

Dear Youth Venture Friend,

# Youth Venture New England

Newsletter

Dream it. Do it.

November 2006

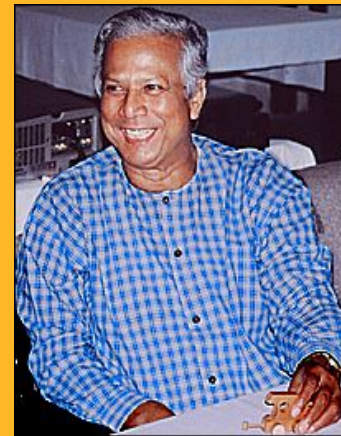
## First-Ever Youth Volunteerism Conference is a Huge Success

What a great event for everyone involved! The [NH Youth Board of Volunteers](#) (NHYBV) Venture Team was created for the purpose of holding New Hampshire's first statewide [Conference on Youth Volunteerism](#), and how they succeeded! Together with the [StarMight Foundation](#), the NHYBV event drew over 90 middle and high school students from NH, Maine, and Massachusetts. The StarMight Foundation is a NH nonprofit committed to empowering youth to volunteer and make a difference. And, it just happens to have been founded by NHYBV co-founder Meagan Corlin.



**Teen Institute's Verb Term entertaining participants of NH's first ever Youth Conference on Volunteerism. It was held November 4, 2006 in Bedford, NH.**

Participants attended several workshops put on by conference partners including a Youth Venture "Dream it. Do it." Other partners included the United Way, American Red Cross, City Year, the Teen Institute, NH 4-H, Makin' it Happen Coalition, and [The Difference Music Makes](#). The Difference Music Makes is also a Youth Venture, co-founded by Meagan's sister Laura. (Please see the sidebar story "Fellow Venturer Laura Corlin



**Congratulations to Muhammad Yunus. This renowned social entrepreneur and founding member of Ashoka's Global Academy is the 2006 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.**

**Venturers you should feel proud and connected! After all, Muhammad Yunus is a member of Ashoka - Ashoka created Youth Venture!**

**Muhammad Yunus is sharing the \$1.4 million prize with the revolutionary Grameen Bank which he founded. Based in Bangladesh, the Grameen Bank has revolutionized banking worldwide. The Grameen Bank has helped nearly 7 million rural people (mostly impoverished women) improve their lives through its micro-credit loan**

Also Needs Our Vote.")

Venture teams were out in force at the conference. Along with the NHBYV and The Difference Music Makes, there were members of the Beech Hill Bakers, [SeniorConnect](#) and [Rubber Ducky Studios](#). In fact, Rubber Ducky Studios was hard at work shooting video and interviewing participants. They plan to produce a conference video. Kudos! By the way, they have a new and improved web site – complete with examples of recent videos they've produced. These guys are talented. This is a must see! [www.freewebs.com/rubberduckycommercials/](http://www.freewebs.com/rubberduckycommercials/)

With volunteering and public service so critical to improving our way of life, it's no doubt NH Congressmen Charles Bass and Jeb Bradley each decided to take time out of their busy pre-election weekend to address the conference participants. And, a letter from Senator John Sununu was read praising all of the young volunteers.



**NH Congressman Charles Bass with members of the NH Youth Board of Volunteers.**

### Youth Venture Reaching Out in New Ways

\*\*\*Now on 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!

**program. Loans are made in small amounts with terms that are reasonable and manageable to borrowers.**

### Quote of the Month

*"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try!"*

**Theodor Geisel**

### **ACT NOW!**

Cast Your Vote to Help Fellow Venturers Win the Recognition They Deserve!

BusinessWeek.com just announced their list of the Twenty-five Best Entrepreneurs Under 25, and two Venturers, Michael Simmons and Sheena Lindahl have made the list!!

Youth Venture asks for you to support [Michael and Sheena](#) by voting for them as the best entrepreneurs on the list. If they are voted in the top 5, BusinessWeek will do a feature story on them. This is great news for the Youth Venture community! [To vote, click here!](#)

### **Fellow Venturer Laura Corlin Also Needs Your Vote!**

Laura, whose Venture is called [The Difference Music Makes](#), has been nominated for a Volvo for Life Award. The Difference Music Makes has provided hundreds of children in hospitals with music and CD players to help them through their

<http://www.myspace.com/youthventure1>

**\*\*\*Technical Allies Special Guest Series\*\*\***

Youth Venture successfully launched its first teleconference Special Guest Series Workshop on Monday, November 6. Eric from New York shared marketing tips with Venturers ranging from ways to sell your message, remembering your team's mission, ideas for design, ways to publicize your Venture, as well as ways to measure success, and how to share that success with others!

Then, Makara and Mary, Venturers from Minnesota, shared their secrets for marketing, such as engaging elected officials, writing press releases, engaging different parts of the media, and getting local community support for their Venture.

Next up is theater! On November 20 at 7:30 pm EST, Cathy, an experienced theater and broadcast media professional from New Hampshire, will be talking about Audience and Community Spirit Development. She'll help you get lasting financial and in-kind support to enhance your Venture. Then, Jordan, a Venturer from Georgia will speak about her ventures in the theater and how she has worked with Youth Venture to make the Bilingual Children's Theatre a success! **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!**

**AROUND NEW ENGLAND**

**New Hampshire** - Last month we profiled new Venture Team **Broadway at the Café**. Great news, Carly and Lauren have set-up their own web site! Please stop by, it's a surefire way to keep tabs on their upcoming performances:

<http://www.backtobroadway.net/>

Three new teams from Youth Venture's partnership with Nute Middle and High Schools are expected to launch by month's end. They are Project Beautify, Color Our World, and The Outing Club.

Young 4-H'ers across NH are beginning to develop their

sometimes painful medical treatments.

Please vote for Laura by going to the Volvo for Life web site and simply typing her last name *Corlin* in the last name section. It just takes a moment and, remember, every vote counts. Thanks so much!

<http://www.volvoforlifeawards.com>

Congratulations to Zander of Florida. His venture **Turtle Talk** has earned him the Barron Prize and a \$2,000 scholarship. Each year [The Barron Prize](#) selects ten "outstanding young leaders who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet."

Zander works to save endangered loggerhead sea turtles from extinction. **Turtle Talk** is an interactive educational program that teaches children about the marine turtle. Zander believes knowledge will lead to better ways of protecting the turtle.

All Venturers are shining examples of young people making a positive difference; and they should pursue opportunities to win scholarships or additional grants to support and/or expand their venture.

**Opportunities for Venturers**

**That Way Easy**

On November 15, Staples and Youth Venture are launching 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

Specialist Alice Ballenger who has been criss-crossing NH promoting the [4-H](#) Youth Venture program. She has participated in the Claremont Awards Rally, Annual 4-H Foundation meeting, Merrimack 4-H adult leader's meeting, Rockingham County 4-H horse meeting, and Grafton county 4-H club leader's meeting.

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**Massachusetts** - The Youth Venture – United Way of North Central Massachusetts partnership currently has launched over forty teams – with another dozen currently in the works. Some of the great Venture ideas include a Senior Citizen Prom to be held at their high school. Another would be a Smoothie Club; to make and sell Smoothies with all of the proceeds going to a local no-kill cat shelter. A Skate Park team is in the process of forming, as well as a bi-lingual Dance Group who would learn salsa and other Latin dances to perform at other schools, nursing homes, and community events. A multi-cultural mentoring club is also in the process of forming.

Meantime, established teams are continuing to make a positive difference in their communities. **Smokebusters**, at North Middlesex High School, is busy preparing for November 16th's "Great American Smokeout." With help from the local chapter of the American Cancer Society, these Venturers are gathering materials on quitting smoking and pledge forms to hand out to students during school lunch periods on the 16th. They're also working with the cessation group at school to educate kids on the dangers of smoking. And, during the week leading up to the event they'll provide hotline numbers and quit tips over the school's morning news program.

**Nature's Den** is an outdoor classroom for music, art, and theatre performances and other cultural activities at Leominster High School. The student designed and created space currently includes park benches, three student-made mosaic murals, a marble checker/chess table, and an amphitheatre designed, built, and donated by a local masonry business. Many other local businesses also donated their time, goods and services to help this Venture dream become a reality.

**Team Ultimate** members have been teaching inner-city girls how to play the game of Ultimate Frisbee while acting as mentors. Through weekly meetings, these girls hold discussion groups about issues such as self-esteem and other matters girls face growing up. Once they complete six discussion sessions, each girl receives her own Frisbee. This Venture Team believes that engaging these youth in the game of Ultimate Frisbee will serve as a catalyst to help teach

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. Applications submitted by December 15 will be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 Staples Gift Card!

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) 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. Maybe you want to start a tutoring club to help students improve their language and math skills, or a club that helps students prepare for the SATS, improve school conditions, help build students self-esteem, or teach students about their college options and financial aid. Have an idea? Send it in and make it a reality!

### **Win a Scholarship**

Five of the Youth Venture teams launched that propose the best ideas to help Latino youth stay in school and get prepared for college and work, will be awarded \$5,000 scholarships by Youth Venture in partnership with MTV Tr3s per team to be evenly split

tolerance, understanding differences, building self-esteem and learning to work and function as a team.

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**Vermont** - From the Green Mountain State, [Ben & Jerry's Scoopers Making Change](#) Youth Venture partnership has resulted in six teams. Already these young scoopers have accomplished a lot. Two of the teams, **Kid's Café** and **Operation Backpack**, focus on children and education. **Kid's Café** is active in after school programs at six Raleigh, North Carolina schools. So far, **Operation Backpack** has given out 70 backpacks filled with supplies to underprivileged students in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

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. 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. <http://www.myhometownhelper.com/>

### NetAid Global Action Awards

Deadline November 30, 2006

The Global Action Awards honor high school students who have organized and led a project that has directly impacted people in poor countries or raised awareness about global poverty in their own community. To learn more, visit: <http://www.netaid.org>

Ashoka: Innovators for the Public ([www.ashoka.org](http://www.ashoka.org)) 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. Ashoka created Youth Venture 1996.



### **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: <http://www.ysa.org/nysd/>

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