Brief Introduction:
Our club, Downingtown STEM UNICEF, was founded in August of 2020 by Michelle Hong and Shannon Shih. The club is managed by a 7-member officer team and a teacher advisor: Noella Idem (VP), Caci Ramiscal (VP), Jonathan Luu (treasurer), Abhi Verma (treasurer), Mehek Lakhani (secretary), Ria Rege (secretary), Troy Ramiscal (communications officer), and Mrs. Feehery (teacher advisor). Our club meets around 2-3 times per month over zoom during the advisory periods. We organize events centered around each month’s official UNICEF theme and push them out to our fellow UNICEF members. Since its founding, the club has now attracted over 50 members.

Our main motivation for wanting to start a UNICEF Club at our school was to bring awareness and learn about issues outside of our community here in Downingtown. The officer team of UNICEF Club are all very passionate about bringing awareness and aid to children who are at a disadvantage, and we hope that little by little our club can bring major impacts and aid to those who need it the most. UNICEF’s motto of ‘For every child’ deeply resonates with us as we here at the Downingtown STEM Academy are given lots of opportunities to expand on our potential, and we strive to give the same opportunities to children around the globe.

UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children’s rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

Each month, UNICEF has a different theme and we hope to bring some insight onto the important themes of this month in the following information brought to you by our officer team.

Female Empowerment
by Noella Idem & Ria Rege
Female empowerment is a prominent cause in today’s day and age as women and girls bring even more innovation, creativity, and ideas to impact the world in all aspects. We must begin to bring females into male dominated careers to catalyze the change for worldwide equality. Female empowerment is important for all girls, specifically in regards to our community. Statistics show that 28% of jobs in stem fields are held by women. More women need to be encouraged to pursue these careers. By empowering women, we can do just this. STEM UNICEF seeks to empower girls in our community through our newsletters, discussions, and activities regarding our monthly themes.

Gender Equality
by Mehek Lakhani & Troy Ramiscal
The idea of gender equality, as stated by UNICEF, is to ensure “equal rights and opportunities for girls and boys help all children fulfill their potential.” UNICEF believes in spreading awareness about the importance of gender equality because of its presence—or lack thereof—in the everyday lives of children, who are watching and learning from what they see around them. Gender equality also relates to the inequities of LGBT-education. Systemic issues of a patriarchal society reinforce the stigmatization of this marginalized group, inhibiting access to resources that would ensure better health, relationships, and workplace culture. Even in the most developed countries, these issues lead to systemic inequalities in the ratio of men to women in various careers and work forces.

Black History Month
by Jonathan Liu & Abhi Verma
Black History month is a period of time dedicated to celebrate the accomplishments and feats achieved by several historical and contemporary figures making a societal change towards racial equality. As a community, it is a great opportunity to learn and understand Black heritage and culture. STEM UNICEF has teamed up with STEM’s Black Student Union to celebrate and highlight the upcoming, talented Hollywood actress Marsai Martin. STEM UNIFEC has created unique infographics on this incredible star to highlight her achievements, accolades and rise to Hollywood.
STEM UNICEF the mission

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February’s UNICEF Theme

During the month of February, UNICEF will be embracing the ideas of gender equality and female empowerment.

As fundraisers are currently on hold due to COVID, the UNICEF Club has set up a GoFundMe page which allows for direct donations to be made from you to UNICEF under our club's name. Any amount, large or small, would be greatly appreciated and all you need to do is scan the QR code, select ‘Downingtown STEM UNICEF Club’ as the team, and follow the steps below!

JOIN US! During Advisory Club Days!!

Thank you so much!
- Downingtown STEM UNICEF Club

Group Code: 5FJ9-CB56-2ZR95