



**Tiffany Smiling**

*Nominated by Jeff Ragan*



## **2020 Brock Prize in Education - Tiffany Smiling**



### **Tiffany Smiling – Nominated by Jeff Ragan**

Tiffany Smiling, a brain cancer survivor, is founder of the With All My Heart Foundation (WAHM). This Tulsa, Oklahoma-based non-profit organization is committed to transforming communities and changing the lives of poverty stricken and orphaned children in Haiti. WAMH restores hope by addressing, alleviating, and abolishing poverty and its oppressive outcomes, including hunger, child abuse, and child slavery. Its unique, holistic approach focuses on educating, equipping, and empowering the entire person, while producing radical lifesaving, and life changing results for thousands. Daily school meals (over 500,000 meals provided), heart-healing curriculum, entrepreneurial chicken

farm, and other professional skills development are a small example of the immense impact this whole person focused educational approach is having on thousands of children in Haiti and will continue to have to change the world for the better.



## **A Note from Tiffany:**

Dear Jurors of the Brock International Prize in Education :

I, along with the board of directors of the With All My Heart Foundation have served in Haiti to provide care and educate the most vulnerable children living in poverty. Our organization's goal is to establish a foundation for children to have a successful future and break the poverty cycle that they were born into. Together, we have worked with community leaders and government officials through extensive research to better understand the differences in educational needs for children living in impoverished countries verse the standard americanized traditional education. In an effort to make a long lasting, global impact through education in the lives of children around the world, the With All My Heart Foundation's school, farm, and heart healing curriculum was established.

To better understand the global needs of children around the world through education, the With All My Heart Foundation and I have spent years in the slums of Guatemala, Uganda, Brazil, and Haiti discovering that 80% of the world lives in poverty and the needs for educating the next generation in these countries look drastically different than traditional educational experiences.

Unlike an American educational system focused on the subjects of math, reading, writing, and science, for the 80% of children living in poverty, a prosperous future requires an education system adapted to their society and meets the needs of their economy. To fully understand the effect that the condition of poverty has on young children, it is essential to understand that poverty is the root of many other global issues. Both poverty and education need to be addressed for in order for a child to be whole. The fact is children living in poverty are:

- Dying from Hunger (**Over 1,000 children die every day in Haiti due to Hunger**)
- Prone to human trafficking, abandonment and/or abuse (**over 1 billion children in the world experienced sexual, emotional, or physical abuse**)
- Living in environments of unemployment - (**66% of Haiti's labor force are unemployed**)

The With All My Heart Foundation's school, sustainable feeding program, rescue home for orphans, and heart healing curriculum are tackling the poverty crises through educating children to rise out of their "poverty mentality" and develop the skills that they need to create jobs and become leaders that change their economy.

Hope School and Chicken Farm are providing an education and feeding over 1,000 students from grades Pre K - 8th. 100% of the students in the school are living in extreme poverty conditions, which is less than \$2.50 a day for their family. Due to their level of poverty, the children are prone to die of Hunger, turn to human

trafficking, or repeat the poverty cycle because of the lack of job opportunities in their country. Through our model of holistic care for children, we are able to create a solution to transform children living in poverty by teaching them how to create their own jobs, grow food to feed their families, and heal the broken pieces of their stories to be a mature and healthy adults.

Our work in impoverished countries is fully educating and transforming the lives of young children by equipping them to grow their local economy and be the leaders that their country needs for a lasting change. We have created a model that can be implemented in different countries around the world and end poverty in the villages where we work.

With All My Heart,

Tiffany Smiling

Founder of the With All My Heart Foundation

## Letter of Recommendation for Tiffany Smiling

Dear Distinguished Brock Prize Jury Member,

I have the incredibly distinct honor of nominating Tiffany Smiling for the Brock Prize in Education. Tiffany is an educator, entrepreneur, and world-class example of how to create meaningful, sustainable, and scalable impact for whoever she is serving.

I had the good fortune to meet her 6 years ago at an event benefitting St. Jude's Children's Hospital. We were both helping volunteer and struck up a convo that arrived on her work she was doing to help orphan children in various third-world countries. As someone with a heart for helping we connected, built a friendship, and next thing I know I'm committing myself and our entire business team to take a trip with her the following summer to stay and serve in an orphan home in rural Haiti.

It wasn't until a friend at the same event told me later that she was not a volunteer, but was the speaker earlier in the morning prior to me arriving. She wasn't a regular speaker either, but someone who had personal experience with St. Jude's... as a patient. She was a survivor of a long and arduous battle with brain cancer starting at age 10. For 6 years, she was robbed of the opportunity of those critical and precious middle and high-school years. Experiencing pain and suffering that most of us can't imagine. Yet through that experience her and her family had hope. Hope and family are powerful forces.

I believe Tiffany fighting for her life has her uniquely equipped and committed to fight for the lives of others facing life or death so personally. She knows the hurt, hardships, and heart-break but also is a living testament to hope and getting to the other side to live a changed and better life. She wants all people to experience this.

The fight that Tiffany and her organization, The With All My Heart Foundation, are now undertaking is the root cause of so many evil, destructive, and ugly outcomes including few as: the orphan crisis, child trafficking, and world hunger. The root problem she is attacking with all her heart is poverty.

Worldwide poverty is inarguably the greatest problem to solve. Few data points on poverty and related symptoms:

- almost 3 billion people live on less than \$2.50/day. At least 80% live on less than \$10/day.
- children represent roughly 1/3 of world's population but account for almost half of all people living in extreme poverty (UNICEF)
- estimated 153 million children worldwide are orphans (UNICEF)
- More than 1 million children worldwide will become victims of child trafficking. Most because they're unsupervised (ex: orphan) or unmet physical needs (hunger)
- Nearly 50% of all deaths in children under the age of 5 can be attributed to undernutrition.
- About 3 million young lives are lost annually to undernutrition (UNICEF)

Even those fortunate ones to survive the startling statistics still can't learn and thrive because they may experience physical and mental damage due to malnourishment or their family can't even afford to send them to school. As countries like Haiti don't have a free public school system which just widens the gap and strengthens the oppressive cycle.

The only opportunity a precious child has to break the cycle is through education. But a standard approach to a deeply-rooted, globally burdensome problem will not work. We must ask, think, and approach in different and better ways to get different and better results.

The question is: how do we educate in a unique and transformative way that allows the next generation to rise above poverty?

As a business owner I get a lot of requests, inquiries, and interest in supporting various causes and organizations. I've met a lot of great people doing great things but Tiffany Smiling and WAMH are in a league of their own. A few unique reasons that separate her and her work include: a systemic root focus (vs. symptoms), cultural adaptability, training & equipping the primary influencers (community leaders, teachers, parents, pastors), measurable results with positive ROI, and a holistic personal approach. Taking a deeper view on the holistic approach you'll find that all parts and needs – physical, mental, spiritual, emotional - of the human person is thought about and addressed to better build up the child.

There 4-piece model to wholeness includes:

- 1) FAMILY – rescuing children off the street and providing them with a family where they feel and know are loved. Creating family atmosphere in school.
- 2) FEED – feed, clothe, help treat illness and any other physical need
- 3) HEAL – understand and bring healing to wounds and internal needs
- 4) EDUCATE – teach and equip to rise above poverty and prosper on own.

Within education it's particularly unique because focus on:

- 1) How to develop skill sets that set apart so can prosper on own
- 2) How to create own job, career, business

Traditional education alone in a country with no jobs or economy will not work. Must teach them how to be entrepreneurial and value adding with the resources and skills they have.

One excellent example of this unique approach creating wide and deep impact is the school's entrepreneurial farm. Some of the farms benefits include:

- Creating jobs for families to work and feed their families
  - o Farmers in field, cooks peeling and preparing eggs, distribution/brokers in market selling
- Feeds 1,000 school children daily. For many this is their only daily meal
- Only private school in Haiti feeding protein daily. This provides critical amino acids that help proper physical and mental development
- \$ generated helps pay for orphan children's physical needs and teachers pay
- Affordable food provides for hungry local residents

For the past 5 years, I've personally seen the tremendous growth, impact, and life giving energy to a depressed and impoverished area and people. The real problem of attacking and overcoming extreme poverty is being fought, and taught, in a meaningful way. The results and stories of success are astounding. One story that is personally inspiring is my Haitian friend Mackinson. He is one of the students whose started his own translating business and is thriving on his own. Many more I hope to follow in his footsteps!

Hope is alive in this part of Haiti! The Hope House Haiti school in partnership with WAMH and Tiffany Smiling is changing lives for thousands of Haitians and re-writing what the present and future can look like in all their lives.

I strongly believe that Tiffany is an ideal choice and would be an excellent ambassador to represent the spirit and values of the Brock Prize. The global impact, universal accessibility, proven results, and contribution to education is changing lives for the better. With your support and vote she can continue to live out her call and fight to end poverty for all in Haiti and around the world.

I look forward to meeting you in person and enjoying this great event together!

Jeff Ragan

Founder/CEO, KiZE Concepts Inc.

Fellow Brock Prize of Education Juror