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Sent: Monday, September 14, 2009 2:27 PM
To: Jessica O'Neal
Subject: Youth Venture New England Newsletter: News for Changemakers



YVNE Newsletter

August 2009

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Dear Jessica,



Youth Venture is proud to present the first ever **Dinner on the Lawn: *Get Social with Changemakers.***

When: August 21, 2009 from 5-8 p.m.
Where: New Hampshire State House Lawn

The Join us for a FREE evening of food, games, live music from

Green Teens Compost Caf.
SUCCESS

Working on a Dream with JJ
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[The Big Picture Company](#)

[Brooks Young Band](#), and most importantly changemakers! New Hampshire Governor John Lynch is scheduled to kick off Dinner on the Lawn with a speech on the importance of volunteerism and social entrepreneurs in NH. Visit Venturers and socially responsible businesses at their tables to learn how they are making a difference in NH.

Venturers: RSVP with \$10 by August 7 to secure your spot and receive a Dinner on the Lawn t-shirt!

This event is FREE and open to the public, although donations are encouraged.

For more information visit our web site
www.DinnerOnTheLawn.com

Dinner on the Lawn is proud to be sponsored by:
[Green Concord](#), Boloco & [Stoneyfield Farms](#)



Youth Venture Wins Best Buy @15 Change Exchange

Youth Venture competed against three other nonprofits for a percentage of \$250,000 in the [Best Buy @15 Change Exchange](#)!!

July 30 marked the end of the nail biting competition with Youth Venture finishing strong with 45%, a landslide margin over Red Cross (29%), the Grammy Foundation (16%), and Mouse (10%). After watching a sizeable lead start to slip away on the last night of voting, Youth Venture regrouped and recaptured 5 percentage points in the final 8 hours!



Children's Foundation



Thank you to everyone who voted for us and encouraged others to vote - without you our success would have been impossible.

A HUGE congratulations to the whole YV US team for your hard work and dedication.

[Click here](#) to view the results.



Venturer Interviews Prime Minister of Sweden

All-star Venturer Javier recently had the honor of interviewing the Prime Minister of Sweden, Fredrik Reinfeldt. The acting President of the European Council took time to answer four of Javier's questions live on the BBC morning radio show. [Click here](#) for the interview.

Javier was awarded the top prize from the [Lemelson Invent Your World Challenge](#) for his invention, the [VERSATILE System](#).



TGIF in Tinseltown

It has been a busy summer for Alex, Lead Venturer of Turn Grease Into Fuel (TGIF). In addition to the Youth Venture National Summit in Boston, Alex recently attended the *Nestlé Very Best In Youth Award Ceremony* in Los Angeles, CA. As one of 24 national winners, Nestlé flew Alex to Los Angeles for the ceremony and will donate \$1,000 in Alex's name to the charity of his choice.

"It was pretty amazing," said Alex, "All the winners are great role models and we are planning to work together on an international project sponsored by Nestlé."

Launched in September 2008, TGIF recycles used vegetable oil in the community and converts it into bio-fuel to heat homes. The long-term goal of the project is to provide a solution to heating homes of needy families. The Rhode Island-based team has already signed up 42 area restaurants to participate in the program and has negotiated with additional vendors this summer as part of an expansion effort. Alex estimates TGIF collects about 50,000 gallons of grease per year, which generates 40,000 gallons of biodiesel. Of that amount, TGIF retains about 8,000 gallons of biodiesel for its charities.

To learn more about Alex and TGIF, check out: "[YV Presents: Alex Lin](#)"



Alex (middle) accepting award



Minga: On the Road

[Minga](#) is headed to a town near you. The Massachusetts-based team recently hit the road to raise awareness of the two million children trapped in the international child sex trade. As part of their "Let's Get Real" campaign, Minga will travel to 11 cities in 27 days to rally support among teens.

The Team will lead workshops with the hope of reaching two million teenagers. The tour started on July 19 and runs through August 14. Check out their schedule:

- . Washington D.C. & Virginia: July 30-Aug 3
- . Philadelphia (Swarthmore) Area: Aug 4-6
- . New Jersey: Aug 6-8
- . NYC Area: Aug 8-12
- . Southern New England (CT, RI, The Cape): Aug 12-14
- . Back in Boston: August 14

While in Washington D.C., Minga will have lunch with Derek Ellerman, Ashoka Fellow and founder of the Polaris Project, a DC-based organization that combats human trafficking and modern-day slavery. They will also meet with Van Jones, Ashoka Fellow and founder of Green For All. Mr. Jones is currently the Special Advisor for Green Jobs, Enterprise, and Innovation at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Minga will also be holding a press conference the morning of Monday August 3rd outside the White House.

Check their [blog](#) or [Twitter](#) page for more information.



Minga on the Road

Green Teens U.S.A. Compost Caf. Project Update

[Green Teens U.S.A.](#) has successfully secured a location to house the composting bin for their school's biodegradable waste! Located in close proximity to E.O. Smith High School, compost from the school will be trucked to the new site on a weekly basis during the upcoming school year.

This is only phase one of the Compost Caf. Project. In January, [Green Teens](#) was one of 15 winners of the Best Buy @15 Challenge where they received \$10,000 to expand their Venture. Once the composting process is perfected, Green Teens will install composting systems at area schools and transition cafeterias lunchware into biodegradable plates made from vegetable starches.

[Green Teens](#) is a Connecticut-based youth group who spreads environmental awareness through education and simple, positive lifestyle change. [Green Teens](#) plans to attend the

annual *Festival on the Green* in Storrs, CT on September 13. [Green Teens](#) will help make the event 90% waste free by directing attendees to the proper trash receptacles.

To learn more about *Festival on the Green*, check out the [Hartford Courant](#).

JJ Express Expands

[JJ Express](#) is going global! The children's magazine has expanded its contributor database to over 50 international artists. Contributors include artists from Brazil, France, Austria, Romania, China and India.

"We wanted to expand our contributor base," said Jenny, [JJ Express](#) Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief. "We truly want a diverse body of artwork to address social issues from a variety of angles."

Jack and Jenny with JJ Express Magazine



[JJ Express](#) is a non-profit magazine for children ages 9-16 years old. It revolves around a collection of comics/cartoons created by professionals and amateurs alike. Artwork is supplemented by articles, activities, and stories that encourage youth to explore the possibilities in the world and take responsibility for the home that we will inhabit for decades to come.

Want to get involved? There is an open call for [puzzle and brainteaser submissions](#).

Around New England...and Beyond

NEW HAMPSHIRE

[Wakati Ujao](#) participated in the *35th Annual Market Days and Summer Music Festival* in Concord, NH on July 16-18. The Team sold T-shirts and displayed educational information during the event. "Market Days was a huge success," said Katie, Lead Venturer for Wakati Ujao. "We not only raised money for Wakati Ujao, but also raised awareness of our efforts in the community."

[Wakati Ujao](#) improves the lives of children and young adults living in Karatu, Tanzania through education. The Team fundraises to help purchase buy desks, textbooks and school supplies for students in Karatu.

Wakati Ujao plans to attend [Dinner on the Lawn](#) in Concord, NH on August 21 and [People Fest](#) in Manchester, NH on August 29.



Sportship, formally Suncook Valley Sports Swap, participated in



the 28th Annual Pittsfield Rotary Hot Air Balloon Rally last weekend. As part of the festivities, Venturers Nick and Gabby met with community members, raised money for new "sportships" and received equipment donations for future sports swap fundraisers. When not manning the table Nick was found up in a hot air balloon or interviewing with the local news!

Launched in 2007, **Sportships** provides scholarships to families in need of assistance to pay the costs of organized sports through equipment swaps and sales

Sportship plans to attend Dinner on the Lawn.

The **Merrimack Biodiesel Crew** recently showcased, "BugE," a 3-wheeled hybrid car at MIT as part of the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams event. "BugE" uses four, 12-volt, deep-cycle batteries, located underneath the driver's seat and has been clocked at a top speed of 55 mph.

In a contest last year, Merrimack Biodiesel was so successful with their "BioBuddi-250" (a mini biodiesel processor) that they sold the rights to Wisconsin-based Turner Industries. When the processor comes out this fall the Team will receive 10% for each of the first 200 processors sold and 5% per unit thereafter. For more information, check out [The Union Leader article](#).

MAINE

Climate Action Club launched a social platform as part of their growing "[First Here, Then Everywhere](#)" initiative. The online network is designed to unite young environmentalists from around the world to connect, share ideas and solve problems about important environmental issues.



Apparel Company Nau: Grants for Change

Nau, a Portland, OR-based sustainable apparel company, is launching an annual Grant for Change program to recognize individuals or groups working to bring positive change to their communities. The program seeks to recognize and support everyday people - artists, athletes, or activists - who are giving back to the community.

The company invites individuals to submit their stories or nominate others at the Nau Web site. The deadline for applications is August 15. The submissions will be voted on and the ten finalists will be selected to provide additional information and present their ideas to the Grant for Change leadership panel on August 31.

The panel will select one final grantee, who will be awarded \$10,000 to help further his or her cause. Nau will also support the grantee's efforts for one year by hosting content and providing progress to readers on the company Web site.

For complete program guidelines, visit the [Nau Web site](#).

Deadline to apply: August 15, 2009



KIDS Consortium Offers Grants to New England

KIDS (Kids Involved Doing Service-Learning) Consortium, a nonprofit organization that serves schools and community groups in Maine and throughout New England, and the State Farm Youth Advisory Board are offering mini-grants for green service-learning projects developed by K-12 schools in New England.

Grants of up to \$750 each will support service-learning projects addressing topics such as energy efficiency and recycling proposed by K-12 educators, students, and community organizations working with youth. Funded projects must solve a problem or address a local need related to making schools and neighborhoods healthier and more environmentally sustainable.

For complete program guidelines, visit the [KIDS Consortium Web site](#).

Deadline to apply: August 31, 2009



**"When the power of love overcomes the love of power
the world will know peace."**

- Jimi Hendrix



Grant & Scholarship Opportunities

For news on grant and scholarship opportunities check out Suria's [blog](#) on [GenV.net](#). [Email](#) or post on her blog if you have any questions.





Ventures - Share Your News!

New England Venturers: we know you're busy and working hard to make your Venture a success. Let us help. Email us updates on your team's events, fundraisers, awards, etc...Let us share your good news with your fellow Venturers. And, don't forget to email those great pictures! It's easy: send your news and pics to the Program Associate of Media & Marketing, Jessica O'Neal at joneal@youthventure.org



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Find Us Online



Stay in touch with Youth Venture New England and Ashoka while you stay in touch with your other friends on [Facebook](#). And be sure to check out Youth Venture's cool [YouTube](#) page containing all Youth Venture's videos - including those made by Venturers!

And as always, visit us on [GenV.net](#)



YVNE STAFF

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YVNE Staff at Camp Aldersgate

Not pictured: Becca Korduner



Did you know that many Youth Venture staff members across the U.S. are actually AmeriCorps*VISTAs? AmeriCorps VISTA members make a year-long, full-time commitment to volunteer on a specific project at a nonprofit organization or public agency. In return for their service, VISTA members receive a modest living allowance. For more information on [AmeriCorps](#) visit their [Web site](#).



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