

How Can I Help? Make Your Mark!

DES MOINES, IOWA, UNITED STATES, February 11, 2015 /EINPresswire.com/ -- There's nothing like travel to broaden one's horizons. When planning a journey, the most important thing you bring on your travels isn't your Louis Vuitton bag or your camera, your money belt or your bottled water. But before your departure, make sure that you're aware of what you need to bring along. Josh Duden would say that if you want to blend into the geography through which your journey takes you, the most important item on your itinerary is to travel with open eyes. That's not something you can put on a shopping list, but it just might be what makes your journey memorable.

Duden embarked on his travels determined not to play the part of an ignorant traveler; he would not bring his pre-conceived perceptions to parts of the world that are rooted in traditions different from his own. He knew that travel would be enlightening. He found out that it was also life-changing. That meant that when he encountered children in Egypt and Turkey who were victims of war, poverty, and hunger, he witnessed not only the plight of the refugee, but also recognized the bounty



of his own life that required him to notice, to care, and to make a difference. He wanted to help, but he makes it clear that 21st century aid is very different from the disdainful, imperialist assistance for which the 19th century was known. "We are not rescuing anyone. We are seeking to provide the support through mutual-selection, to be able to thoroughly and successfully provide the fundamental right to education as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights outlines," says Duden.

Duden's company, Make Your Mark, is based upon a simple but powerful premise: [How can I help?](#) The company defines its role as a provider of financial and resource-based support for schools in need. But each school is a different entity with different needs. Make Your Mark's partnership with Belize is engaged in helping that country's schools build a new foundation, provide technology and books for a library, and pay teachers a fair wage. Teachers at Belize's San Mateo are currently handwriting the course materials for their 440 students. A portion of the \$75,000 that's being sought in crowdfunding support will be used to help solve these problems. Other countries will seek resources

for other needs.

If you want to help children move forward in pursuit of the educational goals that will advance their lives, you can support Make Your Mark's [Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign](#), which runs through March 3. Purchasing backpacks lets you follow through on your commitment to make the world a better place for the children who will inherit it. The backpack is designed to be functional, yet stylish. A perfect bag for students or young professionals. A portion of every backpack that's purchased can help to build a foundation



for a school, provide books in the school's language of choice, or even help to train local teachers. "I chose a backpack to be the focal point of this journey because of what it represents. It's the ultimate symbol of education," Duden says.

Duden, and his MyM team, chose the backpack as both a symbol and a tool. What could be more emblematic of progress than a backpack, with a design that's inherently functional? "We do not believe in changing a landscape against the requests of the people, but at the requests of the schools and environments themselves," Duden says. This determination to respect the cultural integrity of the nations which call upon Make your Mark means that the primary purpose is to make the [educational experience better](#). Yes, illiteracy in many places in the world is high, but that's not going to drive Make Your Mark to push learning English. The process begins with a pact to allow humanitarianism and philanthropy to do what they do best, which is to serve where needed. In a global community, education needs to be able to cross borders without impediment. If you agree that education is a fundamental right, you can help provide schooling and educational opportunities for parts of the world that need your support by purchasing an MyM product. MyM helps you to make your mark on not only your life with their backpacks, but the education of children as well.

About Make Your Mark

The strategy of Make Your Mark (www.buymym.com) is to provide financial and resource-based support for schools in need, whether it's books for teaching, technology to enhance the educational environment, or a new facility or foundation for the school. The company's format is to partner with the schools and their cultural diversity, providing the fundamental right to education as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights outlines.

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