



Youth Venture Minnesota Regional Newsletter

June 2007

Dream It. Do It.



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Youth Venture in the News:

STAPLES Business Depot and Youth Venture Canada Launch Partnership

On June 14th, Staples and Youth Venture Canada celebrated the launch of their partnership at the STAPLES Business Depot office in Toronto. Staples President, Steve Mayas, presented Ashoka and Youth Venture with a donation of \$100,000.

The \$100,000 grant will support Youth Venture and GenV in Canada. This global alliance is the first

time Youth Venture is working together with a leading corporation to deliver the Youth Venture program to Canadian youth. The relationship strongly reflects STAPLES Business Depot's (Staples Canada) commitment to philanthropic investment in entrepreneurship. With STAPLES' support, Youth Venture is now able to increase its presence and create more opportunities for young people to have the transformative experience of taking initiative in launching their own community benefiting Ventures.

"This exciting and growing partnership highlights the power entrepreneurship" said Bill Drayton, Founder and CEO of Ashoka. "Together STAPLES Business Depot and Youth Venture are showing how powerful organizations and societies are built and run by changemakers. Youth Venture with the Staples Foundation for Learning Support, aims to empower all young people around the world to become changemakers and thus dramatically increase our ability as a global society to solve problems and thrive."

For more information please contact Beverly Schwartz at bschwartz@ashoka.org.

Local Venture Team Spotlight: The First Five Pages, St. Paul, MN

The First Five Pages is a literacy advocacy group founded

Fact:

Average income families spend an average of 1,000 hours reading to their kids during their childhood.

Fact:

Low income families spend an average of 25 hours of reading to their kids during childhood.

by Dylan, John, and Erich, seventh graders at
Mounds Park Academy in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Inspired by a sixth grade English project to write and illustrate stories for young children, Dylan, John, and Erich decided to investigate the causes of early childhood illiteracy. After learning that many pre-school age youth in their area hear only twenty five hours of out-loud reading before entering kindergarten, the team decided to create a service learning project, The First Five Pages, dedicated to promoting literacy and preparing children for Kindergarten.

The First Five Pages arranged for the free publication of the top five books written in their class and donated them to their local Head Start program. At their kick-off event student volunteers read these and other stories to underserved pre-school children at the local Head Start and the team plans to create audio CDs of their books which the children can listen to at home. The team also works to increase awareness of the importance of literacy throughout their school by educating their peers to recognize the necessity of reading in their day-to-day lives.

After demonstrating their program's success, Dylan, John, and Erich plan to integrate the program into their school curriculum as a service learning project with all future program support provided by their school. By collaborating with their sixth-grade teacher, the team will ensure that five new books are written, published, and donated every year.

International Venture Team Spotlight: Pukaar, Bombay India

Pukaar is an initiative of Rajesh Yadav and Sameer Sheikh. Growing up on the streets of Bombay, India their own life experiences have been the motivation for setting up their Venture, Pukaar, as a network for youth living on the streets.



After reaching the age of 18, Rajesh and Sameer realized that NGO's, non-governmental organizations, no longer were able to provide them with any of the vital services there were receiving before. To fill this gap they founded Pukaar, which creates an identity for street children that have come of age by finding them work and giving the general support.

The objective of Pukaar is to encourage street children and youth to support each other through building relationships, and improving their access to livelihood and shelter. The young people are encouraged to direct and manage their own programs such as medical camps, counseling and referrals, personality development workshops, vocational guidance and development, and cultural and creative activities.

Though their activities, Rajesh and Sameer aim to provide consistent and unconditional emotional support to help youth give up self-destructive habits and thoughts and choose a better, healthier future.

Ashoka Fellow Snapshot: Jim McCorkell, Admission Possible St. Paul, Minnesota

Jim McCorkell founded Admission Possible to help promising,
Fact:

To date, 98% of Admission Possible students have earned admission to college. low-income young people earn admission to college, closing the steady, significant gap in college participation between young people from poor and wealthy families. Each selected student receives at least 320 hours of direct support over two years, at one-fifth the average cost of other programs with the same goal.

Fact:

In the 2007-2008 school year, Admission Possible will serve 1,200 students from 15 public high schools and charter schools in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area.

Jim's key innovation is using the energy and idealism of AmeriCorps and VISTA members, community service volunteers with two-year terms, to deliver comprehensive, quality services at low cost. They carry out a program which provides test preparation, intensive assistance in preparing college applications, help in obtaining financial aid, and guidance in transition to college.

Since its founding, 98% of Admission Possible's graduating students earned admission to college—about three times the national average. The model is scalable because it builds on an existing community service infrastructure, without drawing resources away from public schools or scholarship programs.

For more information please visit www.admissionpossible.org.

Opportunities for Venturers:

Youth Venture Minnesota Youth Council

The next Minnesota Youth Council meeting is just around the corner! July 15th will mark the first meeting of a new initiative where 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 Wednesday July 18th at 7:00pm at the Youth Venture offices, 2831 Aldrich Ave. Minneapolis, MN. If you are interested in joining the Minnesota Youth Council please contact the YV Outreach Associate, Jessie, at 612-455-2007 or jruth@youthventure.org.



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 Mondays at 7:30 EST, Venturers can call in and get tips from experienced professionals and other Venturer 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!

Next week's call is on Monday, July 9th and will focus on **Maximizing the benefits of GenV.net** - Youth Venture's fantastic new website. (www.genv.net)

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

Youth Venture Product Advisory Council

Venturers, parents and allies are invited to join Youth Venture's Product Advisory Council (PAC). We invite you to share your opinions on how Youth Venture can improve its outreach strategies, strengthen parent and ally involvement, build a stronger website, improve the application process and

strengthen the youth changemaker movement. Through the PAC, you will collaborate with a diverse, national group of Venturers, parents, allies and staff.

Involvement includes:

- Two meetings per month via teleconference
- One to two additional hours per month to review materials and provide feedback

This is a great opportunity to contribute strategically and creatively to Youth Venture's success. If you are interested in joining Youth Venture's Product Advisory Council please email Youth Venture's Product Associate, Spectra at smyers@youthventure.org or call 612-455-2007.

The Presidents' Volunteer Service Award

America has a long and proud tradition of volunteer service. As Americans renew their commitment to helping others and making new connections that bring us closer together as families, as neighbors, as communities, and as a Nation, the Presidents' Volunteer Service Award program looks to acknowledge those who are actively participating and inspiring others.

In 2003, President Bush created the President's Council on Service and the Civic Participation to find ways to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our Nation. The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation created the Presidents Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. To date, the Presidents' Volunteer Service Award program has been bestowed more than 400,000 awards to the Nation's deserving volunteers.

Awards are given to youth ages 14 and under who have completed 50 or more hours of volunteer service; to individuals 15 and older who have completed 100 or more hours; and to families or groups who have completed 200 or more hours. Lifetime achievement is recognized with a special President's Call to Service Award, which honors those who have provided more than 4,000 hours of service over the course of their lifetime.

For more information please visit: <http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/>

Program information from:

<http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/tg/pvsainfo/dspAboutAwards.cfm>

The Bonner Scholarship

The Bonner Scholar Program seeks to transform the lives of students at twenty-five specific colleges and universities as well as their campuses, local communities, and nation through providing access to education and opportunities to serve. To achieve this mission, the Bonner Foundation provides four-year community service scholarships to approximately 1500 students (who are referred to as Bonner Scholars) annually. The scholarship serves those individuals who have high financial need and a commitment to service. It is designed to heighten the overall education a Scholar receives by asking students to engage in ongoing service work and helping them develop the tools and the knowledge necessary to make that work meaningful and lasting.

For more information visit: <http://www.bonner.org>

Public Service Scholarship

The Public Service scholarship program was started in 1986 in direct support to "encouraging an interest in public service careers." Qualified applicants must have a 3.5 grade point average in all college work completed to date. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible. The program requires students to have completed one year of college. In addition to submitting their transcripts, applicants must write a two-page essay. Applicants are expected to identify their specific career goal and discuss their vision for the future. Preference is given to students with prior public service or volunteer experience.

For more information visit or contact: www.theroundtable.org/23/pssp.html email: info@theroundtable.org

Quote of the Month

"The future depends on what we do in the present." - **Mahatma Gandhi**



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



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

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=N1A-0rp1WJG8&>

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