

Youth Venture New England Region

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOZENS OF NEW ENGLAND TEENAGERS ARE LINKED TO THIS YEAR'S NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER!

You don't even need the full six degrees of separation to reach the common denominator of social entrepreneurship.

CONCORD, NH – December 4, 2006 – For a number of young New Englanders, the Nobel Peace Prize is no longer a distant award given to a great person with seemingly little or no direct connection to their lives. That's because 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus is a founding member of Ashoka's Global Academy. And, Ashoka is the parent organization of Youth Venture. These young New Englanders are Youth Venturers, social entrepreneurs like Muhammad Yunus.

Yunus will be awarded the coveted Nobel Peace Prize on December 10. He 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 program. Loans are made in small amounts with terms that are reasonable and manageable to borrowers.

For New England's 100 or so Youth Venture teams, Yunus is a shining example of how a single person can work to improve his/her community. Some New England Venture teams include:

- Merrimack, NH students who've developed their own bio-diesel fuel mixture to run and operate a school bus for field trips.
- A group of Sandown, NH Girl Scouts who've managed to acquire a 58-acre parcel of woodland to develop a community nature trail.
- Massachusetts high school students created an outdoor classroom for music, art, and theatre performances and other cultural activities at Leominster High School.
- Also in Massachusetts, a Venture Team at North Middlesex High School developed a peer education program designed to reduce the number of middle school youth who experiment with, or engage in, tobacco use and abuse.
- And, many more...

As the world honors Muhammad Yunus' achievements – why not shine the local spotlight on some of New England's own budding young social entrepreneurs?

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PLEASE NOTE:

Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus will appear on the Oprah Winfrey show today, Dec. 4, 2006, at 4 p.m. EST.



Oprah.com

About Youth Venture:

Youth Venture (www.youthventure.org) is a national not-for-profit organization that invests in young people as changemakers by providing up to \$1,000 in seed money, plus the tools and support they need to create, lead, and launch organizations, clubs, or businesses (“Ventures”) that make a difference in the community. Participation is available to youth between the ages of 12-20.

About Ashoka

Ashoka: Innovators for the Public (www.ashoka.org) is a global community of social entrepreneurs who deliver innovative solutions to social problems. Ashoka identifies & 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.

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