



PRESS RELEASE:

Recipient of Stone Soup Leadership Institute Young Heroes Award



MASSACHUSETTS -- August 1, 2021: The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is pleased to present its third Young Heroes Award to **26-year-old Benita Davis** in Guyana for her leadership with the River Guardian Project. Other recipients include 16-year-old Autumn Peltier, Water Walker of the Anishinabek Nation in Canada and 24-year-old Vanessa Nakate, founder of Rise Up Africa! for her Green Schools Solar Panel Project in Uganda. **These youth leaders are among the 100 young heroes in the book, Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes.**

A trip to Guyana's interior opened her eyes to the myriad ways gold mining is hurting the country's environment, such as its rivers, lakes and streams, and impacting indigenous communities. The time she spent in the Kaieteur National Park — depending on the river and living alongside indigenous communities — inspired her to educate her compatriots about the importance of protecting freshwater resources. Guyana is called the **“land of many waters,”** and as a River Guardian, Benita is on the front lines of the battle to protect this precious resource.

The Land of Many Waters (Excerpt from the book Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes)

The Young Heroes Award supports young leaders who are on the front lines of climate change - social, economic, environmental justice who are featured in the book, Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes. The Institute's Young Heroes Fund provides financial support, mentors, training, and partnerships for these young leaders to scale their efforts and engage others to help rebuild the planet.

"I am so inspired by Benita's important work. Leveraging education in order to make clean water more accessible will make a big difference in the lives of so many and it is my honour to contribute to this meaningful project."

~Hillary Peterson, Founder, True Botanicals

"I'm grateful to all these extraordinary young people featured in this book who are demanding that their voices be heard," Actor Laura Dern and True Botanicals partner. "May we be inspired by their bravery and ingenuity as they lead the charge for a healthier and more sustainable future."

"I would like to express my heartfelt thank you to the Stone Soup Leadership Institute and Hillary Peterson for your publicity and support which has placed me one step closer to the goal of ensuring the phase-out of mercury and promoting freshwater protection through education in Guyana, South America," says Benita Davis who is the Project Coordinator at Policy Forum Guyana.

"It's an honour to work with these brave young people and write their stories. There is a whole new generation that is filled with an inspiring, energetic determination to awaken all of us and inspire us to build a better world. They deserve our support," says Marianne Larned, author of the bestselling book, Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes and Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes and Founding Director of the Stone Soup Leadership Institute.

About the Stone Soup Leadership Institute

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in 1997 in Massachusetts. For over 20 years, the Institute has recognized those on the front lines of climate change, social justice and economic equity around the world. The Institute's deep commitment to education as the foundation for a more equitable world has led to the development of its educational tools and training; global sustainable leadership summits; and youth and community leadership initiatives.

Contact Info:

Stone Soup Leadership Institute
www.stonesoupleadership.org/book
www.sustainabilityisfun.ne

Policy Forum Guyana
Tel # 227-4908
Email: policyforumgy@gmail.com
FB: [Policy Forum Guyana](#)
Website: <https://www.policyforumgy.org>