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is a 7th grader at Solon Middle School. He loves music and plays the piano and violin. He also sings in the Cleveland Orchestra Children’s Choir. Arjun hopes to use his skill building models and making various contraptions and crazy inventions to become an inventor or engineer.

Let me begin by saying that I am a regular middle school boy who has never experienced discrimination of any sort. I have a comfortable life with a loving family and friends. I write about another kind of hate, a more common kind. This kind of hate is called indifference.

Discrimination is distinctly perceived by society, but indifference permeates every household undetected. Many people are poor and hungry and some have not eaten for days....they need money...who is going to help them? People like you and me sit in our comfortable homes not caring about the people that do not have that privilege. This is called indifference, which in my opinion is the most prevalent kind of hate. As Nobel laureate, writer, and holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel once said “The opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference”. As a modern society, we have become more and more self-centered and indifferent.

Even though indifference is powerful, it is not invincible. We can defeat indifference if we just put one tiny ounce of consideration to those less fortunate than us. I remember the very summer I conquered my indifference like it was yesterday. Four years ago I saved all of my pocket money and monetary gifts to buy toys for myself. One day, as I brought in the mail for my parents, something got my attention. A letter from ‘Harvest for Hunger’ stared me in the face. I suddenly felt as if I was obliged to donate my money that I had worked so hard on saving. I felt like toys did not matter anymore. I donated two hundred dollars to Harvest for Hunger. I did not regret my benevolent decision at all. In fact, my initiative has inspired my family to donate each and every year since. So far we have donated over two thousand dollars or equivalent of eight thousand meals!

We must aspire to live by Mahatma Gandhi’s principle that “we must be the change we want to see in the world”. The power to convert indifference into action lies within us. If each of us performed an act of kindness within our means and societies and nations followed suit, the hate called indifference would be a thing of the past and humanity would be restored back to the future.