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## Cars of the future?

City council decided this week to let low-speed electric vehicles on main roads. But some warn the dangers outweigh the benefits.

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## Small but formidable

Young brothers wearing T-shirts saying "I'm Little But I Can Make a Big Difference!" walk to raise money for starving children in Asia and Africa.

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THE RICHMOND NEWS

## IslandLife

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### CHARITY

## They may be little, but they can make a big difference

BY MICHELLE HOPKINS  
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Young brothers will join their parents in a walk to raise money for starving kids

Smiling shyly and staying close to mom Salima Jaffer, brothers Keyaan, four and one-year-old Mikyle aren't fully aware they are helping starving children halfway around the world.

Sporting T-shirts that read *I'm Little But I Can Make a Big Difference!* these two adorable Richmond boys are raising money to help fight abject poverty in Africa and Asia. This Sunday, they, along with mom and dad Rahim, are taking part in the 25th Annual World Partnership Walk at Lumbermen's Arch in Stanley Park.

"We are trying to teach the boys to help those less fortunate than them and the walk is the perfect venue for this lesson," says Rahim. "We want them to realize and understand how lucky we are and not take for granted all the privileges that we have."

Keyaan is an old hand at this, having taken part in the walk since he was six months old.

"Keyaan was one of the first participants of the Tots and Tykes Challenge program which started in 2005," says Rahim.

When asked if he knows why he's raising money, Keyaan, more interested in the chalkboard, looks up with big brown eyes, shrugs and says: "To help kids have food and go to school."

Last year, as a family, the Jaffers' raise a little more than \$3,000.

"This year, it's been a little tougher," she says. "However, this year Keyaan is fundraising on his own, asking grandparents, relatives and friends."

They have set up a team called the Richmond's Tiny Tots and there are 12 members.

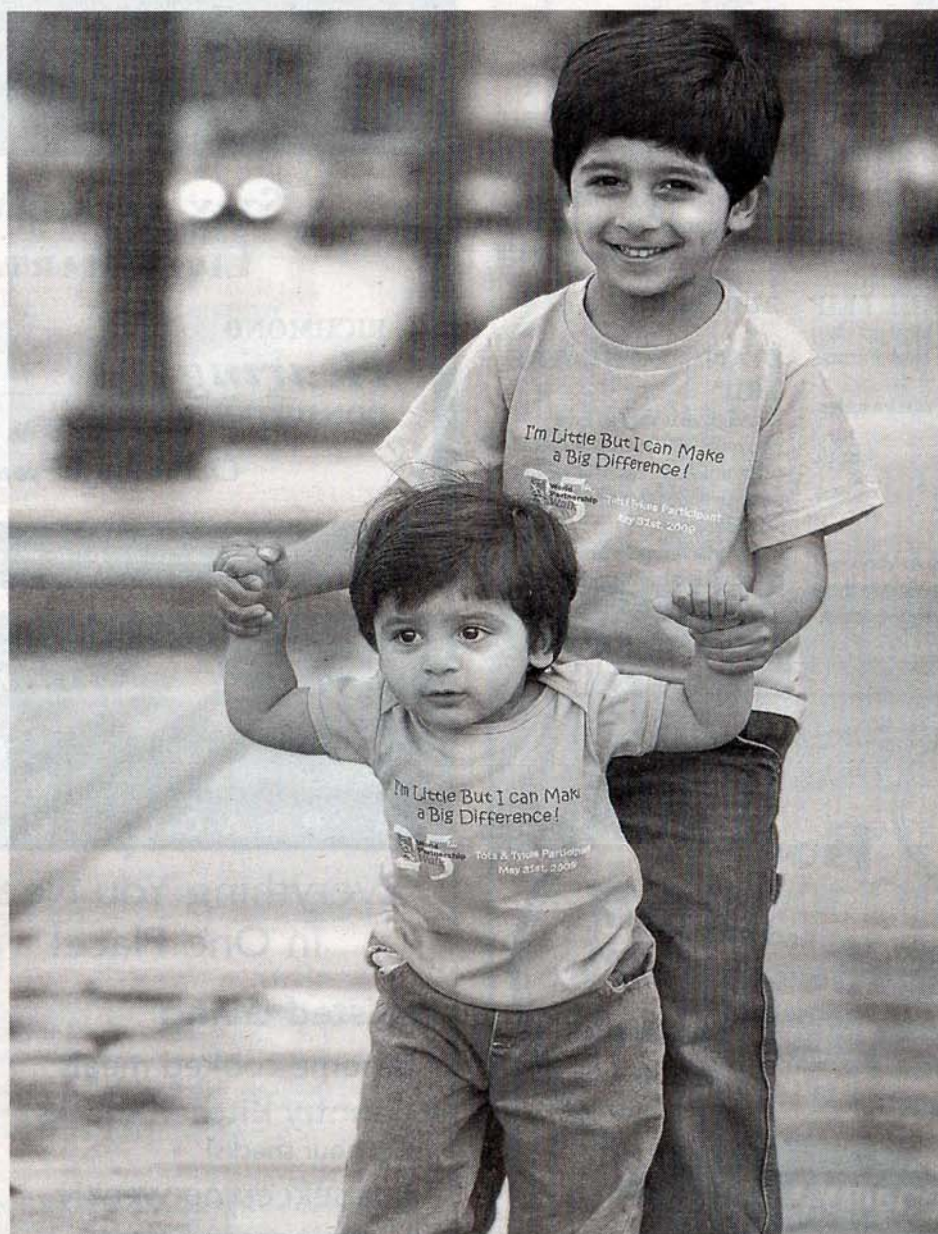
Born in Africa, Salima says she knew about poverty in her birth country, although she never saw it first-hand.

"However, my parents instilled in us the importance of giving back and (taught us) about those less fortunate than us," she says, adding she immigrated to Richmond with her family when she was just a toddler.

The McNair graduate and husband Rahim have been involved with the walk since its inception.

Fittingly, she met her husband while volunteering when both were in their teens.

"It's something that was part of both our lives growing up and it's very much a part of our Indian culture."



Keyaan Jaffer, four, and brother, Mikyle, one, get into practice for the 25th Annual World Partnership Walk for Poverty.

Meanwhile, Salima says it is essential to both of them to encourage humanitarianism in their sons at an early age.

"We want to leave a legacy of global citizenship and maybe one day they will

travel to Africa," says Salima. "Then they can see the good they are doing by raising money to end poverty."

The 25th World Partnership Walk is Canada's largest fundraising event dedi-

cated to increasing awareness and fighting global poverty. It's being held in nine cities across Canada, including Vancouver and Victoria.

Since its inception in 1985, Canadians have raised more than \$45 million.

"Last year alone, 40,000 walkers and donors, along with corporate supporters helped raise close to \$6 million," says Noreen Mohamed, volunteer deputy convenor for the Walk. "That money went to enhance education, improve health care, increase rural incomes and build the capacity of community organizations in Asia and Africa."

"We are so proud to say 100 per cent of all money raised goes directly to programs that we support ... not one cent is spent on administrative costs."

This year, Mohamed adds, they are hoping to attract more than 70,000 participants.

The walk is an initiative of the Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC) — a non-profit international agency that supports social development programs in Asia and Africa by linking Canadians to communities in need. (www.akfc.ca)

"The scale of the poverty challenge we're trying to address are the six million children who die every year from malnutrition before their fifth birthday," says Mohamed. "Add to that the more than 11 million children who die each year from preventable causes like malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia."

Mohamed's co-convenor says in an e-mail: "Through efforts such as the Walk, Canadians can help create opportunities for the poor of the world to reach their full potential as human beings and to live in hope and dignity."

Vancouver's 25th World Partnership Walk is this Sunday, May 31 at Lumbermen's Arch, Stanley Park. Registration begins at 9 a.m., followed by the five km. walk, then opening ceremonies at 11 a.m. and a post-walk barbecue lunch and entertainment at 12:30 p.m.

"There are lots of things for the children to do," says Salima. "There are crafts, face painting, entertainment and lots of food."

"There are so many families and kids, it's packed every year."

For more information, visit [www.world-partnershipwalk.com](http://www.world-partnershipwalk.com) or call 1-800-267-2532.

CHUNG CHOW/RICHMOND NEWS