



NEWS

THIS EARTH DAY PLANT A TREE FOR HUMANE EDUCATION

March 15, 2011, 2:17PM MT

By Janine Fleri, Best Friends Network volunteer

Kelly Overton of People Protecting Animals and Their Habitats (PPATH) discusses some upcoming projects.

Network Charities organization [People Protecting Animals and Their Habitats \(PPATH\)](#) teach the value of compassion for the Earth and those we share it with

"Treating the vulnerable with compassion" is the driving force behind PPATH, a New York based volunteer-run nonprofit headed by animal welfare expert Kelly Overton. Kelly, a long time New York resident has devoted his life to helping humans and animals in under-served communities and abusive environments. The latest campaign headed by Kelly and the folks at PPATH is the One Kid, One Tree, One World initiative where a donation of just \$2.00 will give a child in a developing country a tree to plant. The gifted trees may be saplings or more mature plants, and are all ensured to be compatible with their local environments.



The program is designed to have both long- and short-term benefits; the hands-on nature of tree planting provides the children with a valuable sense of purpose and contribution while brightening the future of their ecosystem.

"The tree project is a direct result of spending almost the entire past year on the Gulf Coast and trying to help those affected by the oil spill," Kelly explains of the ongoing project. "Never have I personally felt so helpless and frustrated. I decided to try and plant trees faster than others can kill them. Trees lead to healthy air, healthy water, healthy people and homes for animals. Obviously I alone can't plant trees that quickly – but maybe by getting kids all over the world to do it then someday we are planting/growing and not destroying."

Kelly plans to return to New York headquarters and continue his efforts in humane education both state-side and abroad. On the horizon is a plan to create humane education lesson plans (each designed to comply with regional standards) and make them available to educators online at no cost. While [humane education is a requirement in New York schools](#), its practice is rarely enforced; PPATH aims to make this an easy and enjoyable requirement to fulfill. When asked about the connection between animals and children Kelly explains:

"We can help more animals by helping children learn early to respect nature, respect all things vulnerable (including animals) and grasp that as nature goes, so go humans. As these children grow up – and hold a reverence for animals and their habitats fewer animals suffer and need assistance. Eco/Humane education is an investment that benefits people, animals, flora – the ecosystem. I believe giving a child a chance to interact in a positive way with their ecosystem is critical – I don't want the next generation growing up feeling as powerless over the direction of the planet as the past few have. Today's 7-year-old will be 37 in 2041. We all (animals, people, water, trees, ecosystem) need these kids to know they can choose to live in a world that is healthy and humane."

- To learn more and get involved please visit the PPATH home page at www.ppath.org.

Best Friends Network Charities is a free program for 501(c)(3) rescue groups and shelters that are working towards a time of No More Homeless Pets. Program members are offered special opportunities including fundraising and adoption events, grants, workshops, webinars, resources, and volunteer recruitment through our database of animal lovers. To learn more and apply, [click here](#).

Want to help? Volunteer for a Network Charities in your community! Visit our [Volunteer Center](#) and click "Local Opportunities: Network Charities" located under "Outreach."

Images courtesy of PPATH Inc.



[Login to Post a Comment](#)

