



Family Action Network (**FAN**), Evanston High School D202, and Evanston-Skokie D65, in partnership with Caring Outreach by Parents in Evanston (COPE), Evanston Community Foundation (ECF) and Youth Organizations Umbrella (Y.O.U.) present:



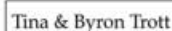
# Radiance of Tomorrow: An Evening with **Ishmael Beah**

Author, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* and *Radiance of Tomorrow: A Novel*  
UNICEF's First Advocate for Children Affected by War  
Founder, Ishmael Beah Foundation

**Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 7:00 PM**  
**Evanston Township High School Auditorium**  
**1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston**

Free and open to the public. CPDUS available.

**INFO: [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)**





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Tuesday, March 18, 2014, Radiance of Tomorrow: An Evening with Ishmael Beah, 7:00 PM, Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, 60201.** Ishmael Beah's book, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* tells the story of his life in Sierra Leone as a child soldier. He relates how, at the age of 12, he fled from attacking rebels, describing how his homeland became unrecognizable through violence. By 13, he had been picked up the government army and under its coercive tactics, including the use of drugs, he found himself capable of committing terrible acts. At 15, Beah was taken to a UNICEF rehabilitation center for child soldiers in Freetown, and when he was 16, the civil war hit Freetown. He fled as a refugee to Guinea and eventually to the United States, where an American family adopted him. Beah is a 2004 graduate of Oberlin College with a degree in political science.

For this first-ever **Family Action Network (FAN)** event at **Evanston Township High School**, Beah will discuss his life and his new book, his first novel, *Radiance of Tomorrow*. In *Radiance of Tomorrow*, he examines postwar life in Sierra Leone through the eyes of two friends who return to their village and try to repair what the civil war has destroyed. The author hopes readers will learn something about the strength of human spirit by reading this book. "We all find joy and radiance and a reason to move on even in the most dire of circumstances. Even in chaos and madness, there's still a beauty that comes from just the vibrancy of another human spirit."

In 2007, Beah was appointed **UNICEF's first Advocate for Children Affected by War**. He is a member of the **Human Rights Watch Children's Rights Advocacy Committee**, an advisory board member at the **Center for the Study of Youth and Political Violence** at the **University of Tennessee, Knoxville**, visiting scholar at the **Center for International Conflict Resolution** at **Columbia University**, visiting **Senior Research Fellow** at the **Center for the Study of Genocide, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights** at **Rutgers University**, cofounder of the **Network of Young People Affected by War**, and president of the **Ishmael Beah Foundation**. His memoir is used in many high school curricula. In a broader sense, his work can be used to facilitate discussion on how control over one's circumstances affects the human spirit, consequences of violence, finding one's purpose in life, family relationships and environment.

Sponsored by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, **Evanston Township High School D202** and **Evanston-Skokie D65**, in partnership with **Caring Outreach by Parents in Evanston (COPE)**, **Evanston Community Foundation (ECF)**, and **Youth Organizations Umbrella (Y.O.U.)**. CPDUs available for education professionals. Free and open to the public. Visit [www.familyactionnetwork.net](http://www.familyactionnetwork.net) for more information. FAN is grateful for the support of its 2013-14 financial sponsors **Compass Health Center**, **Evanston Township High School D202**, **Evanston/Skokie D65**, **New Trier High School D203**, **North Shore Community Bank**, **North Suburban YMCA**, **Northbrook Citizens for Drug and Alcohol Awareness (NCDAA)**, **The Family Institute at Northwestern University**, the **Martin & Mary L. Boyer Foundation**, the **Mammel Foundation**, and **Tina & Byron Trott**, along with our in-kind sponsors **Acclaim Media**, **The Book Stall at Chestnut Court**, and **Turing Group**.



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