



SARA-ELIZABETH@ITSNOTWHOIAM.COM

# It's Not Who I Am

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I was nominated by Gabe O'Neill from Kids are Heroes for an International Peace Summit called '...' (which is the international recognized Morse Code for 'Peace').

Myself, along with other teens from more than 28 countries, were selected to take part in this summit, which is held in New York City by the We Are Family Foundation (WAFF) begin-

ning in March 2011.

WAFF was designed to recognize and support the efforts of Global Teen Leaders (GTLs) all around the world who are actively working on projects to promote a more peaceful environment.

At the Just Peace Summit, we will learn how to better raise awareness for our individual outreaches and goals. Once the summit is complete, each of us will have a

mentor to work with for one year to help us organize our projects and events.

I have already heard from so many of the other GTLs. Some of their projects include Health Information, Education and Peace, Youth Issues, Literacy, and more. I can't wait to meet with them and to learn how to extend my outreach and theirs.

## 2010 A Recap - Sara-Elizabeth

As we reach a new year, I look back on all we've accomplished with great joy. So much has happened on our path to educating and helping others that we need a recap of 2010.

- January—walk was featured on DoSomething.org.
- February-March—began planning Sara's Walk and 5k Sprint for Epilepsy and a new project called Sara's Walk for Epilepsy— A Local Walk With a National Impact with the Epilepsy Foundation of America.
- April— Sara's Walk for Epilepsy exceeds 1200 members on facebook.
- May— Congressman Maurice Hinchey has agreed to join us at the Walk in June
- June— The sixth annual Sara's Walk for Epilepsy was held and Congressman Maurice Hinchey presented me with the Congressional Award. Sara's Walk reaches \$60,000 towards educating others on what epilepsy is.
- July— attended a renegades game with Epilepsy Lifelinks and volunteered at a day camp near my home for children in my community.
- August—worked at the Hudson Valley Ribfest as a volunteer to raise money for epilepsy and established the It's Not Who I Am Fund as part of the Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley.
- November— Participated in the "Get Seizure Smart" campaign for Epilepsy Awareness Month, Received the Youth in Philanthropy Award for the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and received a Proclamation from Senator John Bonacic.

To come in 2011: Plans are already underway for the 7th annual Sara's Walk and 5k Sprint for Epilepsy to be held in June. We've also begun planning a fall event for epilepsy awareness to take place in the month of November (Epilepsy Awareness Month). I will also be attending the Just Peace Summit coming up this March with Three Dot Dash. Have a safe New Year and I wish everyone a bright and productive 2011.



**Q. Is epilepsy ever contagious?**

**A. No, epilepsy is never contagious. You cannot catch epilepsy from someone else and nobody can catch it from you.**

Monthly Quote: "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." - William James