

Internationally-known recording artiste, Clay Aiken, became a National Ambassador for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF in November 2004. Mr Aiken (1) __ (hope) to use his Ambassador status to help ensure that children everywhere (2) __ (be) given a chance to go to school.

"Education (3) __ (be) the best investment any society can make for its children," said Charles J. Lyons, president of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. "We chose Clay Aiken based on his compassion and deep commitment to helping children around the world. We (4) __ (be) very pleased to have him join the UNICEF family."

There (5) __ (be) currently 121 million children not in school around the world. Ensuring that all children everywhere are given a chance to go to school is one of UNICEF's aims. UNICEF (6) __ (support) many programmes that train teachers, deliver school supplies, create emergency schools, and use education to help prevent the global spread of AIDS.

"Everyone (7) __ (deserve) the best start in life. UNICEF is trying to provide just that," said Aiken. "Education (8) __ (be) essential to a child's development. I hope that as an Ambassador, I can encourage people to support UNICEF's mission to make education a reality for children throughout the world."