**Time for School: 2003 – 2016**

The Stories of Five Extraordinary Children in Five Countries over 12 Years
Fighting Against the Odds for a Basic Education in September on PBS

*The new 90-minute documentary to be featured as part of PBS’ “Spotlight Education” week*

While September marks the return to school for students in the United States, education is still not an option for millions of children in developing countries. *Time for School: 2003 - 2016,* premiering nationwide Thursday, September 15 at 9:00 p.m. ET on PBS (check local listings), puts a human face on this underreported global crisis, spotlighting the 12-year journey of five extraordinary children in five countries as they struggle to get a basic education.

The new 90-minute documentary is part of PBS’ “Spotlight Education,” a week of primetime programming focused on the challenges facing America’s education system.

*Time for School* introduces viewers to Nanavi in Benin; Jefferson in Brazil; Neeraj in India; Joab in Kenya; and Shugufa in Afghanistan and follows them from their first year of school in 2003 to the time of their hoped-for high school graduation. The film, told through the
point of view of the children and their families, presents the contrasting lives of those who were forced to abandon schooling and those who are still following their dreams. It tells a story of what’s at stake when war, abject poverty, or just being a girl stands between a child and the simple promise of a basic education.

This unique 12-year documentary project was inspired by the Millennium Development Goal of “Education for All,” a promise that 189 nations made to the United Nations in 2000, to provide every child around the world with a free primary education by 2015. While there has been progress over the past 15 years, there are still 58 million children out of school around the globe and around 100 million who do not complete primary school – in spite of universal recognition that education is the smartest anti-poverty investment that any country can make.

_Time for School: 2003 - 2016_ is directed and produced by Nina Chaudry. Andrew Fredericks and Nina Chaudry are the writers. Andrew Fredericks is editor. Pamela Hogan is series creator. Pamela Hogan, Tamara Rosenberg and Oren Rudavsky are executive producers. Sally Jo Fifer is executive producer for ITVS. Julie Anderson is executive producer for THIRTEEN. Stephen Segaller is executive in charge for WNET.

_Time for School: 2003 - 2016_ is a co-production of LoudMouse Productions LLC, THIRTEEN Productions LLC for WNET, and Independent Television Service (ITVS).

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About WNET

WNET is America’s flagship PBS station and parent company of THIRTEEN and WLIW21. WNET also operates NJTV, the statewide public media network in New Jersey. Through its broadcast channels, three cable services (KidsThirteen, Create and World) and online streaming sites, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than five million viewers each week. WNET produces and presents such acclaimed PBS series as Nature, Great Performances, American Masters, PBS NewsHour Weekend, Charlie Rose and a range of documentaries, children’s programs, and local news and cultural offerings. WNET’s groundbreaking series for children and young adults include Get the Math, Oh Noah! and Cyberchase as well as Mission US, the award-winning interactive history game. WNET highlights the tri-state’s unique culture and diverse communities through NYC-ARTS, Reel 13, NJTV News with Mary Alice Williams and MetroFocus, the daily multi-platform news magazine focusing on the New York region. In addition, WNET produces online-only programming including the award-winning series about gender identity, First Person, and an intergenerational look at tech and pop culture, The Chatterbox with Kevin and Grandma Lill. In 2015, THIRTEEN launched Passport, an online streaming service which allows members to see new and archival THIRTEEN and PBS programming anytime, anywhere: www.thirteen.org/passport.