



Aaron Caldwell, CEO, Good Deeds International, CEO International Institute for Inspiration and Doctor of Creative Industries Candidate

At age 30 with over 8 years of higher education from the USA, Australia and The People's Republic of Czech, coupled with a loving and supportive family, mixed with travels, teaching and volunteering in over 20 countries ranging from the Caribbean to the Mediterranean Aaron sees his reality in a very specific way:

"I'm here to make the world more beautiful, if I wasn't nothing would make sense..."

In March of 2005, Aaron was nominated by Good Deeds International's (GDI) Board of Directors to serve as CEO. As Founder and Director Aaron has developed a non-profit organization whose purpose is to move children from slavery to education and to inspire youth around the world to support this quest.

GDI's mission is to break the cycle of trans-generational child labor practices in developing countries through a range of educational and sustainable development strategies. To learn more visit: www.GoodDeedsInternational.org

In addition to GDI, Aaron is currently establishing another international nonprofit. The International Institute for Inspiration (III) (website coming soon) promotes dialogue on social justice issues through civic engagement, particularly by engaging in daring educational-based projects which impact the broader international community in a positive way. Check out Aaron's latest project via the Institute at www.AmericansApologizeForBush.com

Not only does Aaron demonstrate modern leadership ethics as a non-profit social entrepreneur and Director, he also has a vast and eclectic academic background.

Currently Aaron is a Doctor of Creative Industries Candidate at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. Through his studies Aaron is developing expertise in project management and creative innovation within various aspects of the non-profit industry, human rights discourse and international action research. Prior to commencing his doctorate, Aaron completed 3.5 years of international postgraduate study.

Aaron has a Masters of Arts from the Department of Education at Western Michigan University. The specific focus of his degree in *Socio-Cultural Studies and Educational Thought* was in leadership and Third World development and child labor. During his time at Western Michigan, he was invited to serve as a teaching assistant at Charles University in Prague.

He also worked as a research assistant for the Political Science Department and as the graduate assistant for the Office of Study Abroad. Additionally, Aaron worked for Kalamazoo County Community Mental Health as a self-determination specialist for young men with learning disabilities.

In June of 2006, Aaron has virtually completed his second Masters in International Relations from Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Aaron undertook the MA program on a prestigious presidential scholarship. The emphasis of this degree in child rights, child labor, child trafficking and globalization. Aaron also has a BA in Mass Communications and Marketing from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado.

Aaron is the recipient of numerous leadership and volunteer awards for service to various communities such as the Americorps Scholar Program. He is also a presenter and Chair at international conferences such as Childhoods 2005 on child labor issues in Oslo, Norway and Rapping '98 on the topic of "How Shall We Respond To The Dreams Of Our Youth?" in Colorado, USA.

In a recent keynote address at World Leadership Day in Sydney, he focused his discussion on, *Can one person truly influence positive global change?* Aaron escaped from abstraction and notions of theoretical leadership. Instead, he shared the realities and challenges he faces as a Generation Xer. He does so in the context of establishing two international nonprofits amidst the right of passage he grapples with daily -- as a white male in the international community in a world where people are tired of power-hungry, Euro-Western males. By approaching the leadership discussion in this light he attempts to unveil his authentic voice in a tangible way.

Presently Aaron is spearheading a major service-learning initiative for Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. In his first semester as a doctorate student, he secured three grants for program development. Service-learning seeks to unite QUT staff and students with local and international non-profit organisations as well as local businesses in voluntary, reflection-based sL partnerships directly linked to university curriculum and QUT activities. Guess whom the first non-profit partnership is with!

To kick-off the program, Aaron and the CI Faculty will invite 15 QUT students to participate in a collaborative, human rights/social justice and humanitarian project. There are two parts to the project. Part I engages students in local volunteer work with Good Deeds International which is guided by sL methodologies. This involves procuring and customising a 'social justice ride' – an old truck that will be transformed into a multi-media display vehicle which students will use to visit local businesses and gather goods and materials for disadvantaged communities in developing countries. Aaron will then lead students abroad for the second portion of the program.

Aaron's deep passion is for education and social change. He envisions students and youth as the next millennium's key multipliers in terms of creating an equitable world. His present efforts are on child-trafficking reduction. He is developing a program to educate former child slaves to become Good Deeds Warriors against the criminality and poverty that enflames child labor practice, particularly the buying and selling of children.