

## YouthVenture\_US

Dear Youth Venture Friend,

# Youth Venture New England

**Dream it. Do it.**

**Newsletter  
December 2006**



*Happy Holidays from the Youth Venture New England team  
Jim, Lidia, Alice, Stephanie, Patricia, and Becky*

### Venturers' Invention Wins \$8K Grant

Congratulations to the Merrimack Bio-Diesel Crew from Merrimack, NH. The Venture Team is one of 20 teams selected nationwide as an [InvenTeam](#). They've received up to \$8,225 to help fund their plan to build a large, solar-powered bio-diesel fuel processor.



The Merrimack High School chemistry class students (*shown above*) have been using a smaller processor to convert used restaurant frying oil into bio-diesel fuel to power a school bus. But they need a larger processor in order to make more bio-diesel. Since their goal is to bypass fossil fuel generated electricity - their concept to run the bigger processor by solar power appears to be unique.

The grant was administered by the

### MySpace

Youth Venturers in New England, and around the world, have a brand new place to share their stories, ideas, or just to make a few new friends. Check it out today!

[www.myspace.com/youthventure1](http://www.myspace.com/youthventure1)

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"The big secret in life is that there is no big secret. Whatever your goal, you can get there if you're willing to work."*

**Oprah Winfrey**

*...speaking of Oprah...*

**Ashoka Global Academy  
co-founder and  
[2006 Nobel Peace Prize  
Winner Muhammad Yunus](#)**

was a guest on Oprah's show one week before he accepted the coveted Peace Prize award in

[Massachusetts Institute of Technology through the Lemelson Foundation's InvenTeams program](#) - which, by the way, allows teams to keep the intellectual property rights to their inventions.



**New Hampshire** - Welcome to our newest Venture team *A Birthday Wish*. The team is a result of the United Way of Greater Nashua - Youth Venture Partnership, hails from Souhegan High School in Amherst, and was approved by Selection Panel on December 5.



The goal of *A Birthday Wish* is to provide supplies and plan birthday parties for underprivileged children in their community. Members believe "every child deserves the experience of a birthday party," and are hoping to bring smiles to many children's faces.

[Rubber Ducky Studios](#) has landed terrific press in a lengthy article in the December 5th edition of the [The Telegraph](#) in Nashua. The team's goal is to produce videos, public service announcements, etc...for small non-profits that can't afford to hire production companies.

The team is currently working on several projects including a teen-targeted commercial for JobsInNH.com. They've also

Stockholm on December 10.

During his acceptance speech, Yunus said, "I firmly believe that we can create a poverty free world if we collectively believe in it. In a poverty free world, the only place you would be able to see poverty is in a poverty museum. When school children take a tour of poverty museums they would be horrified to see the misery and indignity that some human beings had to go through."



Yunus, of Bangladesh, shares the \$1.4 award with the [Grameen Bank](#) which he founded. For more than two decades, it has helped impoverished people start businesses by providing small, microcredit loans.

**BANK OF AMERICA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES "LOCAL HERO"**



Thirteen year-old Youth Venturer **Jordan Schwartz**, community

produced a video from last month's NH Conference on Youth Volunteerism.

**Massachusetts** - Kudos to the Venturers from Shirley Middle School. On November 17, members from the following teams: *Fix it Up*, *Wrap it Up*, *Shirley School Store*, *Literary Magazine*, *Skateboard Park*, and *Shirley Bakes* planned and held a fundraiser for fellow student Adam Hopf. Adam is in need of a second heart transplant, as his body rejected his first transplant. Wanting to do something to help, the students held a movie and pizza night and raised over \$500 for the cause. The Venturers in Shirley continue to demonstrate their extreme dedication to their community and heartfelt compassion for their fellow students!

Leominster High School's *Nature's Den* Venture Team is holding a holiday fundraiser for continuing the expansion of their outdoor classroom for art, music and theater. These talented Venturers have made items such as tie-dye shirts, marbled bookmarks and gift tags, and hand painted ornaments to raise money for Nature's Den. This year students have added a hammock (shown below), a grape arbor, benches, trees and landscaping, and are now working on creating more mosaics to add to the space.



This team is now in its second year and continues to find creative ways to add to

activist, business leader and founder of The Children's Bilingual Theater in Marietta, Georgia has been awarded a **2006 Local Hero Award** from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. Five Local Heroes are selected who champion causes vital to their communities and inspire others to get involved.

Jordan accepted a \$5,000 award for the youth lead theatre and literacy outreach program she started as a 5th grader.

### Opportunities for Venturers

**That Way Easy** Staples and Youth Venture have launched a competition based on Staples "That Was Easy" theme. After all, Venturers are making life easier for others. The competition for Venture teams will take place through an online forum. Teams can submit their own entries, view the entries of others, and take part in an online discussion to share feedback and advance the best strategies.

Five finalists will win free trips to the Award Ceremony at Staples headquarters, consulting opportunities with Staples Executives, and an additional \$1,000 in Venture funding. The Grand Prize winner earns an additional \$5,000 Staples shopping spree!

Don't waste any time, log onto [www.changemakers.net/journal/thatwaseasy](http://www.changemakers.net/journal/thatwaseasy) to fill out an entry form. Tell everyone how your Venture team is making life easier for others by entering the "That Was Easy" National Competition. Please contact [thatwaseasy@youthventure.org](mailto:thatwaseasy@youthventure.org)

the beauty and functionality of this space for all of Leominster High School and the greater community to enjoy.

All of the above mentioned Massachusetts' teams are part of the North Central MA United Way Youth Venture partnership.

A new *Respect and Tolerance* team is forming in North Middlesex High School. Members will address students through assemblies and training to educate on issues regarding race, gender, sexual orientation, bullying, harassment and violence. The team believes they can help reduce these problems through education and awareness.

**Vermont** - Amanda Crawley (shown below) and her Venture Team **Think Globally, Act Locally** collected more than 400 cans of food, along with other necessities such as diapers and toothpaste.



The items were donated to a local charity in Davis, California that helps residents in need of short term emergency assistance. The non-perishables were collected with the help of 4th and 5th grade classes. The team launched their Venture as part of Vermont's Ben & Jerry's *Scoopers Making Change* program.

with any questions you might have.

### **Tu Voz My Venture**

Youth Venture, in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and MTV Tr3s Voces, will select teams of two or more youth, ages 13 – 20, every week through June 29th, 2007, who submit great ideas for encouraging their peers to graduate from high school and college. Tu Voz My Venture winners will receive grants of up to \$1,000 to create their ventures - an organization, business or club to help young Latinos stay in school and prepare for college and careers. And, five of the teams launched will be awarded \$5,000 scholarships by Youth Venture in partnership with MTV Tr3s per team to be evenly split among team members. Take charge, don't wait for adults! Get your team together and help bring about positive changes in your school neighborhood, community and your life!

For more information, visit [www.youthventure.org](http://www.youthventure.org) or [www.mtv3voces.com](http://www.mtv3voces.com)

### **"My Hometown Helper" Grant Deadline: May 2007**

Hamburger Helper, a General Mills food brand, is looking to lend a "helping hand" to neighborhoods across the United States with its "My Hometown Helper" grant program. Submit a written essay describing how the "My Hometown Helper" grant would help to improve their community project. Applicants can request a one-time award of between \$500 and \$15,000 during any single month.

### \*\*\*Technical Allies

#### ***Special Guest Series\*\*\****

The Special Guest Series is gaining attention from Venturers all over the country who want to get advice about their Venture or just learn something new! Last week, Al from MN and Desiree from NH talked about the Environment and things Venturers can do to help promote environmental sustainability in their Ventures! Due to **popular demand**, Al and Desiree will be **back again on December 18 at 7:30 pm EST** to share their knowledge with you! This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Environment and ways you can help as an individual or with your Venture team.

**Don't miss out. Contact Haley at [hbuenzli@youthventure.org](mailto:hbuenzli@youthventure.org) or call 612-455-2007 to sign up today for the Technical Allies *Special Guest Series* teleconference!**

### **Web Site Make Over**

Great news. Early next year, a brand new global Youth Venture web site will launch.

Our web team has been busily working with designers at [www.zincroe.com](http://www.zincroe.com). This new site promises to be highly interactive, functional, and valuable in helping Youth Venture build its online global community of young changemakers!

### **Your Global Community**

In case you haven't thought about it lately, remember that, as Youth Venturers you are part of a powerful global network of young changemakers. There are operations in Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, India, South Africa, Thailand, France, Germany and Spain - with many more planned.

All requests for funding must be sponsored by a municipal or civic organization or public school. The program will award "helping hand" grants each month from online applications received through May 2007. Applications will be evaluated monthly.  
[www.myhometownhelper.com/](http://www.myhometownhelper.com/)

### **Youth Service America Announces Lead Agencies for National and Global Youth Service**

50 outstanding organizations have been named by Youth Service America as lead agencies for National and Global Youth Service Day (April 20-22, 2007). Lead agencies increase the scope, visibility, and sustainability of National & Global Youth Service Day by leading city, regional, or statewide service projects. To learn more and find out how these organizations can assist with N&GYSD projects, visit:  
[www.ysa.org/nysd/](http://www.ysa.org/nysd/)

### **"Best in America"**

Youth Venture's partner organization [Ashoka](http://www.ashoka.org) has received the [Independent Charities of America](http://www.independentcharitiesofamerica.org) "Best in America" Seal of Approval. The ICA "Best in America" Seal of Approval is given to top charities in the country that meet rigorous criteria. The "Best in America" seal signals a transparent, effective organization committed to large-scale change.



**GLOBAL PROFILE:** In Argentina, Emanuel (shown above) and his team of Venturers fight to keep Dengue Fever out of Schools. They launched their program in northeast Argentina, where 70% of the population lives in poverty and Dengue outbreaks occur frequently. His team provides informal lectures, brochures, and street performances to educate residents about preventative measures against the virus. Their project is being replicated in Paraguay.

In Argentina and Mexico, Youth Venture is known as [Avancemos](#). In Brazil, it's called [Geracao MudaMundo](#). Whether or not you're able to read Spanish or Portuguese, we're sure you'll enjoy viewing their web sites.



[Ashoka](#) is a global community of social entrepreneurs who deliver innovative solutions to social problems. Ashoka identifies and supports leading social entrepreneurs, creates opportunities for collaboration, and builds systems and institutions that facilitate high impact social solutions. Over the past 25 years, the organization has invested in more than 1,700 Ashoka Fellows in 60 countries.

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