

**Youth Venture – New England**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Epping Youth Open a Re-Cycle, Re-Use Bike Shop

CONCORD, NH – December 5, 2008 – Congratulations to Andrew Sweet and four fellow Epping Middle School students who are members of the newly launched Youth Venture Team, **Fix-It Bike Shop**. This community benefiting Venture will provide low cost bike repair for area residents and offer money saving lessons on maintenance and safety.

Sweet created **Fix-It Bike Shop** after noticing that few residents in his town cycled. He assumed this was due to the lack of bike shops in the area. Sweet thought if a shop opened that not only repaired bicycles, but also taught residents how to maintain them, people would more likely ride them. By riding bikes, people would be in better shape, as well as help the environment.

Residents are encouraged to volunteer in the shop. After they log a certain number of hours, volunteers are able to begin building a bicycle, as compensation for their time and energy. These bikes are built from miscellaneous extra parts from other bikes.

Through community events and fundraisers, these Venturers hope to increase cycling and decrease driving. They also hope to raise awareness about local trails and take part in conserving them. **Fix-It Bike Shop** is located at the Epping Recreation Department.

Funding for **Fix-It Bike Shop** was made possible by a seed grant from the New Hampshire Electric Co-op Foundation and Youth Venture. Sweet formally presented **Fix-It Bike Shop** before a Selection Panel of community members and leaders, who approved the Teams idea and awarded them a \$1,000 grant after deciding they had met the criteria for becoming a Youth Venture Team.

A Venture Team must be a new club, service, or organization; provided a positive, lasting community benefit; be created, run, and managed by youth ages 12-20; have clear goals, a committed team, a realistic budget; and, have a non-controlling adult mentor. Each Team receives up to \$1,000 in Venture seed funding.

#### *About Youth Venture*

Ashoka's Youth Venture® is a global movement of young changemakers. Youth Venture inspires and invests in teams of young people to start their own sustainable social Ventures and connects them into a powerful global network. Collectively, these young changemakers are redefining the youth years as a time of initiative and positive change. For more information, please visit [www.GenV.net](http://www.GenV.net)

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