

Look and listen: First Impressions Biographies

A. NICHOLAS "NICK" VUJICIC was born with tetra-amelia syndrome, a rare disorder characterized by the absence of all four limbs. He grew up in South Africa and graduated from Griffith University at 21 with a Bachelor of Commerce. He is an actor, writer, and motivational speaker, travelling internationally and focusing on teen issues. Having addressed over three million people in over 24 countries on five continents, he speaks to corporate audiences, congregations, and schools. His hobbies include swimming, fishing, and surfing. He is married and has a young boy. Watch a video clip of Vujicic at youtube.com/watch?v=XKTg_INHgpc.

C. EASTON LACHAPELLE is a 17-year old high school student from Mancos, Colorado, who is using free online resources and 3D printers to develop a functional prosthetic arm and hand. His projects earned him an invitation to the White House, and he's now working at NASA on the Robonaut team. His hometown of Mancos is a small town with a population of 1,200. The nearest Radio Shack is 30 minutes away. He likes it, he says, but as a kid found there wasn't much to do except ride a bike, and, in his case, "take apart most everything" that had pieces or a motor. "It was good that I was forced into boredom and trying to figure out something else to do." His hobbies include playing with Lego (he built his first robotic hand with it) and biking. Watch Easton's TEDX talk at youtube.com/watch?v=CfmNXPMjChs

B. BETHANY HAMILTON was born in Hawaii and started surfing when she was just a child. At age 13, an almost-deadly shark attack resulted in her losing her left arm. She was back on her surfboard one month later. Two years after that, she won first place in the Explorer Women's Division of the NSSA National Championships. She wrote about her experience in the 2004 autobiography *Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board*. In April 2011, the feature film *Soul Surfer* was released, based on the book. Her hobbies include cooking and running.

D. KALLIANA "KALLI" KING lives in Cowichan Bay, BC. In 2009, at the age of 8, she came home from school and asked her mother if she could shave her head to raise funds for Muscular Dystrophy. To begin fundraising Kalli wrote the following letter: "Hi, I'm Kalli King. I'm eight years old and I would like to cut off all my hair for Muscular Dystrophy because my friend Adam Sohye has MD and he is in a wheelchair. So I am going to raise money for all of those kids who have MD. I hope I raise a lot of money for those kids in need." Kalli was as good as her word, going to family, friends, teachers, and classmates to raise money. She raised \$14,600 from her small community. Each year she spends her free time thinking of other ways to raise money for this important cause.