

YouthVenture_US

Dear Youth Venture Friend,

Youth Venture New England

Dream it. Do it.

**Newsletter
February 2007**

OUR EFFORTS STRETCH COAST-TO-COAST

Youth Venture-New England Venture Team Coordinator Patricia Helbig is still singing the praises of thirteen newly launched Venture teams in San Francisco, California, her home town.

Patricia joined these teams, the first from Youth Venture's new partnership with San Francisco-based [Coro's Exploring Leadership](#) program, on January 3rd to attend their first of several skill-building workshops designed to help the Venturers develop the skills needed for successfully maintaining their ventures.



Coro is a non profit established 65-years ago to foster and strengthen leadership skills. Launched in 1998, its [Exploring Leadership](#) program provides San Francisco-area youth with leadership experiences and training for learning, creating, and connecting "across differences in school, neighborhood, background, and belief." This intensive

New England Venturers: Come and Celebrate

ALL

New England-based Youth Venture teams, Allies, Champions and Venturer parents are invited to attend a special celebration.

Join us

May 10, 2007

at the Colonial Hotel in Gardner, MA. Come network with fellow Venturers!

Showcase your team's success and impact on your community. Learn about new opportunities for sustaining and expanding your Venture! Registration information and the schedule of events will be released in the coming weeks by mail and email.

Mark your calendars and save the date!



This event will be sponsored by the United Way - Youth Venture partnership.

MySpace

Have you checked out Youth Venture's MySpace page? Share your Venture stories, ideas, and make new friends.
www.myspace.com/youthventure1

training and internship program is for high school students who are entering their junior year.



Around New England

New Hampshire -

Newly approved [Peppermint Ponies](#) and The **Suncook Valley Sports Swap** teams are unique in that they are the first to launch as a result of the [NH 4-H](#) Youth Venture Partnership.

The [Peppermint Ponies](#), of Fremont, NH, transformed their nearly two-year-old 4-H club into a community-benefiting 4-H Venture. They did this by developing a program to help abused animals. The team plans to make and sell personalized horse shoes, giving the proceeds to the NHSPCA, the NH Society for the Prevention and Cruelty to Animals.

Members of The **Suncook Valley Sports Swap** plan to create a *sportship* - a scholarship program to help offset pay-to-play fees for young under-privileged athletes in their community of Pittsfield, NH. The team plans to raise the *sportship* funds by hosting sports swaps twice a year. At the swaps, people could buy and sell used sporting equipment at reasonable prices.

4-H NH Youth Venture Partner Specialist Alice Ballenger anticipates at least three prospective teams will present at the next 4-H Selection Panel in late February.

On January 4th, The **Merrimack Bio-Diesel Crew** participated in a unique *Dream it. Do it.* workshop at Tufts University in Boston. They had the opportunity to introduce their



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

[Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

SWEET ACCOLADES

Two Youth Venturers have been selected as recipients of the 2006 Nestle *Very Best in Youth Award!*

They are Folake Dosu, of the **Birthday Party Project** in Chicago, and Tara Suri of **Write-Share-Learn-Care** in New York.

Winners will be flown to Los Angeles for a special red carpet awards ceremony and pampered for their week-long, all expenses paid, stay. Each winner will receive \$1,000 to donate to the charity of their choice (Venture's included).

The **Birthday Party Project** provides disadvantaged youth with birthday parties.

Write-Share-Learn Care, a new initiative of H.O.P.E. (Helping Orphans Pursue Education) which raises money for orphanages around the world, is a pen-pal program that connects young Americans to children at those orphanages.

Venturers, if you're interested in applying for the 2007 Nestle *Very Best in Youth Award*, you should visit

<http://www.nestle-verybestinyouth.com/>

More

Venture to seven high school and college students at Tufts who had previously attended the Island School in the Bahamas. The Island School has a unique curriculum focusing on the environment, energy, conservation, etc... The Venture team converts used French fry oil into usable bio-diesel fuel, and recently won a prestigious grant to design and build a large solar-powered fuel conversion processor.

The Merrimack Bio-Diesel Crew developed as a result of the United Way of Greater Nashua - Youth Venture partnership.

Two more potential United Way-Youth Venture teams are scheduled to present at a selection panel in early February. **Rhythm and Rhymes Records**, of Nashua South High School, would like to help emerging musical artists create demos. And, they plan to donate DJ services or performance services to their local Boys and Girls Club and YMCA. **JS Treasures**, of Nashua North High School, centers on crafting and designing jewelry for a profit. However, they also plan to teach children who are being cared for at local hospital how to make and design their own jewelry.

Theatrical Vibrations, of Manchester, shown below performing their holiday show at a local nursing home, is busy planning their next production. Their spring show will be performed in May.



Massachusetts -

Opportunities for Venturers



That Way Easy

Youth Venture, Changemakers.net, and Staples celebrate and showcase the power of young people to lead social change in the **That Was Easy** competition.

All Youth Venture teams are invited to submit an entry describing their achieved or anticipated social impact and to compete for recognition and exciting prizes.

Prizes:

Free trip to Staples headquarters for special award ceremony, consulting opportunities, \$1,000 Venture funding, and a \$5,000 Staples shopping spree (Grand Prize).

ACT NOW!

Apply online at www.changemakers.net/journal/thatwaseasy to enter the competition.

As long as you've passed a Youth Venture panel by February 7, 2007, you can participate in the competition, view the entries of leading youth social entrepreneurs, and participate in the online discussion to advance the best strategies.

Invite friends to view the entries, participate in the online discussion forum and vote among the finalists.

Entries must be submitted before noon on February 7, 2007, U.S. Eastern Time.

(All new Venture teams launched by February 7, 2007, are eligible to enter.)

Real to Reel - Film Your Issue

Yahoo! Inc. has teamed up with FYI (Film Your Issue) as the exclusive online sponsor of the "Issue Film" competition, an unprecedented initiative to engage young adults in public dialogue about pressing issues of importance, locally or internationally.



Members of the Community Outreach Mural Project (COMP) United Way Youth Venture Team continue to impact the community with their talents and positive messages. Recently the COMP team from the Center for Technical Education at Leominster High School proudly displayed eight themed murals at an important community event (*two of the murals are shown above and below*).



On January 14, over one hundred people attended the 8th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration hosted by the Martin Luther King Coalition and held at the First Church Unitarian Universalist in Leominster. This year's theme, from the Dr. King quote: "Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon" was represented on each of the colorful murals the COMP team created.

The keynote speaker was John H. Bracey, Professor of Afro-American History at the University of Massachusetts, and friend to

Entries will be posted on Yahoo! Jumpcut beginning February 1. The deadline for submissions is April 15, 2007. Winners, to be announced in June, will receive a summer 2007 internship at Universal Pictures, a trip to New York for the FYI 2007 Awards Ceremony at United Nations Headquarters, and have their entries broadcast on STARZ and STARZ Edge! For rules and more information, visit FilmYourIssue.com



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 Latino 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 designed to help young Latinos stay in school and prepare for college and careers. And, five winners will be awarded \$5,000 scholarships *per team* by Youth Venture in partnership with MTV Tr3s.

Take charge, don't wait for adults! Get your team together and help bring about positive changes in your

For more information, visit www.youthventure.org or www.mtv3voces.com

"My Hometown Helper"

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

Dr. King. Bracey spoke of King's vision for a "beloved community," and how we all must play a part in helping to make it a reality. The program also offered uplifting musical performances, announcement of youth essay winners, and readings from Leominster and Fitchburg High School students on the Montgomery Bus Boycott. COMP's eye-catching murals will continue to be on display at various locations around the community.

United Way Youth Venturers Kayla Reeves and Amanda Griffin of Team Ultimate at Parker Charter School in Devens held a presentation on January 18th. The girls talked with members of the Young Entrepreneurs Project at Dearborn Middle School in Roxbury about what Youth Venture has meant for them. They wonderfully conveyed to the young women of this pilot program the excitement of their Youth Venture experience. The opportunity of working with young women through Girls Inc., in Worcester, has provided Kayla and Amanda valuable insight and experience which they shared with the members of the Young Entrepreneurs Project. Students involved in this new program learned how Team Ultimate started, how to come up with an idea for their own Venture team, how to keep it sustainable and how to make a positive impact on one's community based on one's interests and talents. For the students present, this was their first time hearing about Youth Venture. A special thanks to Kayla and Amanda in their efforts to help spread the word!

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

Vermont -

Operation Backpack, one of the *Scoopers Making Change* teams launched through Youth Venture's partnership with Ben & Jerry's of Vermont, is already providing underprivileged children with the tools they need to be successful in school and in life. The Myrtle Beach, South Carolina team

\$500 and \$15,000 during any single month. 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/

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/

Venture Networking

The following is a special message and a fantastic OFFER from a fellow New England Venturer...

Happy New Year everyone!

My name is Meagan Corlin. A proud Youth Venturer, I am the founder and president of the NH Board of Youth Volunteers, the Venture team of The StarMight Foundation.

The StarMight Foundation's www.starmightfoundation.org mission is to promote youth volunteerism and empower youth to make a difference in their communities and the world.

We are starting the new year with an exciting new opportunity. We are inviting all New England Youth Venture teams to link their web sites on The StarMight Foundation web site. In this, we hope to help spread the word of your team's outstanding efforts throughout New England! In addition, each month The StarMight Foundation will showcase the work of one Youth Venture Team on our main page. The StarMight

has given away 70 backpacks filled with school supplies to needy students at Loris Elementary, where 56% of the children are eligible for free lunches, as well as school supplies for nearly 30 students who already had backpacks but needed supplies.



Operation Backpack's mission is to provide every student with the tools they need to have the same opportunity when it comes to education. They hope to provide at least 200 disadvantaged students with backpacks and supplies.

*** Technical Allies

Special Guest Series***

February is another jam-packed month starting off with a teleconference workshop on Event Planning on Monday, February 5, from 7:30-8:30 pm EST. Learn how to plan, organize and put on an event, no matter the size. It can be 10 people or 200, knowing how to plan a good event, will help ensure that all of your events will be successful!

Youth Venture's Special Guest Series rang in the New Year with a January workshop on "Recruiting and Maintaining Volunteers for your Venture." Dana and Nadia gave Venturers insight into the world of volunteerism: how to incorporate volunteers into your Ventures and how to keep them interested and involved once they're active members.

Don't miss out. Contact Haley at hbuenzli@youthventure.org or call 612-

Foundation might also profile your team's work during one of our many youth volunteerism presentations at NH schools. This is a great opportunity! If interested, please send me (Meagan Corlin) an e-mail at: starmightfoundation@hotmail.com



Meagan (shown above on the right) following a local TV appearance in her role as Miss Capital Area. "Around Town with Dick Patton" was taped at Concord (NH) High School. Meagan discussed the Miss Capital Area Scholarship preliminary program, the Miss New Hampshire and Miss America Scholarship programs, and her work with The StarMight Foundation.

The Bright Lights are Calling

NH Venturer and theatre director Carly Starr is looking for actors to play villagers in The Sad Café's May 18-19 production of *Cinderella*. All ages are welcome! Rehearsals begin February 1 and will be held Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6-9pm at The Sad Café in Plaistow, NH. If you are interested please call (603) 382-2274.

Venture team **Broadway at the Café** is currently in rehearsal for their next *Broadway Review* show featuring hits from *High School Musical* and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, scheduled for April.

VENTURERS SHARE YOUR NEWS!

New England Venturers, we know you're busy and working hard to make your

455-2007 to sign up today for the next Technical Allies *Special Guest Series* teleconference - Monday, February 5th!

Youth Venture's Web Site Make Over

Great news. By spring, Youth Venture will launch a brand new web site. Our web team has been working with designers at 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

Remember 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. Below is a profile of Idade Verde of Brazil.



GLOBAL PROFILE: Nayara, José Augusto, Jéssica and Camila were touched by the lack of creative and dignified opportunities for public engagement available to elderly people. They also share a passion for the environment. These two interests stimulated their social venture idea: to create gardening workshops for the elderly in their communities. They work to encourage older and younger citizens to collaborate on efforts to revitalize public squares of Campo Limpo, one of the poorest suburbs in the

Venture a success. Let us help. By email, send 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 YVNE Venture Team Coordinator Patricia Helbig at [pHELbig@youthventure.org](mailto:phelbig@youthventure.org)

Congratulations to ONE OF HARVARD'S "MOST INFLUENTIAL"



Our very own Bill Drayton, founder of Ashoka AND Youth Venture, has been named one of Harvard University's

"100 Most Influential Alumni"

by *O2138* magazine in its debut issue. The magazine states, "*Bill is at the forefront in the world in understanding the way that society is going to be reorganized in the future.*"

So, who topped the magazine's list? Bill Gates. But did you know Gates dropped out of Harvard in his junior year to pursue his computer software ideas.

[Ashoka](http://www.ashoka.org) *Innovators for the Public*, Youth Venture's founding and partner organization, 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

northern region of São Paulo, Brazil.

In Brazil, Youth Venture is called [Geracao MudaMundo](#). In Argentina and Mexico, it's known as [Avancemos](#).

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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