

2014

Schweitzer Rising Star

HANNAH SKVARLA

CLASS OF 2010

Hannah Skvarla graduated from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising with a degree in Merchandise Marketing and received her bachelor's degree in 2010 from Chapman University's Film & Public Relations Program. After graduation she set out to find ways to "invest her humanity" to make the world a better place!

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

As a member of Human Rights Watch California Committee South's Executive Committee and Women's Rights Committee and as the Co-chair of the Los Angeles Network Steering Committee, Hannah is involved in raising community awareness. She has participated in event planning for the annual Voices for Justice Dinner, Cries from the Heart, and Art with a Heart and has had the opportunity to see Human Rights Watch's work first hand through trips to Burma, Colombia, Thailand and Turkey.



GET INVOLVED!

Hannah writes a blog entitled "Get Involved" for *HelloGiggles* which highlights global causes and helps others find ways to act for change. Recent posts include "Girls, Not Brides: Helping to End Child Marriage" and a review of the documentary film "The Invisible War" which exposes the epidemic of sexual assault in the military.

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN ENGAGEMENT

Hannah has traveled extensively in the developing world. She has visited projects sponsored by Landmine Survivors Network in Vietnam and Cambodia and American Jewish World Services in El Salvador. In Africa she has traveled with Tostan in Senegal, CARE in Uganda, CamFed in Tanzania, Adoption Advocates International in Ethiopia, and a documentary film team in Cameroon.

the little market

In 2013 Hannah and friend Lauren Conrad co-founded The Little Market, combining their shared love of design, interest in world cultures, and passion for improving the lives of women. The Little Market's mission is to build sustainable partnerships with artisans in developing countries, by connecting them with customers through an online marketplace. The Little Market is designed to be a place where a global community can come together to combat poverty, empower communities, and create social justice, assisting women artisans to rise above poverty and support their families by providing a global market for the sale of their fair trade and locally made products.

Partnering with artisans from Bolivia, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, India, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Tunisia, The Little Market strives to find strong women-led community groups with quality handmade products that have the potential to be marketed in the U.S. and beyond. They also partner with U.S.-based fair trade nonprofit Global Goods Partners to identify artisan groups that share their values and meet fair trade, fair wages, and fair workplace standards. Visits by staff and experienced colleagues in international development contribute to their information gathering efforts, and they strive to educate their customers regarding the countries and communities in which their products are made.


www.thelittlemarket.com

The **Schweitzer Rising Star Award** is henceforth to be given annually by Chapman University to an inspirational young Alumna/Alumnus who has taken up Albert Schweitzer's challenge to find a place to invest his or her humanity for the betterment of humankind and the world. Hannah Skvarla has been selected as the very first recipient of this award in recognition for her inspiring global humanitarian work.