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Dear Kristin,

We hope you enjoyed the Thanksgiving break. Following the holiday to give thanks comes the whole season with the spirit of giving. Continue to do what you do best-spread peace, joy and cheer around your community.

With the end of the year wrapping up, YV has a lot to highlight- scholarships, contests, and special opportunities brought to you by our partners (MTV, Lemelson and more)- starting with a special initiative taking place right now with @15!



The Best Buy® @15™ Challenge with Youth Venture

[Vote for your favorite cause!](#) Is it the Environment? Education? Arts? Ending Global Poverty? 30 teams are competing for 15 \$10,000 grants to expand the impact of their Venture. Vote today and if you are under 21 you will be automatically entered to \*\*win an MP3 player for you and \$500 for your school or favorite nonprofit.



\*Who should you vote for? Read the 30 Finalists' profiles and vote for your favorite two.

\*How often can you vote? Every 24 hours. Pick a convenient time of day that you are regularly free to go online to cast your vote.

\*When does voting end? The competition concludes on January 9, 2009 so vote every day until then!

Inspired by these 30 finalists and their Ventures? You can start your own project too! Go to [genv.net/en-us/dream\\_it](#) to get started.



Sincerely,  
Youth Venture



## Golden Opportunities

Take advantage of these great grants, programs, and scholarships!  
Putting MDGs Into Action Award



**WORLD SUMMIT  
YOUTH AWARD**

If you are under 30 years old and rely on the web for creating culture, overcoming gender inequality, lack of education, and access to clean water, or to address hunger, poverty, disease and environmental degradation, then you should take part!

The rewards are global recognition within the United Nations, invitations to the WSYA Winners events in Mexico, and networking contacts on a

global scale.

\*Please note that the online platforms don't need to be youth-led so long as the specific project is.

Deadline: December 31, 2008

Website: <http://www.youthaward.org/>

Reader's Digest Foundation: "Make It Matter"  
Contest

Take advantage of this Media Opportunity!

Youth Venture knows you're making a contribution to your community with your Venture as a changemaker. Tell the Reader's Digest Foundation how YV has inspired and supported you to give back, and your Venture's story may be selected as one of ten stories published in Reader's Digest in the new monthly "Make it Matter" column and have a chance to appear on todayshow.com or rd.com. Tell the Reader's Digest <http://www.rd.com/make-your-mark-make-a-difference> -- or email your story to [makeitmatter@rd.com](mailto:makeitmatter@rd.com)!

Deadline: Jan. 1, 2009

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program

Outstanding African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students with low-income backgrounds are eligible for scholarships for an undergraduate college education in any discipline area of interest. Continuing Gates Millennium Scholars may request funding for a graduate degree program in one of the following discipline areas: education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science.

Deadline: January 12, 2009


Website: <http://www.gmsp.org/>

The Dell Scholars Program



**Make It Matter**  
How Are You Giving Back?

**The Gates Millennium Scholars**  
Funded by a Grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



**WE LOOK AT:**

**YOUR** INDIVIDUALITY  
UNIQUE EXPERIENCES IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM  
NEED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
WILLINGNESS TO WORK HARD  
DREAMS

High School Seniors! The Dell Scholars Program is about you, and your determination to succeed. This is a scholarship that looks beyond academic performance and grades. The Dell Scholars Program recognizes academic potential and determination in

students who have a definite need for financial assistance. The funding for each of the 250 Dell Scholars is substantial: \$20,000. See if you meet all the criteria.

Deadline: January 15, 2009

Website: <http://www.dellscholars.org/>

William E. Simon Fellowship for Noble Purpose

The Simon Fellowship is a \$40,000 unrestricted cash grant awarded to a graduating college senior who has demonstrated passion, dedication, a high capacity for self-direction, and originality in pursuit of a goal that will strengthen civil society. In addition, two \$5,000 cash awards are made to two other outstanding students. Examples of how recipients may use the award include actions that can help advance your Venture (i.e.: engage directly in civic life) or even help to make running your Venture your career (i.e.: advance your expertise or fund the ultimate realization of your noble purpose).

Deadline: January 16, 2009

Website: <http://www.isi.org/programs/fellowships/simon.html>

The McKelevey Foundation



## ENTREPRENEURIAL SCHOLARSHIP

APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP

Attention: graduating high school seniors! The McKelvey Foundation is honored to award \$40,000 scholarships to young entrepreneurs nationwide who have started their own businesses or non-profit organizations. Each scholar will be awarded up to \$10,000 per year to attend any four-year college

within the United States. Winners of the Entrepreneurial Scholarships will enjoy being part of a larger entrepreneurial networking community and will be given the opportunity to meet with other scholars during our summer e-Venture program.

Deadline: January 25, 2009

Website: <http://mckelveyfoundation.org/>

Want more information about scholarships, programs, and grants? Many more are listed on [GenV.net](http://GenV.net). Check out the following links: [Opportunities](#) for Venturers and [Grants and Scholarship Opportunities](#) for Venturers.

Do you find yourself dreaming of new product roll-outs and return on investment?

## MTV WANTS YOU!

This month, YV and MTV have three postings that may be of major interest to you.

### MTV Competition

With the world feeling the **HEAT**, it's your time to **SHINE**.

What bright ideas do you have to make this a cooler, **greener** planet?

Youth Venture and MTV are joining forces to help youth around the world take action on the environment with the MTV Switch Dream it. Do it. Challenge.

The 25 most creative project ideas will receive up to \$1,000. Some might even win a free trip to MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and a chance to appear on MTV in an Earth Day 2009 documentary.

This competition is open to both new and established Teams!

Ideas are reviewed at an on-going basis and projects can even be launched before the competition deadline, so don't wait to submit your idea!

Deadline: December 31, 2008

Website: <http://www.mtv-venture.org/>



GETINSPIRED

### MTV Casting Call



MTV is looking for ambitious and passionate Miley fans who are devoting their time to involve their community in making a difference. Whether you are raising money for a charity that is important to you or holding events to make your peers aware of a special cause, MTV wants to hear about it! MTV is doing a special casting that will recognize you for the hard work and generosity you have put forth to making a difference. To apply for this casting please email [trlcasting@mtvstaff.com](mailto:trlcasting@mtvstaff.com) with "making a difference" in the subject line. Include your name, age, phone, city, photos, and your story about making a difference! Must be at least 15 years old.

### MTV Exiled

Live the good life and do good as part of the "Your Turn to Get Exiled" sweepstakes. The United Nations Foundation is partnering with MTV to give fans of the MTV hit show, Exiled, a chance to embrace their inner Angelina - and win two tickets to attend the MTV 2009 Movie Awards and and/or a chance to win another trip to Africa with the UN Foundation's Nothing But Nets campaign. It's an opportunity for young people in America to connect with young people around the world- their issues, their dreams and their challenges.

Deadline: December 31, 2008

Website: <http://www.unfoundation.org/global-issues/exiled.html>



## YV Nation

Lemelson Invent Your World



What can you invent to make life easier, the planet greener, and the world better? Ashoka's Youth Venture and the Lemelson Foundation will support 50 young inventors in using their inventions to create positive change - by providing mentorship, seed funding, networking opportunities, and even a \$20,000 scholarship to support their higher education. Come up with an invention - a new or adapted technology - and enter the [Invent Your World Challenge](#).

Ideas from both new and established Teams are reviewed on an on-going basis and projects can be launched anytime. Do not wait until Round One's Deadline - December 31, 2008 - to submit your idea! Staples Prize Winners

The finalists of the [Staples Youth Social Entrepreneur Competition](#) were invited to meet with key Staples Executives at the Staples Headquarters in Framingham, MA and attend the Staples Award Ceremony. The ceremony, held November 20, included speeches honoring the finalists and the announcement of the Global Prize Winner, MAD - Make A Difference, based in India, led by Jithin, and the Grand Prize Winner, Gardens for Health International, a USA Team led by Emily, who received the top honor as well as \$5,000 worth of Staples products for her Venture!

The other finalists were:

Changing the World Starting with YOUth, from France, led by Jeronimo;  
 Gumball Capital, from USA, led by Bilal;  
 The Hunger Brigade (La Brigade De la Faim), from France, led by Nicolas;  
 and Turn your World Around, from USA, led by Tara. Visit [GenV.net](#) to find out about other exciting programs that Youth Venture is sponsoring!



*One kind word can warm three winter months. ~ Japanese Proverb*  
 When we feel love and kindness toward others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it helps us also to develop inner happiness and peace. ~ HH the Dalai Lama  
 It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. ~ Kahil Gibran



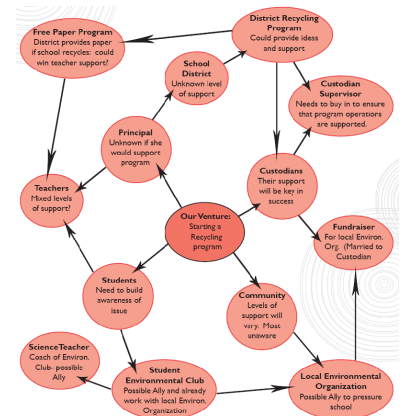
**Action Kit Tips**

Access knowledge, skills, and in some cases funding! from both the people you already know and people you would like to meet.

Networking is simply a way to get you helpful leads to expand your Venture- from advice and information, to fundraising opportunities. Utilize those in your network who can introduce you to others so you can grow your network of people who support you and your cause.

Start to create a list of networking contacts, think of you already know, and then expand to people you would like to know. To help you brainstorm on your networking connections, you can easily create a visual web of contacts or "network map." See examples of people you may want to include in your network map and learn to create your own.

For additional helpful tools like Marketing Sustainability and more, go to [Grow It](#) on GenV.net.



**In Your Neck of the Woods**

New England- [YV New England](#) and United Way of Greater Nashua held a "Beyond the Bake Sale: Fundraising Workshop" for United Way of Greater Nashua Teams. As many of you have probably realized the \$1,000 grant can go by very fast; the workshop was designed to help Venture Teams discover new and effective ways to increase their income. Teams heard from Betsy McNamara, a consultant for Full Circle Consulting, and who has 20 years of non-profit fundraising experience and has raised well over \$10 million.

Venturer's also learned how to craft the perfect "["elevator pitch"](#)" used for [networking](#) and [fundraising](#) for their Ventures.

YV at NIKE Store Grand Opening at the Mall of America  
On Saturday, November 22nd Venturers from [YV Minnesota](#) participated at a grand opening event at a new NIKE concept store at the Mall of America. The store is part of a national partnership that Youth Venture has developed with NIKE in an effort to launch more sports related ventures. Venturers Kathy and Nick, from [The Bemidji Skate Team](#), and Mary, from the Venture [Girl, Please Magazine](#), all represented YV at the event. By the end of the day, the MN Venture representatives had over 100 potential new Venturers fill out "idea cards" sharing ways that they planned to make change in their own communities.



Access your neck of the woods~ [New England](#), [Midwest](#), [NY and Tri-state](#), [Seattle](#), [Mid-Atlantic](#), [Virtual](#) ~to share ideas, seek advice, and stay informed as to what is going on in your broader community to help to grow and sustain your Venture.

### Venture Spotlight Starring: Milagros and Spread the Dough



Sidra, from Falls Church, VA, was invited by the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to participate in the Compassion in Action Roundtable titled: "The Next Generation of Social Entrepreneurship" on Friday, December 5th, for the work she has been doing with her Venture Team [Milagros](#) and recent collaboration with Venture Team [Spread the Dough](#).

As the final event in a two-year series of monthly Compassion in Action Roundtables, this program will bring together innovative young social entrepreneurs from across the Nation leading creative philanthropic efforts to address poverty, disease and a range of other critical needs at home and across the globe. The audience will be comprised of students and other young leaders, government officials, philanthropists and faith-based and community organization leaders.

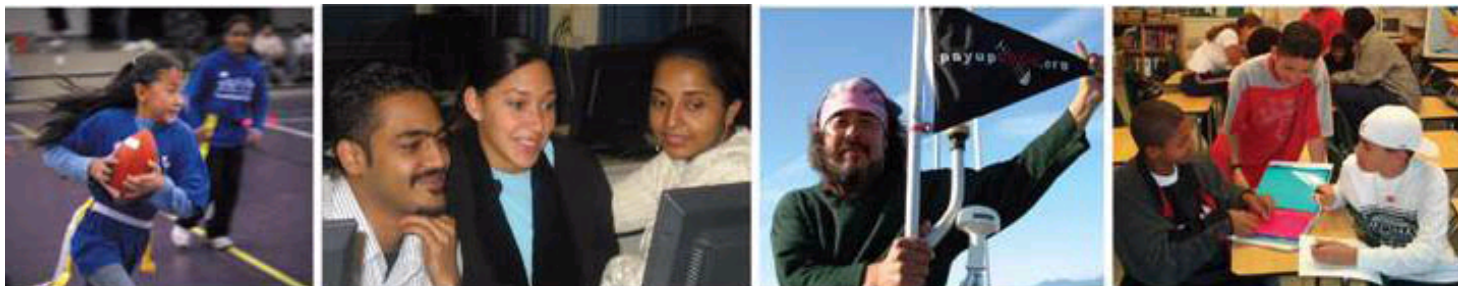
Milagros (Miracles, in Spanish) was created in order to teach girls how to sew and make jewelry in order for them to be focused on positive outlets within their community and sustains itself by selling the quilts, clothing and jewelry that the girls make. Spread the Dough, started by Melina and Mindy of Stratham, NH, teaches young people about commitment and the pressing issue of poverty and helps to feed the hungry.

We're so happy that Milagros collaborated with the rest of the Spread the Dough team as a result of the National Summit in July, and are being recognized for their hard work. That's what being a changemaker is all about!

Submit your Venture to [yvfellowship@youthventure.org](mailto:yvfellowship@youthventure.org) for consideration in future Newsletter issues.

Learn about changemakers and [Venture Teams](#) just like you. Compose an [Action Plan](#) to start your own Venture. Chat with other Venturers via [Forums](#).

### Meet Ashoka Fellows! Ashoka Fellows Induction



Ashoka's Youth Venture recognizes and congratulates the 25 newest Ashoka Fellows that will be inducted on December 9th in Los Angeles- the largest group of Fellows inducted to-date! Each of these outstanding

social entrepreneurs was chosen for their innovative idea to a social problem, creativity, tenacity, ethical fiber and the powerful impact of their idea. From focus areas of civic engagement, learning and youth development, the environment, and health; these Fellows are making strides in their fields of work. Congratulations!

Ashoka Fellows and their programs are great resources for Venturers working in similar fields to learn from and make connections with. [Learn more](#)

## MEET THE PEOPLE WHO ARE CHANGING THE WORLD

### Honoring Ashoka's New North American Fellows



\*\* NO PURCHASE IS NECESSARY TO ENTER. Void where prohibited. Promotion open only to legal residents of the U.S. who vote for Youth Venture finalist teams in the Best Buy @15 Challenge with Youth Venture Challenge during the open Voting Period. Promotion begins on 12/1/2008 and ends on 12/26/2008. See [www.GenV.net/bestbuy](http://www.GenV.net/bestbuy) for full Official Rules.

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