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## **Doing “good” by wearing stylish footwear**

by Sarah Jarrett, Editor

Students all around Riverdale High School are found wearing a simple looking shoe with the word “TOMS” printed on the heel.

TOMS, founded in 2006 by entrepreneur Blake Mycoskie, has turned into a movement to spread compassion to those in need. After spending a vacation in Argentina, Mycoskie was inspired to begin the TOMS movement. On his trip, Mycoskie witnessed impoverished and unhealthy conditions, with children walking around barefoot. After this experience, he set out to provide something so simple to most Americans, yet unattainable for these children: shoes. For each pair of shoes sold, TOMS gives a pair of shoes to a child in need.

TOMS is also responsible for the annual event, One Day Without Shoes. Starting in April 2008, TOMS asked people to go through a single day being barefoot. The event started with enthusiastic college students and has spread to more than 250,000 people going barefoot in the year 2010.

Senior Hayley Royal has participated in One Day Without Shoes. Royal says, “It spreads awareness for the kids without shoes. People think it is disgusting to walk without shoes, yet they are too busy to stop and think about the people with no shoes at all.”

TOMS’ founder Mycoskie is a native of Arlington, TX. Before he started selling TOMS, he competed on the CBS series, “The Amazing Race,” with his sister during the second season of the show.