



As a parent, you wonder, maybe even worry, about the life your teenager leads online. While social media may fuel your teen's need to comment on idol gossip, follow celebrities and post minute-to-minute status updates, social media also provides many positive benefits for your teen. Here are just a few:

### **Create study groups for school.**

Teens use social media to form study groups and plan group projects. By connecting through social media group members are able to brainstorm ideas, share content, stay organized and keep communication open.

### **Join causes and become advocates.**

Now more than ever, teens are becoming aware of the issues plaguing the world around them and they want to do something about it. Teens are turning to social media to connect with charitable organization and to make their voices and opinions about important issues heard. A great example of this can be seen in the World Vision 30 Hour Famine Facebook group where nearly 1,000 teens are engaging in conversation about global poverty and learning about how they can take action to stop it.

### **Establish a network of professional contacts.**

As teens begin to think about potential career paths it is important for them to build a list of contacts. To do this, more and more teens are using social tools like LinkedIn to establish a

network of professional contacts that can provide them with information and future opportunities that may not have otherwise been available to them.

### **Learn about what local government is doing in their communities.**

Political groups are reaching out to young people like never before through social media. Teens are starting to take an active role in changing the face of local politics by becoming a part of public discourse. By affiliating themselves with a political party and participating on microblogging sites like Twitter, teens are learning about what government is doing (or not doing) in their community.

*Article courtesy of World Vision Canada*

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