

From 'My House To the White House'

What did you do on your summer vacation? Chances are you didn't do anything like 11-year-old Zach Bonner did. That's because Zach walked from his house to the White House in Washington, D.C. He walked more than 660 miles this summer to call attention to problems that homeless children face.



While some kids spend their free time playing sports or video games, Zach has always gotten joy from helping others. He started at age 6 by pulling a little red wagon around his neighborhood to collect bottles of water for people harmed by Hurricane Charlie.

When Zach decided that he wanted to do something to draw attention to problems faced by 1.6 million homeless children in America, he started the Little Red Wagon Foundation. He has planned holiday parties for homeless kids. He has put together backpacks for them that contain snacks, games, and items that meet everyday needs. In addition, Zach has planned many events called "24 Hours" where kids who have comfortable homes get an idea of what it's like to be homeless. They do that by living for a day in cardboard boxes with no electricity, cell phones, iPods, or other things that many kids take for granted.

NEWS WORD BOX

attention comfortable
segment capital
"take for granted"

Zach's walk this summer was "small stuff" compared to his plan for next summer. He plans to walk from his house near Tampa, Florida, all the way to Los Angeles, California. He's looking for kids and others to join him for 13-mile segments of his 2,500-mile journey. If you live along that route, maybe you will take part of your summer vacation to join Zach for a few hours. If you can't join him, you will be able to follow his trip on zachtracker.com.

FACTS BEHIND THE NEWS

In 2007, Zach walked from his house in Tampa to Florida's state capital, Tallahassee. In 2008, he walked from Tallahassee to Atlanta, Georgia. His 2009 walk from Atlanta to the White House completed the 1,225-mile journey from his house to the White House.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

What have kids in your community done to help others?
What things in your life do you sometimes "take for granted"?