a better place.

Since its historic launch during National Volunteer Week in 1998, this book has inspired people across the country to get involved in their communities. It has been featured by several Book of the Month Clubs, best-seller lists, Scholastic book fairs, in numerous catalogues, and Starbucks Coffee chose it as their spiritual renewal book for 1999.

This is a small book telling big stories of accomplishments of people—ordinary and famous—all over the world who have seen a need and have done what they could to make a difference. It is inspirational reading and gives a person a 'shot-in-the-arm' when feeling discouraged about all that needs to be done in our communities. Chapters include such titles as: What One Person Can Do, Cultural Healing, Community Cooperation, Growing Nationally, Global Village, The Healing Power of Doing Good, and Doing Well By Doing Good.

It tells stories about Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jimmy Carter, and other famous people. But most important-



Stone Soup Leadership Institute, Martha's Vineyard, July 1999.

ly, it shares stories about ordinary people who overcame obstacles and went on to help change the world. Isis Johnson was four years old when she asked her grandmother, "Can we send the chicken we have left to the children in Ethiopia? God didn't mean for them to be hungry." Her grandmother explained that the chicken would spoil before it got there. Isis asked, "Well, are there any

hungry girls and boys in New Orleans?" Her grandmother told her the sad truth that there were. "Then let's send our chicken to them," Isis replied.

Isis went door-to-door asking her neighbors to donate food for hungry children. She and her grandmother drove around town, gathering even more. Isis put a sign in the window of their home asking people to feed the hungry. Their home became a small warehouse of donated food and

supplies. Just before Christmas they told the Salvation Army they would be giving the food away on a Saturday and that first year, four-year-old Isis gave out over 1000 items to hundreds of people. Soon stories about her effort flooded the media and calls of support came from all over New Orleans.

The next year the Salvation Army agreed to distribute and had to send seven men to load the donations into a truck. Each year the contributions grow. Isis, who turned 16 this year, wants to continue helping people when she grows up. "No matter who you are or where you come from, you can make a difference. You don't have to be old to make things better, you only have to care."

A wonderful aspect of the book is the call to action at the end of each story and quotes from famous people. At the end of Isis' story, Aristotle is quoted, "Good habits formed at youth make all the difference." The call to action is, "Organize a food or clothing drive for those in need in your community. If you want to help Isis in her war on hunger, write to her grandmother, Claudette Jones, at the Isis T. Johnson Foundation."

Stone Soup for the World has

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Living Well



Stone Soup Leadership Institute at Cincinnati, November, 1999.

Stone Soup

(Continued from page 9)

attracted the support of some big names: Walter Cronkite and retired General Colin Powell, to name just two. Walter Cronkite wants to leave his legacy for the new millennium by creating an educational television series based on the book. *In Celebration of Heroes*, a powerfully inspiring ten-minute video narrated by Cronkite has been produced by award-winning Galen Films. Cronkite says, "Somewhere on this planet, there well may be someone who has a solution to each of the world's problems... and *Stone Soup for the World* is asking all of us to take that first step. It's a time to roll up our sleeves. It's a time to share our stories and teach our children that they can be heroes. It's time to take action and chart the course for our future."

Retired General Colin Powell, Founding Chairman of America's Promise the Alliance for Youth says, "*Stone Soup for the World* gives you

100 wonderful stories to share with the children in your life. These heartwarming, action-oriented stories will show them a different world—real heroes who had the courage to overcome obstacles in their lives and the determination to work hard and build a better world."

The energy created by *Stone Soup for the World* continues to expand as it takes on new forms with a Leader's Guide and Leadership Institute. Diane Troy, a teacher at St. Francis Xavier Prep School in Hyannis, Massachusetts wrote a letter to Larned suggesting she and Larned collaborate on a teacher's guide to accompany the book for use in schools. And thus the Stone Soup for the World educational curriculum was created. It is being used in 120 communities around the country including after school programs, AmeriCorps, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Conservation Corps, YMCAs, as well as many schools and commu-

nity organizations.

Leadership and action were the sole focus of the Stone Soup Leadership Training Program, held in July 1999 on Martha's Vineyard. From all over the country and from all walks of life people came to learn how to make their world better for the young people in their lives. Educators, business people, former gang members turned community leaders, students and guidance counselors all answered the call. Then, for two inspiring and information-packed days, they worked side-by-side putting plans into practice. What started out as a group of strangers who shared little more than a similar interest in service, ended with a community of dedicated, impassioned and prepared leaders who were ready to take their schools and communities off of a diet of apathy and cynicism and nourish them with action and hope—the main ingredients in any good batch of Stone Soup.

Anyone searching for tools to build healthier communities and ways to involve young people in the process are finding a program that is a hands-on curriculum for service learning. Marianne explains, "The Leader's Guide is designed to help people use the book to teach young people values and character-building lessons, develop their critical thinking skills and inspire them towards community action. It is a powerful educational tool offering people 100 stories—one a week for two years—to share with young people. A self-paced, flexible guide, it provides educators step-by-step instructions for enhancing language arts, social studies, citizenship education and community service programs. The Guide offers mentors a framework to teach social skills, provide cultural

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