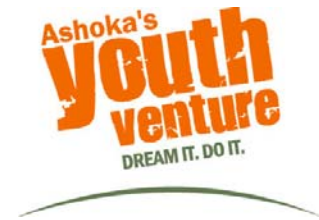


Youth Venture – New England

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONNECTICUT GREEN TEENS GET GREEN LIGHT TO GO TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

"I am so thrilled to go to the Summit." – Jessie Mehrhoff

CONCORD, NH – July 8, 2008– Who says nice guys finish last? These nice guys won an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. In all, five young New Englanders, representing three Venture teams, were chosen out of hundreds to receive a trip to the first ever **National Youth Venture Summit** as a result of their hard work and commitment to community.

Jessie Mehrhoff and Avital Lassow from Willington, CT created **Green Teens U.S.A.**, an organization determined to make today's youth more environmentally conscious. The girls hold environmentally oriented events for all ages to show how everyone can be part of the solution. The girls also sell eco-bags to their community as a way to encourage them to use canvas bags as an alternate to paper and plastic. **Green Teens U.S.A.** is an affiliate of Green Teen's, New Zealand.

The two other Youth Venture New England teams selected to attend the summit are **S.A.F.A. (Shirley Arts for All)** from Shirley, MA and **Dance Creations** from Nashua, NH. **S.A.F.A.** sells refreshments at various school and community events in order to raise money for drama program scholarships. **Dance Creations** developed a free after-school program to teach underprivileged children how to dance and creatively express themselves.

A Venture Team consists of at least two youth, ages 12- 20, who are actively engaged in bringing about positive social change to their community.

Youth Venture's First National Summit will gather hundreds of young leaders and changemakers from all over the nation. They will experience three days of skill building and leadership strengthening as well as enable them to share their thoughts, ideas and experiences.

The **National Youth Venture Summit** will be held July 17- 20 at American University. For details, please visit www.GenV.net/summit.

About Youth Venture:

Youth Venture® leads an international community of young people who are powerful now, changemakers now. Youth Venture inspires and invests in teams of young people to create and launch their own sustainable, community-benefiting Ventures. Youth Venture then connects them into a global movement of young changemakers who are together redefining the youth years as a time of leadership and positive social change. This is the foundation of an *Everyone*

a *Changemaker™* world – the key factor for success in every part of society. Youth Venture currently operates in 14 countries and online at www.GenV.net

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