



[Website](#) [Project Finder](#) [Talent Finder](#) [Resources](#) [News](#)

September 30, 2015

Greetings!

Our class has a very special organization, ClassACT, which was born at our 40th reunion and has already made an impact. ClassACT both works to support nonprofit efforts that classmates are involved with, and comes up with its own initiatives aimed at social change and based on causes that our class cares about.

You can check out ClassACT in the group email that was sent out back in January, below, but there have been interesting developments since then. One example: they connected classmate, Steve Milliken, a retired DC judge with a passion for social justice, to classmate, Rick Weil, a sociology prof in New Orleans who gives disadvantaged kids a leg up through music skills and homework help - resulting in the JusticeAID concert in NOLA Oct. 17 supporting 2 important social justice orgs (you should come!) and creating a chance for the Roots of Music marching band to open the festivities at the House of Blues. (Details on these and other projects on the website <http://www.classacthr73.org/>.)

ClassACT is supporting the White Pony Express, a northern CA-area food and clothing distribution program which through the efforts of classmate, Emily Karakashian, just connected to the San Francisco Harvard Club to organize a work day co-sponsored by the club and ClassACT. And a classmate who has long been allied with an Early College Awareness program was inspired to investigate the chances of replicating food distribution practices in other areas.

ClassACT is also hard at work developing a fellowship program with the Harvard Kennedy School in honor of our classmate Benazir Bhutto. This Fellowship will advance the ability of candidates from predominantly Islamic countries to serve their home countries with courage, skill and wisdom.

I encourage you to delve into what ClassACT is doing further and participate in whatever way you can. Inclusion of more members of our class and more diversity is essential to the success and continued growth of ClassACT-so please join in.

Best,
Donna Brown



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