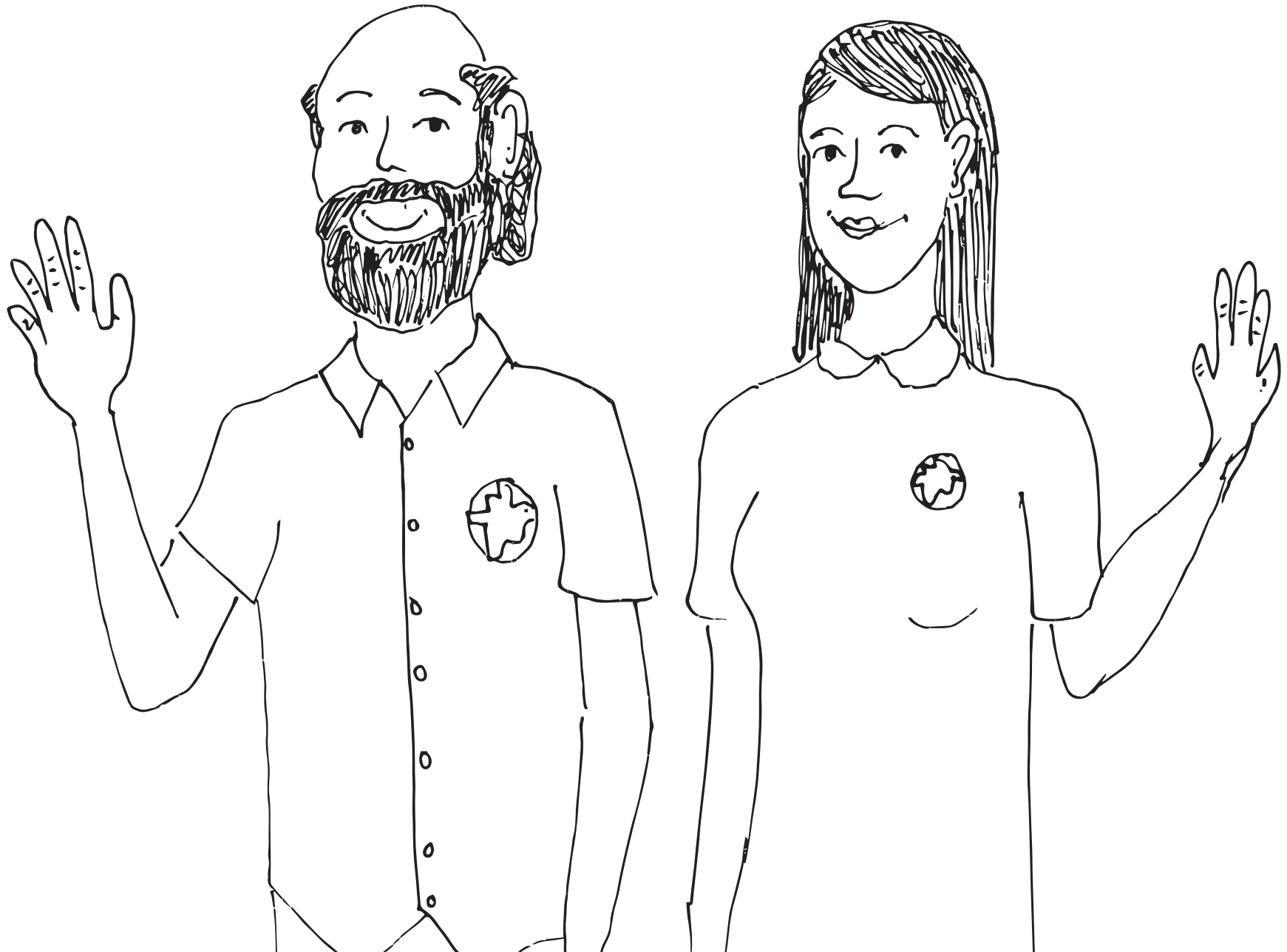


FRED & MINH



# KIDS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

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## Story card #1

In the early 1980s, Fred and Minh (*pronounced ming*) Kauffman were serving with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Cambodia, then known as Kampuchea (*pronounced com-poo chia*).

Former leader Pol Pot's rule had just ended. He had hurt many people. The village where Mr. and Mrs. Kauffman were working was recovering from the difficult times during Pol Pot's rule.



# **KIDS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**

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## **Story card #2**

The villagers needed supplies, especially school supplies.

The children in the village were eager to learn and the adults wanted to help them. But sadly, there were no school supplies for the kids to use!

FRED

MINH

1  
KAMPUCHEA

BERT  
LOBE ↷

2  
AKRON, PA



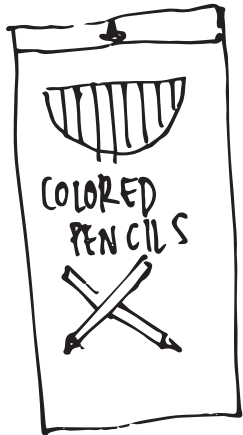
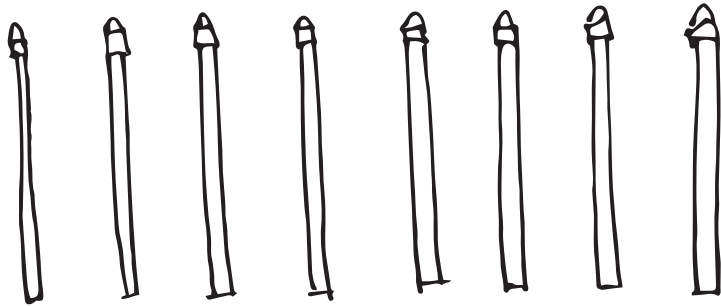
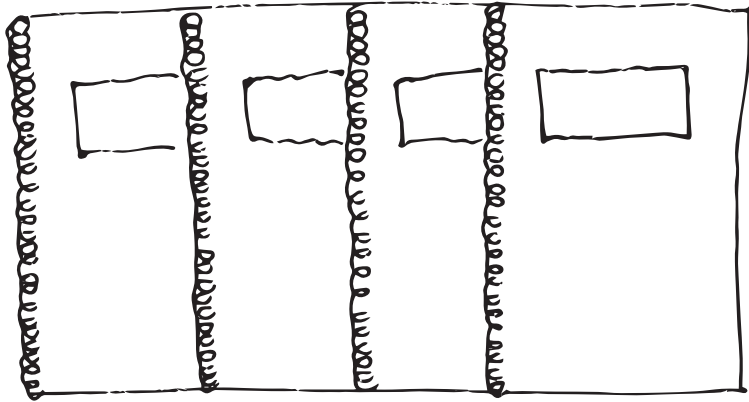
# **KIDS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**

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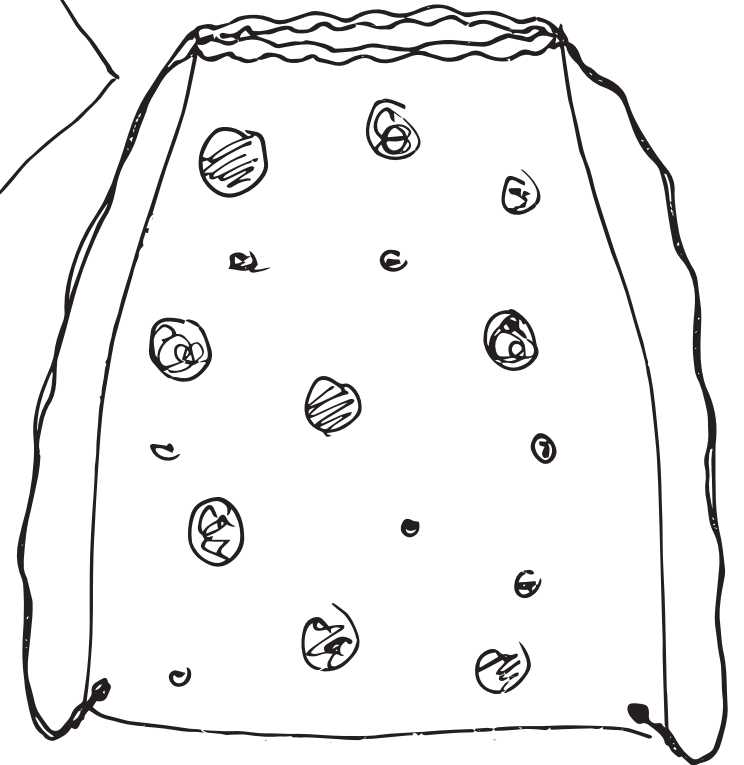
## **Story card #3**

Mr. and Mrs. Kauffman wanted to help the Kampucheans.

So, they contacted Bert Lobe, who worked for MCC in Akron, Pennsylvania, as secretary for Asia. He could help them get school kits in Kampuchea!



SCHOOL  
KITS



# **KIDS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**

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## **Story card #4**

Before Christmas of 1981, Mr. Lobe spoke at Linville Hill Mennonite School (LHMS) in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where he talked about the Kampuchean students' need for school supplies. He asked the students at LHMS to make school kits for Kampuchean students, and they willingly agreed.

The children worked hard and collected items so that they could assemble the kits as their charitable Christmas project. Children and adults in other states and other countries made school kits, too.





# **KIDS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**

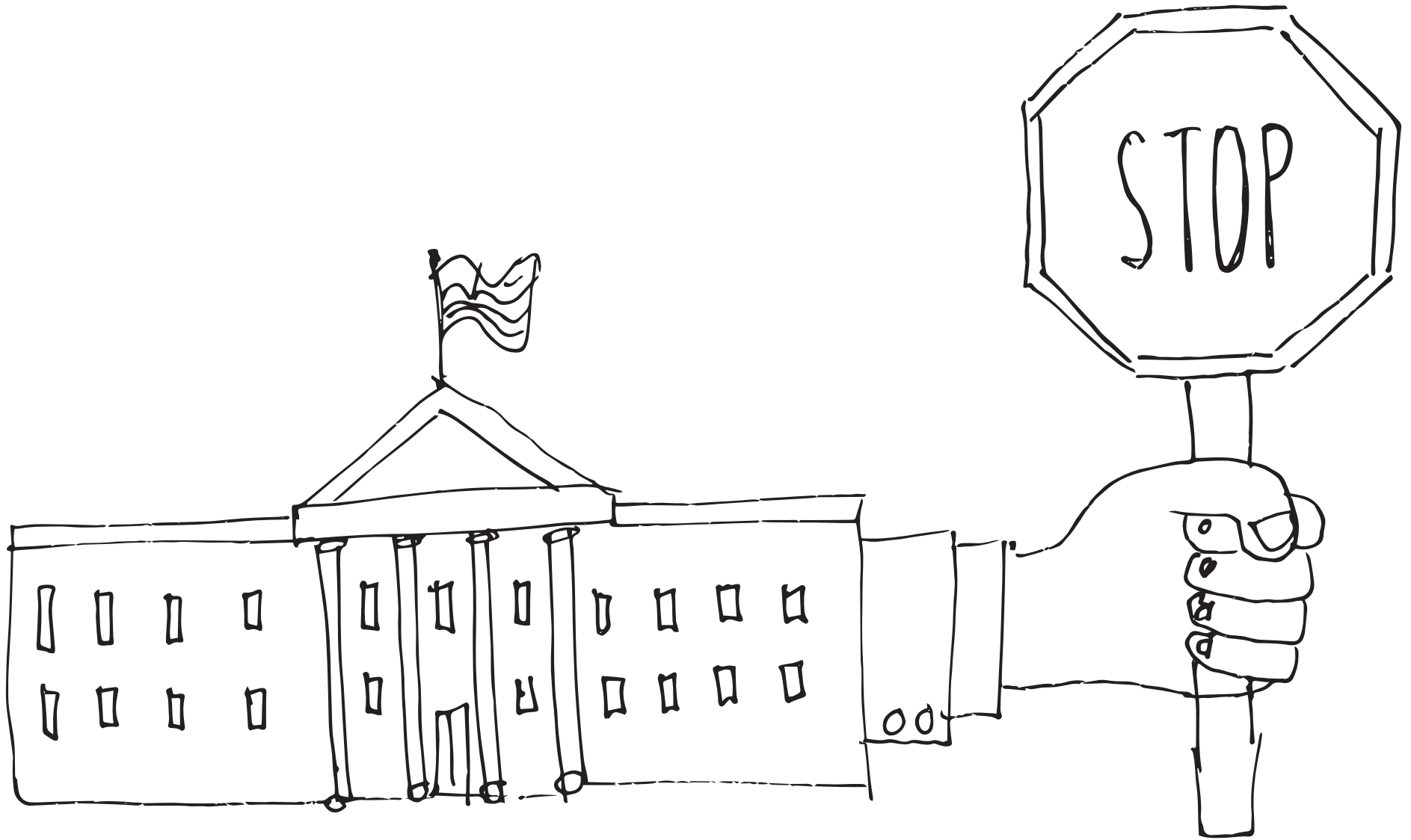
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## **Story card #5**

After Christmas, Mr. Lobe came back to LHMS to speak a second time, using a slide projector to show pictures of the civil war and how it had hurt the people of Kampuchea. The kits the kids had made would help the villagers in Kampuchea a lot.

With the children motivated by the slides, excitement filled the school room. The school kits they had made were going to help the people the kids had seen on the slides!

But there was a catch...



# **KIDS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**

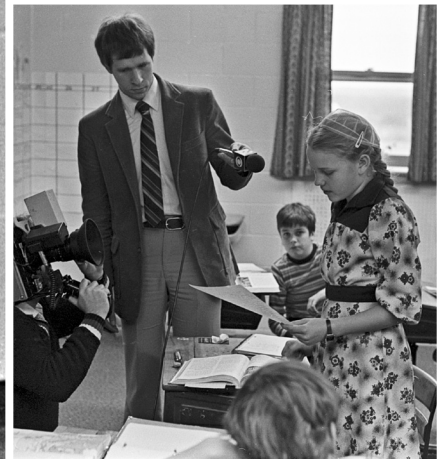
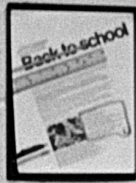
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## **Story card #6**

The U.S. and Vietnam had fought a long war. The war was over, but many people had died, and both countries were still angry.

The U.S. refused to help Vietnam in any way. Kampuchea and Vietnam were close friends, so the U.S. would not help Kampuchea either. And they didn't want MCC to help! So the U.S. government said that the school kits that the LMHS kids and other people so lovingly put together could not be sent to Kampuchea.

# 103 SCHOOL KITS FOR KAMPUCHEA



Dear President Reagan,

the poor people. In the Bible it says, Be ye kind one to another. Be kind don't be mean to the poor people. Please let us give the kits.

From  
Juanita  
Stoltzfus

Dear President Reagan  
Will you leave us send  
the kits? Mr hobe shawe

Love Nathan  
Smucker.

Dear President Reagan  
Please let us send  
the kits, PLEASE  
FROM  
Matthew Howe

# KIDS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

## Story card #7

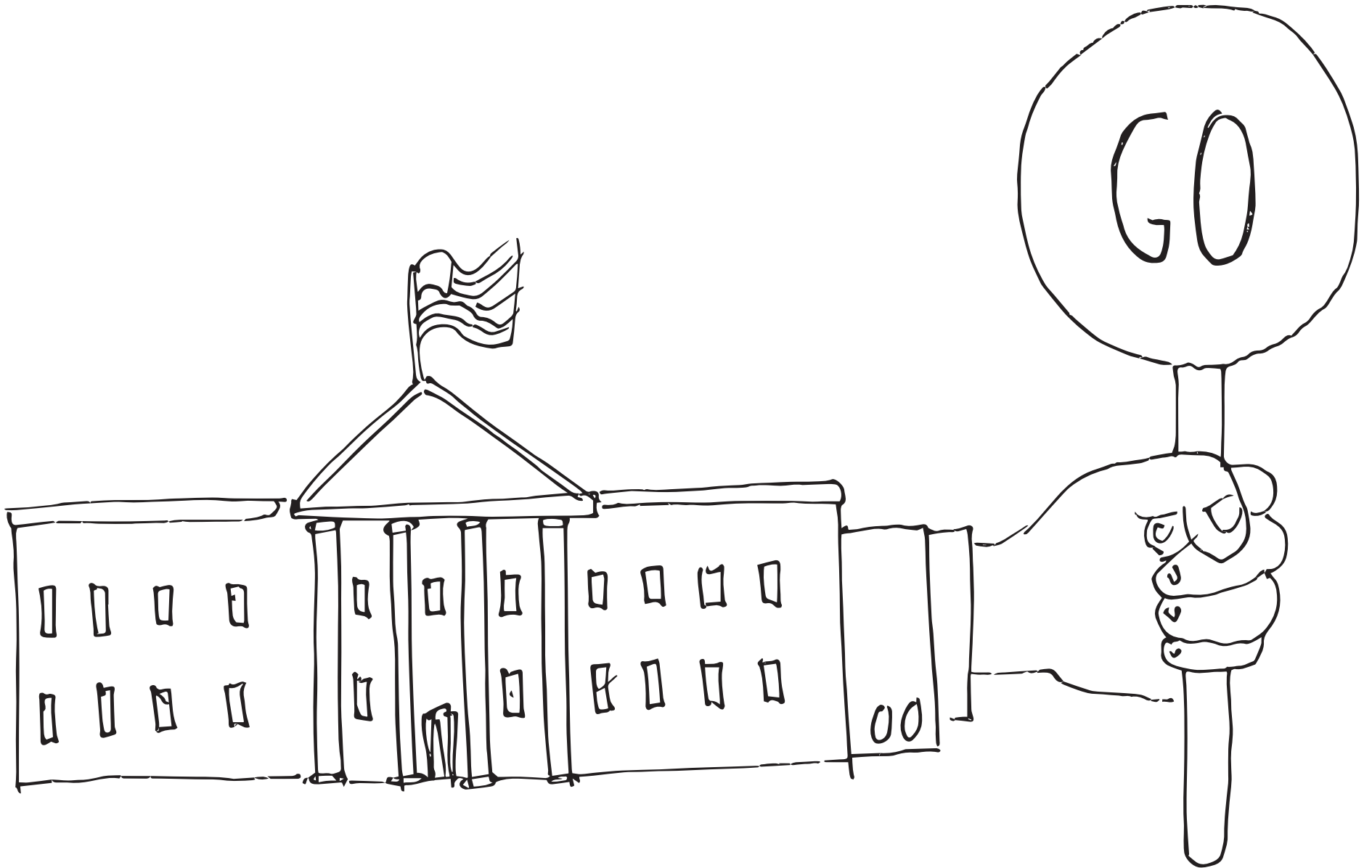
Joycetta Brubaker, a teacher at LHMS, thought it would be a good idea to send letters to the government. She encouraged the students to work on them, so students of all ages started writing letters to then president Ronald Reagan on lined notebook paper.

*“Dear President Reagan, ... In the Bible it says; Be ye kind to one another. Be kind don’t be mean to the poor people. Please let us give the kits. From Juanita Stoltzfus”*

*“Dear President Reagan, Will you leave us send the kits? ... Love, Nathan Smucker”*

*“Dear President Reagon, ... Please let us send the kits. PLEASE. FROM Matthew Howe”*

A local news station covered the letter writing, where they interviewed Ms. Brubaker and had several kids read their letters out loud in front of their classmates.



# **KIDS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**

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## **Story card #8**

The letters reached the White House and in just three months, MCC got the OK to send shipping containers full of 48,000 school kits to Kampuchea. Many adults had talked with government leaders, too, but the children from a small Mennonite school in the rolling hills of Lancaster County had helped make it possible for MCC to be one of the few groups to send aid to Kampuchea.





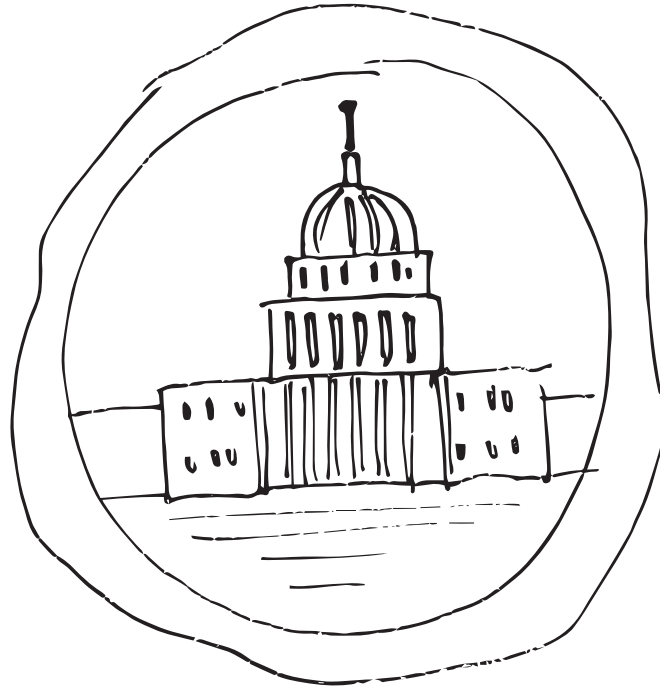
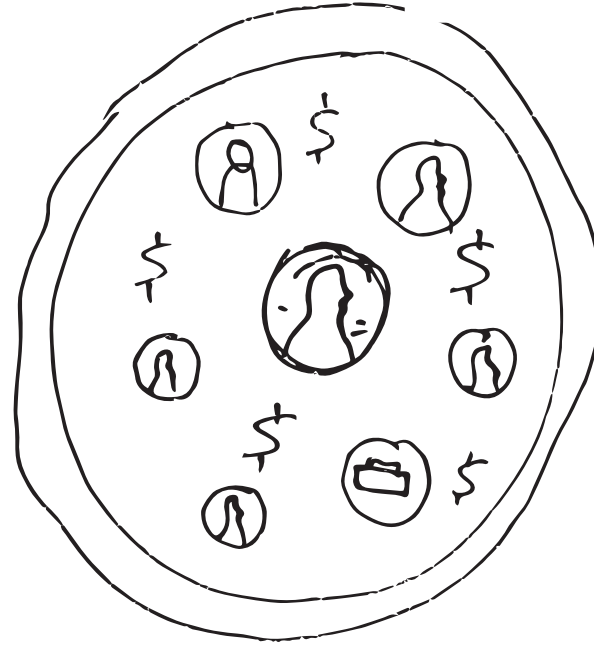
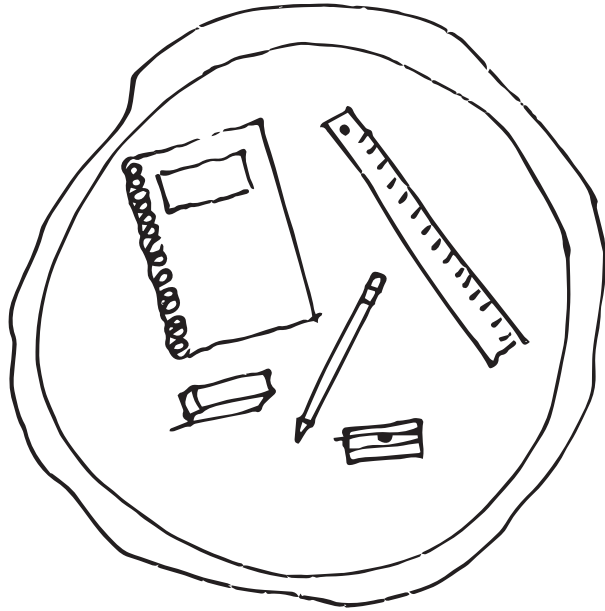
# KIDS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

## Story card #9

When the kits arrived in their village, Mr. and Mrs. Kauffman witnessed a very receptive and thankful group of students who received the kits.

*“As the Headmaster called each class, a boy and girl representative would come forward and bow slightly with their palms together in the traditional Khmer (pronounced Kah-my’) greeting learned from ancient India, with another quick bow and “aa-kun” (thank-you). They would each take an armful of the colorful drawstring bags back to share with their classmates.*

*After the distribution, children ran back and forth, comparing the color of their drawstring bags, their notebooks, their pens... The Headmaster observed one cluster of students, saying to them, ‘these things came from children in America, these materials are good. Now you must study even harder.’” –Fred and Minh Kauffman*



# KIDS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

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## Story card #10

Just like the kids from LHMS in the 1980s, kids can make a difference today! MCC has many ways for kids to get involved. Here are three examples:

### School Kits

Packing school kits is a great way to help people around the world through MCC! Each school kit includes:

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small all metal pencil sharpener, one or two holes

Last year, MCC sent 78,035 school kits to countries including Jordan, Bosnia, Iraq, Ukraine and Canada, just to name a few! More information about school kits and other resources MCC sends can be found here:

[mcc.org/kits](http://mcc.org/kits).

### Advocacy in Washington, D.C.

MCC has an office in Washington, D.C., that is in touch

with MCC staff so they can better advocate for U.S. government policies that make a peaceful and just world. Advocacy involvement can range from meeting with government officials to writing letters. More information about MCC's Washington Office can be found at [mcc.org/washington](http://mcc.org/washington).

### My Coins Count

My Coins Count is another great way to get involved in the work of MCC. Each year, change is collected and adds up to over \$650,000 for MCC's ministries. Gathering coins at churches during Sunday school or during offering time is a great way to help people all around the world! Setting goals, creative ways of gathering coins and unique storage containers are all ways that making a difference in the world can be made fun! Attending relief sales near you and helping count coins is another great way to get involved. For more information and ideas about My Coins Count, visit: [mcc.org/my-coins-count](http://mcc.org/my-coins-count).

*Don't let your age stop you from sharing God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ around the world!*