Norman was born on March 25, 1914, 14 miles southwest of Cresco, Iowa, to his parents, Henry and Clara Borlaug.

Young Norman and his cousin Vilmar

Norman’s Humble Beginning:
Norman Borlaug was born on March 25, 1914, 14 miles southwest of Cresco, Iowa, to his parents, Henry and Clara Borlaug.
Family:
Norman was the oldest of three children and had two younger sisters, Palma and Charlotte. Norman’s Norwegian family lived with his father’s parents Nels and Emma Borlaug until he was seven years old.
The Borlaug family had a subsistence farm. Their family grew a garden, milked cows, raised chickens and hogs, and went hunting and trapping for food.
The Borlaug children walked a mile and a half to attend a one-room schoolhouse. One winter Norman walked to school everyday without a winter coat. The school had multiple grades all in the same class, and students had to do chores such as bring wood in for the stove and water in from the creek. The toilet was in a separate building called the outhouse.

“Fill your head now to fill your belly later” – Grandpa Nels
It was not common for youth to attend high school or college, but Norman was encouraged by his family and friends to continue his education after the eighth grade. He attended Cresco High School and later the University of Minnesota.
Norman played many sports growing up. He loved wrestling, football, and baseball. His dream was to someday play second base for the Chicago Cubs. While living in Mexico, he introduced little league baseball to the community.
Norman met his wife, Margaret, at the University of Minnesota. They were married in September of 1937. Norman and Margaret were blessed with two children, Norma Jean and Bill.
Research on Wheat in Mexico:

What is Wheat?

Wheat is a cereal plant that is used to make flour for bread, pasta, and pastries.

He improved the genetics of wheat to produce more grain and be disease resistant.
Places Norman Helped
The Green Revolution

Norman wanted to find a way to fight starvation and his research was the way. They called this period of time the Green Revolution.

1 out of 9 worldwide are starving

(Binnie, 2014)
Feeding the World

- Each person represents 2 million people (2,000,000)
- Norman Borlaug’s research saved a billion people & counting from starvation.
Honors:
Nobel Peace Prize (1970)
Presidential Medal of Freedom (1977)
Congressional Gold Medal of Honor (2007)
One of seven to receive these three awards; the other six are Nelson Mandela, Elie Wiesel, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King Jr, Muhammad Yunus, and Aung San Suu Kyi.
What is the Norman Borlaug Heritage Foundation?
The Norman Borlaug Heritage Foundation is a non-profit corporation with an all-volunteer board. The board is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the Birthplace farm, Boyhood home and farm, and schoolhouse of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug. These facilities are used to educate visitors, the community, and youth in order to inspire them to follow in Norman’s footsteps.

Goal
The Foundation’s immediate goals are centered around funding an endowment for restoration and upkeep of Dr. Borlaug’s Birthplace and Boyhood home and schoolhouse, and the continuation of the Borlaug Education and Outreach Program. Education was extremely important to Dr. Borlaug, and much of the work carried on by the Foundation centers around education.

Contact
If you wish to visit his home farm and schoolhouse, please contact us at nbhf@normanborlaug.org or write to NBHF, PO Box 403, Cresco, IA 52136
How can you fight HUNGER like Norman?

1. Find ways to put surplus food to better use.

**Project Ideas:** Organize a gathering event – collect and donate extra food. Or, help connect sources of extra food with food banks or community kitchens.

2. Organize food drives or fundraisers.

**Project Ideas:** Organize a competition between classes, schools, sports teams, or churches to see who can collect the most food, money, or coupons. Focus on collecting healthy food as well as multicultural food that families in your neighborhood will want to eat. You can also clip coupons to help hungry families stretch their limited grocery budget.

3. Plant or spruce up a school or community garden.

**Project Ideas:** Create a garden at your school or in your neighborhood. You could also help families’ plant individual gardens (or container gardens for those without yards).
4. Volunteer at a local food bank, pantry, shelter, or community kitchen.

**Project Ideas:** Get a group of friends, classmates, or neighbors to volunteer. While food banks and pantries need volunteers every day of the year, think about doing more than the “usual” volunteer jobs. Ask the food bank or pantry if you could bring extra volunteers for one day in order to accomplish more at a time of need. Or, set up an ongoing volunteer program, and get other kids to sign up to volunteer over the summer.

5. Start or support a backpack feeding program.

**Project Idea:** Start a backpack feeding program at your school. Work with administrators at your school to get teachers on board, let families know about the program, gather supplies, collect food, and set up the program.

6. Support and raise awareness of summer feeding programs.

**Project Ideas:** Find a community organization where kids spend time during the summer, like a community center, summer camps, or parks. Then, invite the organization to be a program sponsor or feeding site. Once your site is established, help spread the word to let eligible families know about the summer feeding sites, or help plan fun and educational activities that bring kids to sites.
7. Increase use of SNAP (formerly called food stamps) and/or Free and Reduced-Price School Meals programs.

**Project Ideas:** Figure out how you can help get more kids who are signed up to eat meals at school instead of skipping meals – especially breakfast. Contact your principal to learn more about how your school lets parents know about free and reduced-price school meals, and ask them how you can help get more eligible families signed up. Or, contact your local SNAP office to get a copy of the SNAP sign up form to distribute, or organize a community event where people can come and learn about the program and sign-up.

8. Help teach families about healthy eating and cooking.

**Project Ideas:** Organize a class at a food pantry, shelter, community center, or school to teach kids and parents how to prepare healthy food on a budget.
9. **Raise public awareness of childhood hunger in your community.**

**Project Ideas:** Host an assembly at your school and/or service fair where local nonprofits can share what they do and get students to sign up to volunteer. Create a social media campaign to share facts about childhood hunger and how people can help. Organize a youth essay, video, or art contest focused on the issue of childhood hunger. Film a public service announcement that can be played at your school and shared online. Paint a mural or create another piece of public art to highlight the issue of hunger.

10. **Advocate for policies and programs that will help end childhood hunger in your community.**

**Project Ideas:** Conduct an assessment or mapping of hunger in your community, and organize an advocacy campaign to contact your local elected officials. (Send a letter to the editor, meet with local elected officials, invite them to a service project, or get groups of people to e-mail and call Congress to help protect SNAP.)

(Youth Service America, 2014)

For more information about programs to help fight hunger, please visit the website below:

[http://www.ysa.org/10wayhunger](http://www.ysa.org/10wayhunger)
Thank You!

- Norman Borlaug Heritage Foundation
- 2015 Borlaug-Thomson Intern, Megan Rauen
- University of Minnesota Digital Archives: Biographical Material: [http://umedia.lib.umn.edu/node/176834](http://umedia.lib.umn.edu/node/176834) & [http://umedia.lib.umn.edu/node/177594](http://umedia.lib.umn.edu/node/177594)