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**Sent:** Wednesday, June 03, 2009 9:47 AM

**To:** Jessica O'Neal

**Subject:** Youth Venture New England Newsletter: News for Changemakers



YVNE Newsletter

June 2009

**DONATE NOW**

Ashoka's  
**youth  
venture**  
DREAM IT. DO IT.

**In This Issue**

Help YV Win Up To \$250K

YV's new Ambassadors

UW YV Bash a Success

Challenge Retreat

AmeriCorps Week

Dear Jessica,

**2009 NATIONAL  
YOUTH VENTURE  
SUMMIT**

**REGISTER TODAY**  
for the 2nd annual  
**Youth Venture Summit**

There are only four weeks left before Venturers from across the globe will gather in Boston, MA for three days of skill-

Kyle to Swim English Channel

mmm Grasshopper, Yummy!

Kumar in India

Contact Us

## Quick Links

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[4-H NH](#)

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building, peer exchange and fun! Young changemakers in countries from North and South America, Europe and Asia are participating.

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity, it's taking place right here in New England!

**When:**

**June 26 - 29, 2009**

**Where: Boston, MA.**

**Workshops at MIT and Harvard,  
housing at Boston University**

***Bonus College tour, anyone?***

**Fees: Venturers (Youth): \$200**

**Adults (Allies/Parents/Chaperones)\*: \$300**

**This includes registration/workshops/food/housing  
UNBELIEVABLE, IT COSTS ONLY \$200 AND  
INCLUDES ALL SESSIONS, FOOD AND LODGING IN  
BOSTON!**

Click for [more information](#) or [fundraising ideas](#)



## Top Global Finalists Chosen

The top five finalists in the Staples Ashoka Youth Social Entrepreneur Competition (YSE) have been selected! Teams represent Brazil, Germany, Mexico, India and the U.S.!



Members from these top 5 Teams will be flown to Boston to participate in the YV Summit and the June 29 YSE awards. At the ceremony, one Team will be presented the Excellence Award, along with a prize worth \$5,000! The four remaining Teams will each receive a \$500 cash award. Additional prizes for all Teams include a meeting with an Ashoka Fellow and the opportunity to consult with, and draw from the expertise of high-level Staples executives at their global headquarters located in Massachusetts. [Click here](#) to see the winners!

*The Staples Foundation for Learning has been a longtime partner and sponsor of Youth Venture's global programs. Staples was the first to invest in expanding Youth Venture internationally, making it possible to launch over 1,000 Venture Teams, engaging thousands of young changemakers on three continents.*



## Invent Your World Finalists to Attend Summit

The top five finalists in the Invent Your World challenge have been chosen! The winning Teams, from all over the world, will be flown to MIT for a global roundtable on climate change. The roundtable takes place just before the 2009 Youth Venture Summit! The top Team will be awarded a scholarship of \$20,000 and the four other finalists win a \$1,000 cash prize.



## Best Buy @15 Change Exchange

Youth Venture can earn up to **\$250,000** in the Best Buy @15 Change Exchange to launch new Venturers, build community, and expand the global movement of young changemakers!



Children's **Foundation**



Youth ages 13-18 can register at [www.at15.com](http://www.at15.com) to start earning points for YV, your Venture, and your school.

For more information, email [John Dillman](mailto:jdillman@youthventure.org) at [jdillman@youthventure.org](mailto:jdillman@youthventure.org)

## Four NE Venturers Become Ambassadors

Congratulations to **Melina Higgins** of [Spread the Dough](#), **Chloe Maxmin** of [Climate Action Club](#), **Rebecca Kantar** of [Minga](#), and **Adora Mora** of Future CEO's (Chicks Embracing Opportunities) for being selected with 14 others as Youth Venture's newest [Ambassadors](#)!



**Left to Right:** *Melina Higgins, Adora Mora, Chloe Maxmin, and Rebecca Kantar*

Ambassadors are Venturers who seek to engage and inspire other youth to launch their own community-benefiting Ventures. They are strong public speakers and enjoy sharing their personal and Venture stories. They are critical to the growth and strength of the Youth Venture network. Ambassadors regularly blog, share ideas and tips, and invite young people to join online discussions on variety of issues.



## United Way Youth Venture Year End Event a Success

Over 350 changemakers attended this years United Way Youth Venture Year End event! Several Venturers, allies, and champions were honored in an awards ceremony for their fantastic work with Youth Venture. Venturers heard from MTV's 'MADE' life coach Jeff Yalden, attended break out sessions on topics like creating an elevator speech, managing a meeting effectively, and creating a small business plan. Check out the article by the [Sentinel and Enterprise](#) or by [The Nashua Telegraph](#). Additionally, The Shirley Oracle did an [article](#) about Jeff Yalden and an [article](#) about the amazing Venturers!



Awards were given to the following Venturers: **Katie Roy** of Shirley Arts for All in Shirley, MA; **Cassie Cooley** of Teen Reach in Leominster, MA; **Kayla Reeves** of Team Ultimate at Parker Charter, MA; **Jackie Marcoux** of JS Treasures in Nashua, NH; **Spencer Davis** of Rubber Ducky Studios in Amherst, NH; and **Kristin Lefler** of Birthday Wish and Ethics Forum in Amherst, NH.

Teams also recieved awards: **Recess for All** was awarded The Most Innovative Team and **Team Excellence** was awarded with the Team with the Most Community Impact.

The Ally of the Year award went to **Sharyn Tomasso** of Leominster, MA, **Trish O'Malley** of Marlborough, MA, and **Mike Facques** of Amherst, NH. The Champion of the Year award went to **Kathryn Lyon** of Shirley. **Matt Bernard** was awarded the first ever Community Partner of the Year award.



Sponsored by:

- \* Youth Venture \* United Way of North Central Massachusetts
- \* Mount Wachusett Community College Center for Democracy and Humanity
- \* United Way of Greater Nashua \* Nashua Community College
- \* United Way of Tri-County \* United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley



## Dream it. Do it. Retreat - Providence

Over the course of ten weeks, powerful changemakers meet every Saturday to take steps toward making their Venture a reality. On the Saturday of Milestone Six, 16 teens from Providence plus 12 YVNE staff took a bus to beautiful Camp Aldersgate, RI for a two day camping retreat! Together the group worked on their Ventures, using interactive activities to develop their Venture name, logo, and tag line, as well as individual Team roles. Games, challenges, and role-playing exercises were sprinkled throughout the day and the night ended with a bonfire, songs, and stories.



The Dream it. Do it. Challenge (DDC) RI is now approaching its 8th Milestone. The Mock Panel and Community Panel are June 6th and 13th and participants are gathering all of the information they need to finalize their Action Plans. The teens will continue to meet with YVNE staff Sarah and TJ to finish the remaining two milestones and launch their Ventures in Providence!



## Young Leaders in Boston

The Young Leaders at United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley have taken on Youth Venture as their primary focus. On May 2nd, they gathered with nearly 300 of their peers at the New England Aquarium for an evening reception to raise money for their Youth Venture program. Six of the newest Boston Venture Teams were on hand to talk about their Ventures, including Go Lucky Green, Caught in the Act, Dudley Youth Council Radio Show, Sunshine On the Snow, Young, and Media A.R.T.S. (Media Awareness Raised Through Sociedad). As fish and penguins looked on, attendees bid on dozens of items in a silent auction and learned about both Youth Venture and the Young Leaders. At the end of the night they had raised over \$35,000 for Youth Venture!



## Around New England...and Beyond

### CONNECTICUT

**Green Teens U.S.A.** is gearing up to build their first compost! The Team has spent time volunteering at UConn's Give & Go collection, collecting clothing, unused notebooks, room decor, and other reusable items to sort and donate to local charities. The Team hopes it will help them make some strong connections with the University's environmental groups. \_

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Suncook Valley Sports Swap** was on TV! The 4-H YV Team was featured by WMUR as their "Hometown Hero" for doing such a terrific job with their Venture! Check out the report [here](#).

**Ethics Forum** is holding a benefit concert this Friday 5th! The show is from 6:30-11pm at the [Hampshire Dome](#) in Milford, NH! Featured bands are The Mydas Ascension, Silent Distortion, The Asthmatics, Quick Decision, The Retakes and Offsuit. A minimum donation of \$10 is requested, all proceeds will go toward Schools for Salone, an organization that helps rebuild schools in Sierra Leone, Africa and UNICEF to help rehabilitate child soldiers. The Team has already received attention from [The Cabinet Press](#), so come check out the show for yourself!

Newly launched **Seacoast Earthkeepers** are getting their hands dirty by digging up the

invasive bamboo plant, Japanese Knotwood, that has been attacking their wetlands near Hampton's Ice Pond. Check out the article in [The Seacoast Online](#).

**JBACK** dropped off their first round of teddy bears last month. The Team invited YVNE staff to attend and take photos, which resulted in media exposure from [The Cabinet Press](#) for JBACK!

## **RHODE ISLAND**

The **Super Outdoor Action Adventure Club** (SOAAC), an outdoor wilderness Venture designed to get kids active, is coordinating a series of rock-climbing expeditions with groups of students and staff. The Team is hosting a series of mountain biking workshops and organizing a bike-a-thon to raise funds for dollars for scholars on the weekend of June 6th in Lincoln Woods, RI.

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

**Ninjacyclerz** had an Eco-Day with the rest of their school where they started building their community garden, planted flowers around the school, picked up trash, and made rain barrels.



**Minga** is launching "Lets Get Real", a nation-wide road-trip campaign to draw attention to the realities of the two million children trapped in prostitution, and the need for real perceptions of what it means to be a teenager in North America today. The Team is looking to partner with other Ventures who want to hold workshops for teenagers. Send them a message on their [GenV profile](#) on GenV if you're interested.



**Luncheon Munchin**, a Venture engages their peers in community service, hosted their first luncheon at the senior citizens center and it was a hit! Over 60 senior citizens attended the luncheon and had a great time.

## AmeriCorps Week was May 10 - May 16

Most of Youth Venture's staff are AmeriCorps\* VISTA's from all over the country! To celebrate AmeriCorps week, the YVNE VISTA's spent a day outside cleaning up trash in Concord, NH. Check out the article in [The Concord Monitor](#) and the photos below!



## Kyle Taylor Prepares To Swim The English Channel

Wow there are no limits to Kyle Taylor's commitment to community. The infamous Venturer who criss-crossed the globe and the U.S. on Dream it. Do it. tours is going to swim the English Channel on July 4th. Why? To raise money for [Harvey Parry](#), a 3-year-old boy who lost both legs to a deadly form of meningitis. Details are [here](#), and also on Kyle's [web site](#). Kyle is in England attending the London School of Economics.



*Kyle Taylor (top right) with YVNE Venturers in May*

2007



## Bill Drayton Honored at Yale Commencement

Yale University honored Bill Drayton, founder and CEO of Ashoka's Youth Venture, by awarding him with an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters at its 308th commencement ceremony. Since 1702, the honorary degrees awarded annually during the Yale University Commencement are the highest honor conferred by the University.



The degree was conferred upon Bill Drayton in recognition of Ashoka's role in creating and building the field of social entrepreneurship along with our central contribution to build a world where solutions outrun the problems -- because all, not just an elite few, can be changemakers.

In his citation, Yale University President Richard C. Levin noted, "You have defined and perfected the role of social entrepreneur, helping people around the world help themselves. As the founder of Ashoka: Innovators for the Public, you have sought creative solutions to the most pressing social problems."



## Crunchy Chocolate?

June marks two years that [Grasshopper](#), formerly GotVMail, has graciously provided its virtual voice mailbox system pro bono to YVNE. Recently Grasshopper launched an unusual viral rebranding [marketing campaign](#) that received national attention. They FedEx'd 5,000 packages of *real* chocolate-covered grasshoppers to "the most influential people in America, including bloggers, politicians, celebrities, entrepreneurs, CEO's, journalists, reporters, TV anchors" to promote their new Entrepreneur Movement. Four YVNE staff jumped at the challenge and would do it again because as the package stated, we are "risk-takers and dream-realizers."



The founder and CEO of Grasshopper, Siamak Taghaddos, served a [judge](#) for this year's Staples Ashoka Youth Social Entrepreneur Competition. Thank you! His passion for social entrepreneurship shows in Grasshopper's fantastic [viral video](#).



## Kumar in India

..... ('Namaste' in Sanskrit)

Hello New England! I hope everyone had a great Memorial Day. The office is extra busy as we gear up for our end of the year celebration in June that showcases the efforts and accomplishments of our changemakers. Since my last update, we visited our Venturers in Songadh, Gujarat. It was an incredible experience; these young people are doing work from building homes, schools and even water dams to providing education, employment and village-wide access to running water and electricity. It's really amazing stuff!

The monsoons are on their way so it's getting more hot and humid here everyday, but Bombay's still treating me really well.

I hope everyone's enjoying the summer and has registered for the YV Summit in Boston!

*Kumar*



**Top left:** Team building exercise at YV workshop in Songadh **Middle:** Venturers in Hatnoor Village **Top right:** Kumar playing with kids **Bottom right:** Morning in Hatnoor Village **Bottom left:** Venturer Bhavana (far right) with the children she teaches.



## New YV Staff at United Way of North Central MA

Becca Korduner has joined the Youth Venture New England team! She will coordinate our partnership with the United Way of North Central Massachusetts. Becca, a recent graduate from Gordon College (MA), hails from the great state of Connecticut. Most recently she worked for Apple Inc. training customers on how to use their Mac's. So yes, she is a "Mac person" and loves the company, but is really excited to have joined Youth Venture.



"Change your thoughts and you change your world. "

- Norman Vincent Peale

## 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 Program Associate of Media & Marketing, Jessica O'Neal at [joneal@youthventure.org](mailto:joneal@youthventure.org)



facebook

### 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

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](mailto:yvne@youthventure.org)

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**YVNE Staff at Camp Aldersgate**

*Not pictured: Lidia Pedro, 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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