Young Inventors:  
Caine Monroy

Caine Monroy needed something to do. So 9-year-old Caine created arcade games with cardboard boxes at his dad’s used-car parts shop in Los Angeles, California.

Nirvan Mullick was Caine’s first customer. Nirvan was so excited by Caine’s creativity and imagination that he asked Caine’s father if he could make a movie about the arcade. Nirvan invited the city of Los Angeles to play Caine’s games. Hundreds of people came, which surprised Caine.

Soon people of all ages began creating games with cardboard and other materials. So many people were excited by Caine’s invention that he and Nirvan created the Imagination Foundation, an organization that encourages and funds creativity in kids. The Imagination Foundation is doing this in several ways.

Caine’s Arcade for Schools is a program that works with teachers and schools to bring hands-on learning to classrooms. Teachers use the film to encourage students to use their imagination to create something. This program also allows teachers to talk with each other about what has worked with their students.

Another program, Imagination Chapters, creates spaces around the world for creative learning. The Imagination Foundation gives money to help pay for meeting places, activities, and supplies.

Finally, The Annual Cardboard Challenge is open to kids of all ages. Held in October each year, schools, families, and other groups around the world host a Challenge event. Each group builds creations with cardboard and other materials. Then everyone gets together to share the projects. In October 2013, 76,936 people participated. Kids from 43 countries built cardboard creations.

Caine Monroy has encouraged millions of people around the world to use their imagination to invent something. Using his imagination helped him change the world.