

**Youth Venture – New England**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### LOCAL TEENS TAKE A HIT AT PREVENTING TOBACCO USE AMONG YOUTH

*"(We) want kids to learn to be drug free at an early age," Mallory Coulombe*

CONCORD, NH – September 15, 2008 – Youth smoking can be a real drag, at least that's how Mallory Coulombe from Gorham, NH feels. That's why Coulombe and her friend Kyra Therrien launched, **Save Yourself, Take Action**, a Youth Venture Team avid on preventing today's youth from lighting up.

The Team of Gorham Middle High School students will create kits for elementary schools complete with a DVD, game and poster educating kids about the ill effects of smoking. The materials will feature the fictional character "Bucky the Bunny," created by Coulombe.

Coulombe formally presented **Save Yourself, Take Action's** changemaking idea before a Selection Panel of community members and leaders. The Panel approved the Team's idea after deciding they had met the criteria for becoming a Youth Venture Team. The Team was given a seed grant of \$1,000 to launch their sustainable project.

**Save Yourself, Take Action** launched as a result of the Girls' Scouts *Challenge and Change: Challenge Yourself, Change the World* program – a collaborative project with Youth Venture to introduce scouts to the power and benefits of social entrepreneurship through a series of leadership and problem solving workshops.



*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](http://www.GenV.net)

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