



# Youth Venture Midwest

## In This Issue:

- Youth Venture in the News: YV Founder Interviewed for Condé Nast Traveler 20 Year Anniv. Issue
- Local Venture Team Spotlight: Create a Space, Duluth, MN
- International Venture Team Spotlight: Arte e Amore, Sao Paulo Brazil
- Ashoka Fellow Snapshot: Amy Barzach Boundless Playgrounds®
- Opportunities for Venturers:
  - Youth Venture Minnesota Venture Leadership Team
  - Youth Venture Technical Ally Special Guest Series
  - MTV's Choose or Lose is looking for aspiring journalists to cover the 2008 election
  - Scholarships Available from AXA Foundation in Association with U.S. News
  - Youth Garden Grants
  - Youth Social Enterprise Initiative
  - Student Conservation Association and Mazda: Conservation in Action Multimedia Contest
  - Share your News!
- Quote of the Month
- About Youth Venture
- About Ashoka
- Tell a friend about Youth Venture!

## Youth Venture in the News:

Youth Venture Founder, Bill Drayton, Interviewed in *Condé Nast Traveler 20 Year Anniversary Issue*

A Conversation with Bill Drayton  
by Dorinda Elliot

Bill Drayton may be the most important revolutionary you've never heard of. Twenty-six years ago, the former McKinsey consultant had a Big Idea: Just as entrepreneurs innovate in the business world, individuals, not governments, drive social change. He founded Ashoka, which sponsors "social entrepreneurs"—the Andrew Carnegies, Henry Fords, and Steve Jobses of the citizen sector. Ashoka has funded more than 1,800 Fellows—from a woman in Lebanon who launched a drug-rehab program to a lawyer in Thailand who helps people sue polluters. Silicon Valley philanthropists love Drayton (eBay's creators are funders); it takes an entrepreneur to know one. Drayton spoke with *Condé Nast Traveler's* **Dorinda Elliott**.

To experience the complete interview please visit <http://www.concierge.com/cntraveler/articles/detail?articleId=11320>.

[Back to top](#)

## Local Venture Team Spotlight:

### Create a Space, Duluth, MN



In 2004 Venturers Jenny, Mindy, and Cameron, of Duluth, Minnesota recognized their hometown's need for community and youth services and yet Duluth possesses limited economic and social resources to help people develop and sustain these services. To help solve this problem, the students launched Create a Space in partnership with Youth Venture and Youth Service America.

The Create a Space team worked with local students to create a constructive environment by transforming an unused space within the local YMCA into a positive and safe youth center. The team's goal was to create a community space where youth could hang out, have fun, and work together - increasing the feeling of belonging to their community. The space was transformed into a colorful, fun atmosphere, completely designed and run by youth, for youth.

The space is currently being used by over 100 youth in a range of ways such as the YMCA's Schools Out program, Family Night, and various day camps.

[Back to top](#)

## International Venture Team Spotlight: Arte e Amor (Art and Love), Sao Paulo, Brazil



Leandro (20) and Jucimeire (23), two young girls coming from a poor suburb of Sao Paulo, wanted to do something to help young pregnant and chemically addicted girls in their community. Their passion for glass recycling and jewelry led them to create an income generating opportunity for the young girls in their community.

The team offers courses on glass recycling and jewel manufacturing. Having been in this disadvantage position themselves, Leandro and Jucimeire want to improve the quality of life for these high-risk young girls, by encouraging them to become changemakers and identifying creative opportunities to generate income while at the same time recycle, educate and clean their communities.

[Back to top](#)

## Ashoka Fellow Snapshot: Amy Barzach Boundless Playgrounds®

Since Boundless Playgrounds® was established by Amy, Jean Schappet and a passionate team of parents and professionals in 1997, more than sixty-nine barrier-free playgrounds have been created in nineteen states.

Amy Barzach, founder of Boundless Playgrounds®, was elected an Ashoka Fellow in 2002. Amy's father, dedicated to rebuilding urban community housing, taught her entrepreneurship at an early age. "He taught me to never get discouraged, take risks, learn from mistakes, and keep moving forward" Amy remembers. She credits her father and mother, an urban high school teacher, for her strong character.

Amy's idea for Boundless Playgrounds® was to create a national resource center to help communities build play areas that address the developmental needs of children of all abilities and the principles of universal design, thus breaking down barriers between individuals with and without physical, sensory, and developmental disabilities.

She envisions an integrated world, where everyone is empowered and welcomed to contribute because children of all abilities grew up playing and learning together. A world where people celebrate similarities and appreciate differences.

Amy is dedicated to advocating for nongovernmental and governmental solutions to the struggle of creating standards that incorporate the true spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act into children's play environments. At the core, she is changing the mindset of how people look at playgrounds.

From the start, Amy's model focused on educating community members to look at play from the perspectives of both typically able children and children with disabilities. After the establishment of playgrounds, Boundless Playgrounds®

disabilities and it provides solutions that help to address childhood obesity.

"This is the life work that I was destined to do," exclaims Amy. "All of my experiences have led me to where I am now - and in ten years it is my hope that the work we are doing now and will do in the future will start to make a significant difference in our world. I will be the leader who educates, inspires, and takes this [work] in new directions."

More than one hundred playgrounds are currently in active development.

[Back to top](#)

### Opportunities for Venturers:

#### **Minnesota Venture Leadership Team: The Next Minnesota Venture Leadership Team Meeting is Just Around the Corner!**

Venturers are invited to gather and share ideas and passions (and pizza!) The Minnesota Youth Council is open to all Venture Teams. It is designed to be a safe, fun place where young changemakers can get together to discuss their Ventures, best practices, fundraising ideas, and Youth Venture.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday September 12th from 6:00 - 7:30PM at the Youth Venture's new Youth Resource Center at 2831 Aldrich Ave. Minneapolis, MN. On the agenda, among many other topics, is fundraising. Come prepared to share and learn about some great ideas!

If you are interested in joining the Minnesota Youth Council please contact the Youth Venture Midwest Outreach Associate, Jessie, at 612-455-2007 or [jruth@youthventure.org](mailto:jruth@youthventure.org).

[Back to top](#)



## **Youth Venture Technical Allies**

### **Special Guest Series**

#### **Technical Allies Special Guest Series**

Youth all over the country are discovering Youth Venture's Special Guest workshops. These workshops provide a great opportunity for youth to continue their education and get help with and improve their Ventures.

Every other Monday at 6:30 CST, Venturers can call in and get tips from experienced professionals and other Venture Teams on a variety of topics as they lead and sustain their own Ventures. It is a free call and Venturers from all over the country can join in!

If you're interested in getting more information, signing up, or presenting on a call, please contact Lauren at [lsatterlee@youthventure.org](mailto:lsatterlee@youthventure.org) or 612-455-2007.

[Back to top](#)

## **MTV is looking for aspiring reporters! MTV's Choose or Lose is looking for aspiring journalists to cover the 2008 election via written stories, vlogs and photos.**

Citizen journalists! Visionaries! Vloggers! This is your year. Now more than ever, the presidential candidates know that every vote counts, and that local campaign stops can be covered and spread worldwide by anyone with a cell phone. You have power.

As part of our collaboration with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Knight News Challenge, MTV is looking for one aspiring reporter from every state and Washington, D.C., to be part of our Choose or Lose team. We know that you're already hitting the streets and doing this work. So now we're giving you the chance to join a national team of journalists in covering this unprecedented election year from a youth perspective.

Ideal candidates will have their fingers on the pulse of issues that are important to young people in their states and be passionate about politics and the possibilities of new technology. Strong writing and reporting skills are a must. A distinctive voice and an authoritative point of view? Even better.

We'll load you up with some production gear and bring you to MTV's headquarters in New York City for orientation. In return, you will be expected to work in a paid, part-time capacity to file video, written or photographic stories weekly throughout the election year. Your pieces will be posted online and spread to mobile devices — and the top stories will be broadcast on MTV, MTV2, MTVU or MTV Trés each week.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation promotes journalistic excellence worldwide and invests in the vitality of the communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers.

### Requirements:

- You must be at least 18 years old by December, 2007.
- You must reside in the state you are covering from January to November, 2008.
- You must have the time and ability to travel within your state and file at least one video, written or photographic story per week.

Applications can be filled out and submitted at [think.mtv.com](http://think.mtv.com) The application deadline is September 21, 2007.

For more information please visit [http://www.mtv.com/thinkmtv/politics/election\\_08/index\\_more.jhtml](http://www.mtv.com/thinkmtv/politics/election_08/index_more.jhtml).

[Back to top](#)

## **\$670,000 in Scholarships Available from AXA Foundation in Association with *U.S. News & World Report***

Students who are making a difference will be awarded AXA Achievement<sup>sm</sup> Scholarships. Now in its sixth year, *U.S. News & World Report* and AXA Foundation announce the offering of the AXA Achievement<sup>sm</sup> Scholarships. Dedicated to

providing resources that help make college possible, AXA Achievement<sup>sm</sup> will award \$670,000 in scholarships to students throughout the nation.

Applications are available now via [www.axa-achievement.com](http://www.axa-achievement.com) and the deadline for submissions is December 15, 2007. In addition, details of the AXA Achievement<sup>sm</sup> program will be included in the *U.S. News & World Report 2008 America's Best Colleges* issue, on newsstands now.

"The winners, known as AXA Achievers, are students who are involved in improving their communities and making a difference to those in need," said Bill Holiber, President of *U.S. News & World Report*. "Our partnership with the AXA Foundation helps to give these amazing students a head start on achieving even greater things."

Fifty-two students, one from each state, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, will be selected to receive one-time scholarship awards of \$10,000 each; 10 students will be selected as national winners from the pool of 52, earning an additional scholarship of \$15,000, a laptop computer and the offer of an AXA internship. Qualified candidates will have demonstrated drive and determination to succeed, the ability to thrive in a college environment, and respect for self, family and community. The scholarship is administered by Scholarship Management Services, a program of Scholarship America<sup>sm</sup>, one of the nation's largest nonprofit private sector scholarship and educational support organizations.

Applications available now! For more information and to read about the 2007 AXA Achievers, visit [www.axa-achievement.com](http://www.axa-achievement.com).

[Back to top](#)

## Youth Garden Grants

Youth Garden Grants could literally help your Venture *grow*. If your Venture involves planning a garden with at least 15 young people who are between the ages of 3-18 - this is a grant you should consider applying for. This opportunity is provided by the national Gardening Association and The Home Depot. The deadline is November 1, 2007.

For information and application, please visit: <http://assoc.garden.org/grants/>.

[Back to top](#)

## Youth Social Enterprise Initiative

The Global Young Social Entrepreneurs' Competition invites you to spearhead the future!

Are you 30 years or younger? Are you leading a business or venture that creates revenue but also aims to make the world a better place? Are internet, computer, mobile phones or other IT tools an integral part of your business or venture?

Apply to the Global Young Social Entrepreneurs' Competition runs in all regions of the globe.

## 7 Reasons to apply :

1. Be one of 100 sponsored participants to attend the [Young Social Entrepreneurs' Forum @ GK3](#) and the [3rd Global Knowledge Conference \(GK3\)](#), a GKP Event on the Future on 'Emerging People, Emerging Markets, Emerging Technologies' that will bring 2000 participants to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 11 to 13 December 2007
2. Be one of 10 to pitch for funding during the Forum and, if successful, fast-track your business with a fellowship under the Youth Social Enterprise Initiative [www.ysei.org](http://www.ysei.org) or with scale-up funding
3. Meet various funding organizations such as development aid agencies, commercial banks, CSR investors and venture capitalists; mentors; experts and other stakeholders
4. Be part of a crowd of innovative and motivated young people who have chosen to put their skills and abilities into business with a social edge; take advantage of the dedicated networking session on 10 December 2007
5. Mingle and network with the 2000 general GK3 participants and showcase your social business with people who will take you seriously
6. Profile your social interests in a Global Competition that is fully web-based and transparent; application forms, jury evaluations and verification reports will be viewable to the public who will also be able to post comments
7. Contribute to the shaping of the Forum sessions through the content development process

For more information on the Global Competition contact [Anthony@gkps.org.my](mailto:Anthony@gkps.org.my).

The Global Competition, the Young Social Entrepreneurs' Forum and GK3 are organized by [Global Knowledge Partnership \(GKP\)](#), the world's leading multi-stakeholder network promoting innovation and advancement in Knowledge for Development and Information and Communication Technologies for Development. [www.globalknowledge.org](http://www.globalknowledge.org)

GKP runs the Youth Social Enterprise Initiative (YSEI), a program dedicated to young social entrepreneurs that offers support in the four key areas of knowledge, networking, mentorship and financing. [www.ysei.org](http://www.ysei.org).

[Back to top](#)

## Announcing the Student Conservation Association and Mazda Contest: Conservation in Action Multimedia Contest

Following in the tradition of Student Conservation Association (SCA) founder Elizabeth C. Titus Putnam, whose senior thesis first proposed a "student conservation corps" some 50 years ago, SCA is looking for new thoughts, new programs, and new solutions to our most urgent environmental issues. SCA wishes to engage the intelligence, the passion, and the leadership of America's young people to help restore and protect our physical world.

The SCA is seeking projects that can help build the next generation of conservation leaders by engaging young people in protecting and conserving our natural world. The SCA is looking for practical solutions and will give preference to submissions that demonstrate how you would implement your idea and what its impact may be. Remember - presentation counts!

Submissions can offer an innovative vision, outline a creative new program, or propose a new twist on an old model of

conservation.

**Guidelines:**

- Participants must be between the ages of 15 - 25 on May 1, 2007, and be U.S. residents.
- Contest launch date is July 1, 2007, 12 am ET.
- Deadline for electronic submission is December 1, 2007, 11:59 pm ET.
- Mail in entries must be postmarked by no later than December 3, 2007 and received by SCA no later than December 8, 2007.
- To be accepted, written submissions can be no longer than 10 double-spaced typescript pages at 11 point font size. Multimedia submissions must take no longer than 20 minutes to view.
- They must be reproducible and not one of a kind.
- All entries must be entirely original work by the participant and not copied or remixed from any third party.

**Prizes include:**

**Grand Prize — Ages 15 - 19 Group**

- \$15,000
- A trip for one to the 2008 [EarthVision Summit](#) to be held on April 24-27, 2008, in Washington, D.C.

**Grand Prize — Ages 20 - 25 Group**

- \$10,000
- 2008 Mazda3i sport four-door sedan.  
*Winner must be a licensed driver and will be required to provide proof of insurance at time of delivery. Winner is responsible for title, license, registration, dealer preparation costs, auto insurance and other fees associated with prize. Winner must take delivery of prize from the automobile dealership designated by Sponsors.*
- A trip for one to the 2008 [EarthVision Summit](#) to be held on April 24-27, 2008, in Washington, D.C.

**Six First Prizes**

- \$2,000
- A trip for one to the 2008 [EarthVision Summit](#) to be held on April 24-27, 2008, in Washington, D.C.

Each of the eight trip packages includes roundtrip coach-class airfare for one from a major airport near winner's home to a major airport in or around Washington D.C.; four days, three nights hotel accommodations in the Washington, D.C. area at a hotel determined by SCA; meal credit for all conference meals; and all conference fees.

For more information please visit <http://www.thesca.org/contest/> or <http://www.thesca.org/>.

[Back to top](#)

**Share Your News!**

Midwest Venturers, we know you're busy and working hard to make your Venture a success. Let us help! By email, send us updates on your team's events, fundraisers, awards, etc... Let us share your good news with your fellow Venturers.

And, don't forget to email those great pictures! It's easy. Send your news and pictures to the Jessie, the Outreach Associate for the Youth Venture Midwest office at [jruth@youthventure.org](mailto:jruth@youthventure.org).

[Back to top](#)

### Quote of the Month

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

~**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

[Back to top](#)



Youth Venture envisions a world of everyone a changemaker through a global culture of young people initiating positive, lasting change. Our mission is to build a global movement of young people being powerful now, changemakers now. This is the foundation of an everyone a changemaker world - the key factor for success in every society, organization, and person.

[www.youthventure.org](http://www.youthventure.org)

[Back to top](#)



Ashoka, Innovators for the Public, Youth Venture's parent organization, is a global organization that finds and funds over 1,800 leading social entrepreneurs in 60 different countries who are working to implement innovative ideas for change in their communities, regions, countries and continents.

[www.ashoka.org](http://www.ashoka.org)

[Back to top](#)

## Tell a friend about Youth Venture!

Help us spread the changemaker movement! Tell a friend by clicking the link below:

<http://involve-ashoka.org/youthventure/join-forward.html?domain=youthventure&r=idSXnk61jZG4&>

[Back to top](#)

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