



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Dear Elizabeth,

Voting Polls Are Still Open!!

There's still time to vote for your favorite teams in the [Best Buy @15 Challenge!](#) A lot is at stake for these 30 OUTSTANDING teams, five of which are New England teams.

The polls close midnight on January 9, 2009, so go out and [vote](#) for your favorite teams.



Children's Foundation



The YVNE Finalists:

[Green Teens](#) - Willington, CT

Mission: Nurture a culture of environmental awareness

How: Host public events, give out reusable grocery bags, replace old light bulbs with Compact Fluorescents.

Impact: Community engagement and school wide support.

@15 Goal: Use money to start a new composting program at E.O. Smith High School.

[Pure Water Vending](#) - Merrimack, NH

Mission: Eradicate waterborne illness in 3rd world countries.

How: Establish charitable vending machines and donate proceeds to install water purification filters in rural Central American villages.

Impact: Raised money for 8 filters and counting.

@15 Goal: Provide matching funds to install 4 more machines around Merrimack.

[Team Ultimate](#) - Shirley, MA

Mission: To empower inner city girls.

How: By teaching girls teamwork through the sport of Ultimate Frisbee.

Impact: Mentors approximately 100 girls per year, giving girls productive physical outlet.

@15 Goal: Make project sustainable and expand into new cities.

[The Recychos](#) - Coventry, RI

Mission: To reduce our ecological footprint.

How: By introducing a recycling program and energy saving strategies at their school.

Impact: Program has been embraced by school and community.

@15 Goal: To expand initiatives and convert an old school bus to bio-diesel

[JJ Express Magazine](#) - North Potomac, MD

(Lead Venturer, Jenny, attends school in Maine)

Mission: To engage youth through avant garde art.

How: By developing a socially minded magazine

Impact: Work has been distributed to hundreds of youth and brought together work of global artists.

@15 Goal: Expand scope of magazine and subsidize printing costs.

To vote or view the other finalists [click here](#).

Winners will be announced around January 16, 2009 on GenV.net

[Don't forget to vote!!](#)

Attending This Concert Can Benefit Youth Venture!

Saturday, January 24, 2009 will mark the first-ever "Teen Strong: New Hampshire" benefit concert at the Stockbridge Theatre at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. Funds raised during the event will go towards teen centers and youth organizations throughout New Hampshire - including Youth Venture.

Aside from benefiting youth organizations, this event is geared toward showing kids and teens that art, in any form, can provide a positive outlet to help deal with life's problems.

When purchasing your (\$10) tickets be sure to mention Youth Venture; then 100% of your ticket purchase proceeds will go towards YV.

For more information or to buy your tickets click [here](#). A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the venue.

What: Teen Strong: New Hampshire

When: January 24, 2009; doors open @ 2pm, concert @ 3pm

Where: Stockbridge Theatre at Pinkerton Academy
5 Pinkerton St. Derry, NH 03038

Don't forget to mention Youth Venture when buying your tickets!!

Teen Reach Leadership Workshop

A Teen Leadership Workshop is scheduled for January 19, 2009 - Martin Luther King Day. The event is open to all students in the Leominster, MA area.

The workshop is based of the book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* and will help teens:

- Gain greater control of their lives.
- Improve relationships with family and friends.
- Increase self confidence and self-esteem.
- Make smarter decisions.
- Define their values and what matters most to them.
- Recognize and prioritize their goals.
- Find balance between school, work, friends, and everything else.

Sign up by January 7, 2009 for \$25, or by January 14th for \$30. Registration includes a copy *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, a workbook and lunch.

If you have any questions or would like more information call Cassie at 978-840-6820 or e-mail cascool277@inbox.com.



Attention High School Seniors!!

The McKelvey Foundation is offering \$4,000,000 in Entrepreneurial Scholarships to high school seniors who have started businesses.

One hundred students will be awarded scholarships of up to \$10,000 per year, for four years of college - that's up to \$40,000 per winner!

Deadline for application submission is January 25, 2009, so better act fast!

To take advantage of this wonderful opportunity, download and apply for the scholarship by [clicking here](#).



Around New England...

NEW HAMPSHIRE:

Project T-Shirt Relief held an event this past month educating students and community members about Sierra Leone. The event featured authentic African cuisine and guest speaker, Mr. Kamara, friend and confidant of Ishmael Beah, writer of the best selling book, *Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Solider*. The event was very informative and a complete success!

Fix-it Bike Shop, one of the latest YVNE teams to launch, was in the media last month. They were featured in the Portsmouth Herald newspaper on [December 22](#).

[Spread the Dough](#) was also published this month in a story titled, [Stratham teen's Spread the Dough campaign aims to go nonprofit](#). The article caught the attention of local law firm who has agreed to help Spread the Dough become a 501c3, pro bono (that means for free)!

RHODE ISLAND:

Love Peace, is the latest team to launch out of the Big Picture school partnership! The Team will raise awareness about domestic violence.

MASSACHUSETTS:

Cassie, a prospective Venturer and Leominster High School student is hosting the Teen Reach Leadership Workshop, January 19, 2009.

The workshop is open to all students and will help teens:

- Gain greater control of their lives.
- Improve relationships with family and friends.
- Increase self confidence and self-esteem.
- Make smarter decisions.
- Define their values and what matters most to them.
- Recognize and prioritize their goals.
- Find balance between school, work, friends, and everything else.

If you have any questions or would like more information Call Cassie Cooley at 978-840-6820, e-mail her at cascool277@inbox.com, or see article written above.



More on Ashoka

Last month we introduced you to our parent organization, [Ashoka](#). Ashoka Fellows are social entrepreneurs who provide solutions to problems around the world - very similar to Venturers. So what exactly does it take to become an Ashoka Fellow?

An Ashoka Fellow must have:

A new idea - All Fellows provide a new solution that will systemically change the way a social problem is addressed.

Creativity - Ashoka Fellows set long term goals and provide creative solutions to obstacles and challenges they face everyday.

Entrepreneurial Qualities - Fellows are obsessed with their idea. They are not happy with operating at a local level, and will refine, test, and spread their idea until it becomes the pattern for society.

Social Impact - Will other people working in the field copy their idea? Five years after being elected as an Ashoka Fellow, 56% have affected government policy or legislation and 93% have seen their work replicated by other organizations or government agencies.

Ethical Fiber - The Fellow must be entirely ethical and trustworthy. If your life was in danger, would you trust this person?

For more information on Ashoka visit their [Web site](#).

*Information taken from David Bornstein's "How to Change the World" pages 117-125 and <http://usa.ashoka.org/fellowcriteria>

Taking a trip to Peru?

If you are planning a trip to Peru be sure to let [R.E.A.C.H 4 Books](#) know. [R.E.A.C.H 4 Books](#) is a team located in California who sends Spanish books to children along the Amazon River to help promote global literacy.

[R.E.A.C.H. 4 Books](#) needs your help to transport the books to Peru; so if you are heading south please email Jessica O'Neal at joneal@youthventure.org or the Team at reach4booksorg@yahoo.com, if you are interested in volunteering to transport books.

For more information on [R.E.A.C.H. 4 Books](#) check out their [GenV page](#) or visit their [Web site](#).



" Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man. "

-Benjamin Franklin

Venturers: 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 Program Associate of Media & Marketing, Jessica O'Neal at joneal@youthventure.org



Be sure to check out Youth Venture's cool YouTube page containing all Youth Venture's videos including those made by Venturers! www.youtube.com/youthventure



Grant and Scholarship Opportunities

Suria Lloyd, the **YVNE Program Development Associate**, has created an easy way to find out about grant and scholarship opportunities through her [blog](#) on GenV.net. Please email or post on her blog if you have any questions. Also, be sure to visit the new forum "Money for Venture Teams!"

YVNE STAFF

For general comments or questions regarding this newsletter or Youth Venture's New England Regional Office, please contact us: 866.923.9863 or yvne@youthventure.org

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To learn more about Youth Venture, please visit our web site

www.GenV.net

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