

In This Issue**Golden Opportunities****YV Nation****In Your Neck of the Woods****Venture Spotlight****Meet an Ashoka Fellow****Quick Links****GenV.net****About Youth Venture****YV Mid-Atlantic****YV Mid-West****YV New England****YV New York and Virtual****YV National****YV Seattle****YV Digital****Donate Now****Dear Venturers and Changemakers,**

Turn over a new leaf this season with Youth Venture's several opportunities for your Venture. The **Staples Youth Social Entrepreneur Competition** and the **Best Buy @15™ Challenge with Youth Venture** are both great ways to expand and strengthen your efforts to make change in your community. US Venture teams have **excellent chances** of becoming finalists in these competitions and win one of **numerous prizes**. Remember, if you can Dream It, you can Do It! See the **YV Nation** section for more info. Don't hesitate. Maximize your Venture's potential. **Apply now.**

Also for this month, you'll find a diverse collection of opportunities in the **Golden Opportunities** section. YV is confident that most, if not all, of these resources can meet your Venture's needs. Additionally, you'll find that **five different regions** in the US, instead of just one, are featured and one of them could be yours! See what exciting things are happening **In Your Neck of the Woods**. And don't forget to check out what other **changemakers like you**, Venturers and Ashoka Fellows alike, are doing to positively affect the world around them. It may inspire you and help you to brainstorm new, creative ideas for your Venture.

Sincerely,

Youth Venture



**ASHOKA
INITIATIVE**

Golden Opportunities

Take advantage of these great grants, programs, and scholarships!

Calling All College Students! ~ YP4 Fellowship

YOUNG PEOPLE FOR



The Young People For Fellowship is a long-term leadership development program focusing on identifying, engaging and empowering young progressive leaders. The **one-year fellowship** equips motivated, socially aware, diverse, and creative college students with the skills and resources necessary to create lasting positive change on their campuses and in their communities. YP4 offer resources, guidance and a wide variety of ongoing opportunities for young leaders to connect with other progressive leaders and organizations, plan and **execute projects of their choosing**, and learn valuable leadership, communication, organizing, collaboration and advocacy skills. Apply or nominate a young progressive leader for Young People For's fellowship program.

Deadline: October 26, 2008

Website: www.youngpeoplefor.org/programs/fellowship

Create. Innovate. Participate in the Change! ~ Putting MDGs Into Action Award

The World Summit Youth Award (WSYA) invites young designers and e-Content creators to participate in an international competition. Sought-after are e-Contents that address the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in an inspiring manner, and **use internet and mobile contents to raise awareness of the MDGs** to create a humane, just, and livable world. If you rely on the web for creating culture, overcoming gender inequality, lack of education, and access to clean water, or to address hunger, poverty, disease and environmental degradation, then you should take part!

The rewards are **global recognition within the United Nations**, invitations to the **WSYA Winners events in Mexico**, and networking contacts on a global scale. Let WSYA spread the word to the global community about how you're helping reach the MDGs with innovative use of the Internet! Please note that the online platforms need not be youth-led so long as the specific project is.

Deadline: December 31, 2008

Website: www.youthaward.org/apply



Media Opportunity ~ Reader's Digest Foundation: "Make It Matter" Contest

Youth Venture knows you're making a contribution to your community with your Venture as a changemaker. Tell the Reader's Digest Foundation how YV has inspired and supported you to give back, and **your Venture's story** may be selected as one of ten stories **published in Reader's Digest** in the new monthly "Make it Matter" column as well as have a contribution made to YV in your name. Your story may also appear on todayshow.com or rd.com. So tell the Reader's Digest Foundation about the good works you've done through Youth Venture by **clicking here** -- or email your story to makeitmatter@rd.com!

Deadline: Jan. 1, 2009

Grow Your Venture's Treasury Box ~ The Mix It Up Grants

Have a great idea about how to challenge social boundaries and bring down the walls that divide your school? The Mix It Up Grants Program funds **\$500 grants** to youth-directed programs and projects that address social boundaries in schools or communities.

Applications submitted by youth ages 13 years and older are accepted on a rolling basis.

Deadline: None

Website: www.tolerance.org/teens/grants.jsp



Want more information about scholarships, programs, and grants? Many more are listed on **GenV.net**. Check out the following links: [Opportunities for Venturers and Grants and Scholarship Opportunities for Venturers](#).

Get Pumped for Youth Venture Competitions!



The Staples Youth Social Entrepreneur Competition: Now through October 15, 2008

If you thought you missed it, there is still time to enter in the Staples Youth Social Entrepreneur Competition. This collaborative competition will identify innovative and creative ideas that young people are making and accelerate their development, innovation, and potential for impact in their communities. Entries will be accepted through October 15, 2008. Submit your community-impacting idea to have the chance to fly out to the Staples Headquarters and receive a suite of products from Staples with a total value of \$5,000.

To learn more about the competition, [click here](#).

The Best Buy @15™ Challenge with Youth Venture: Now through October 27, 2008

Act fast! Only a few weeks left for the Best Buy @15™ Challenge with Youth Venture. What could be better than free publicity and extra funding to expand your Venture?! The Best Buy @15™ Challenge will select 30 finalists to feature online and award \$10,000 grants to the 15 Venture Teams that display the greatest creativity and community impact in their Venture and the clearest vision of how to create sustainable change.



[Click here](#) for an application and to learn more!

Youth Venture Chat Rooms

Guess what?!?!.... GenV has CHAT ROOMS! Now you can have instant communication with your buddies on GenV! YV is super excited to introduce chat rooms to the site and hopes you enjoy them! Take the opportunity to **connect directly** to share ideas, advice, and collaborate with changemakers from around the world. You can **access chats** by first logging in and then clicking on the Chat option within the Member menu on the left hand side of the screen. You will be directly linked to **English Chat page**. For chats in other languages, click Chat Rooms at the top of the page. Chat options include sending of **public** or **private messages** to other users in the chat. To send a private message, click on the user's name that is listed in the "Who is online in English Chat" section. **Remember** to be safe in chats and keep your **personal info private!** For questions or help, [contact YV_Katie](#).



Visit [GenV.net](#) to find out about other exciting programs that Youth Venture is sponsoring!

If you'll not settle for anything less than your best, you will be **amazed** at what you can **accomplish** in your lives. ~Vince Lombardi

If you can imagine it, you can **achieve it**; if you can **dream it**, you can become it. ~William Arthur Ward

Believe deep down in your heart that you're **destined** to do great things. ~Joe Paterno

In Your Neck of the Woods

New England

Shirley Middle School in Massachusetts held an Open House on September 18th. Eight Venture Teams were in attendance to showcase their Ventures focusing on recycling, publishing, extra curricular activities, and fundraising. The Teams included; **Supply for Good**, **SMS Newspaper**, **Kids at Play**, **Food Dudes**, **SWEET**,