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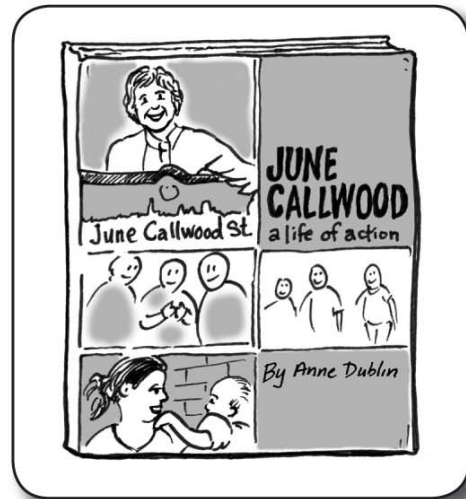
Hear About a Peacemaker: June Callwood

Read aloud or paraphrase:

June Callwood was born in Chatham, Ontario, in 1924, five years before women and girls were considered “persons” under the law! (Girls and women didn’t have the same rights as men and boys.) Even though life in her home was difficult, June was lucky because her grandfather taught her to have faith in her own abilities. June’s grandfather taught her that she was just as bright and wonderful as a boy. In those days, this was unusual!

June began writing stories when she was in school. She became the editor of her school newspaper. After high school, she worked for a small city newspaper, and at 18, moved to Toronto to work for the *Globe and Mail* newspaper. She was working there when she got married, but did not change her name to her husband’s because if she had, she would have lost her job. In those days, the *Globe and Mail* would not hire married women!

When June became a mother, she worked as a freelance writer so that she could stay home. She wrote hundreds of articles, 30 books, and hosted television programs.



A Life of Action, a book about June Callwood

Writers ask questions and look carefully at the world. Some of the things June learned made her want to change the world. She saw that poverty, racism, sexism, violence, and fear were big problems for people. June started, or helped to start, more than 50 organizations to make the world kinder, safer, and more humane. These included a youth hostel, a women’s shelter, a centre for pregnant teenagers, a hospice for people with AIDS, and PEN Canada, an organization that supports people imprisoned for their writing.

June said that if we believe in a cause, take action, and ask others to help, we can make life better. She demonstrated her belief that one act can make big changes; she believed in the power of one.

June received many honours for her work, including the Order of Canada. When she was in her seventies, she learned how to fly a glider aircraft, just for fun.

Invite any comments about the story. Ask: What is it like when someone says “I believe in you”?

