

YOUTH VENTURE MINNESOTA

Dream It. Do It.

March 2007

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Introducing YV MN Newest Staff!

Youth Venture Minnesota has expanded adding on three new staff members! Read on to learn a little more about our newest AmeriCorps VISTA staff.

Kelly Trius: is a recent University of Minnesota graduate with a BA in Anthropology and History and a minor in Hebrew. She spent last year in Haifa, Israel interning with a training and empowerment center called Shatil, where she worked on English language grant writing and editing with a wide spectrum of beginning NGOs.

Jessie Ruth: Graduated from the University of Minnesota where she majored in Professional Strategic Communication at the Murphy School of Journalism and Mass Communication. She also earned a minor in Foreign Studies. During her stint in college she studied abroad in London, England at the University of London, Birkbeck and held an internship at Help the Aged – one of the largest non-profits in the UK. This was her first experience working for a charitable organization, and needless to say it left a lasting impression.

Lauren Satterlee: has a B.A. in International Studies with minors in Spanish, Political Science, and Social Justice & Policy. While at college she co-launched a Venture, which is a student-led seminar and practicum that focuses on challenging common notions of service and activism. She loves to read (especially about all

Opportunities for Venturers



Crime Prevention Grants

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) will award grants of up to \$500 each to support youth-led service-learning projects that address or prevent crime, violence, and drug abuse in schools and communities for National & Global Youth Service Day 2007 (April 20-22).

These grants are intended to encourage and promote crime prevention, community service, and civic responsibility. Applications must be submitted to NCPC by April 1, 2007. Visit www.YSA.org/awards to download an application.

2007 Brower Youth Award

Awards for youth ages 13-22 working for the Earth

Each year, this annual national award

types of political, environmental, and social change work), to attend events related to those subjects, to walk, to spend time with friends and family, and is inspired by all forms art and design.

Venturers Going Global



Kyle Taylor, who launched his Venture, Operation Outreach, in 2003 will soon be embarking on a world tour across 11 countries in 6 months. He will be connecting young changemakers and fellow Youth Venturers from all over the world. Make sure to keep your eye

recognizes six young people for their outstanding activism and achievements in the fields of environmental and social justice advocacy. The winners of the award receive a \$3,000 cash prize, a trip to California for the award ceremony and wilderness camping trip, and ongoing access to resources and opportunities to further their work at Earth Island Institute and develop leadership skills.

Young activist leaders ages 13 to 22 as of July 1, 2007 living in North America can apply. Completed applications must be postmarked or emailed by May 15, 2007. Call or email Sharon Smith at sharonsmith@earthisland.org or 415-788-3666 x144 with questions or log on to www.broweryouthwards.org.



Tu Voz, My Venture

Youth Venture, in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and MTV Tr3s Voces, will select teams of two or more youth, ages 13 – 20, every week through June 29th, 2007, who submit great ideas for encouraging their Latino peers to graduate from high school and college. Tu Voz My Venture winners will receive grants of up to \$1,000 to create their ventures designed to help young Latinos stay in school and prepare for college and careers. And, five winners will be awarded \$5,000 scholarships

out for updates on Youth Venture's new website launching in April.

Youth Venture on MySpace

Did you know that Youth Venture is on MySpace? Log-on today to find out what's new at Youth Venture and what's coming up soon. Make connections with other Venturers and share your own stories!

Visit www.myspace.com/youthventure

YV's New Website

YV is launching its new website in early April. Now is your chance to get connected to Venturers from all over the country. If you're a Venturer who would like to get connected to other Venturers from around the country, sign up now to be a Web Pioneer. Web Pioneers will win \$100 for their Venture team if they complete a profile of their team and send 3 messages a week on the website to other Venturers through May. For more information or to get involved, contact Jessie at jruth@youthventure.org.

Here's a sneak peak!

per team by Youth Venture in partnership with MTV Tr3s. Take charge, don't wait for adults! Get your team together and help bring about positive changes in your community.

For more information, visit www.youthventure.org or www.mtv3voces.com.

Film Your Issue!

Yahoo Inc, has teamed up with FYI—Film Your Issue as the exclusive online sponsor of the "Issue Film" competition (www.filmyourissue.com), an unprecedented initiative to engage young adults in public dialogue about pressing issues of importance, locally or internationally. Entries will be posted on Yahoo! beginning February 1, 2007. The submission deadline is April 15, 2007, while the official voting period will be April 25 to May 8, 2007. Winners will be announced in New York in June 2007. Winners will receive a summer 2007 internship at Universal Pictures, a trip to New York for the FYI 2007 Awards Ceremony at United Nations Headquarters and their entries broadcast on STARZ and STARZ Edge. For rules and more information on the competition, visit FilmYourIssue.com.



**The Gloria
Barron Prize
for
Young Heroes**

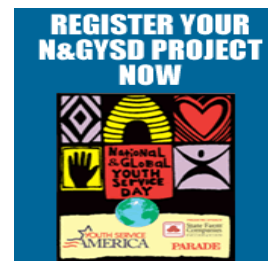


The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes seeks nominations for its 2007 awards. The Barron Prize honors young people ages 8 to 18 who have shown leadership and courage in public service to people and our planet. Each year, ten national winners each receive \$2,000 to support their service work or higher education. Nomination deadline is April 30. For more information and to nominate, visit

<http://www.barronprize.org/>

Opportunities around MN...



Global Youth Service Day

It's time to start planning your Global Youth Service Day project! Last year, over 1,000 Minneapolis youth and teens planned and executed amazing projects throughout dozens of communities. Our goal is to engage over 1,500 Twin Cities youth in youth-led service projects. It is not as hard as you think to plan a project. Youth programs, student groups/clubs, college groups, scout troops, individual classrooms and volunteer groups are all encouraged to plan a project on **Friday April, 20** or the morning of **Saturday April 21**. All youth participants and adult group leaders will receive a (stylin') GYSD t-shirt and VIP passes to the GYSD Celebration (location TBA) from 1-3pm on Saturday April 21. Our keynote speaker will be Alan Page; we will have our fabulous

Technical Allies Special Guest Series



On March 5, **Kyle** a Venturer from TX shared his tips about **sustaining your Venture** with other Venturers from all over the country! He talked about the difficulties of sustaining a Venture and also ways to make the sustainability process easier through fundraising, engaging the media, and working with community leaders. Don't miss out on these great workshops right around the

corner! Here are some upcoming workshops:

March 19: Budgeting
April 2: Team Building
April 16: Fundraising

If you're interested in getting more information or signing up, contact Haley at hbuenzli@youthventure.org or call 612-455-2007.

Venturers in the News



Divine Bradley, one of YV's first Venturers was awarded a Brick Award last month in New York.

In addition to receiving a Brick Award for outstanding service to his community, he will also be awarded \$10,000 for his Venture which is now a nonprofit organization. Check out the story [here](#).

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Around Minnesota...

Profiles of Local Venture Teams **Show Stoppaz**

Identifying that there wasn't much to do after school, and that many of their peers were looking to negative activities to fill their time, 15 year old Burnsville High School students, Sierra and Lashawna created Show Stoppaz. Show Stoppaz is an after school female support group and a dance group all in one. Sierra and Lashawna, along with many of their girlfriends, spend their time after school talking about issues important to them and they also spend time creating, choreographing, and practicing dances. By talking through issues important to them and their peers, and by exercising daily through dance, Show Stoppaz is making sure that these young women

raffle prizes again (over \$800 in giveaways), music and lunch. **To register your project, view photos and highlights from 2006, and learn more about GYSD, please go to www.puc-mn.org/servicelearning.**

Are you a young person (18 to 25) looking to get involved in our community?

Do you want to do policy work that really makes a difference in our community and our state? Want to hook up with other civic-minded people? Want to get connected with Minnesota's premier citizen-based, non-partisan policy organization?

As part of their youth organizing initiative, the **Citizens League** is launching a new action groups program. Join five to ten other young people to identify a problem, learn about it, propose a solution, and make that solution a reality. In the process, you can build your leadership and organizing skills (including through special training sessions), and contribute to build the civic capacity of the Citizens League, working for the common good.

Interested? Know someone that would be? Contact Annie Levenson-Falk at alevensonfalk@citizensleague.org or 651-293-0575 x16. And visit <http://www.citizensleague.org/get-involved/action/>.

are turning to habits that will help them throughout their lifetimes!

Quote of the Month

“Obstacles don’t have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don’t turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.”
Michael Jordan

Ashoka

Ashoka, Innovators for the Public, Youth Venture’s parent organization, is a global organization that finds and funds over 1,500 leading social entrepreneurs in 49 different countries who implement innovative ideas for change in their communities, regions, countries and continents. Minnesota is proud to host 3 of these fellows.

