



Youth**Action**Net[®]
2010 GLOBAL FELLOWS

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2010 YouthActionNet® GLOBAL FELLOWS

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FOREWORD

In India, Robin Chaurasiya, 25, refers to the young women victims of sexual trafficking she works with as ‘revolutionaries,’ and equips them with the education and leadership training needed to transform their lives. In Kenya, George Gachara, 23, has mobilized more than two million young peace advocates to prevent the kind of violence that roiled his nation following the 2007 Presidential election. And in the U.S., Deborah Wanderley dos Santos, 24, created a free orchestra school to provide inner city children with a creative outlet, while nurturing their self-esteem and teamwork skills.

Each of these social innovators — all in their 20s — are distinguished as 2010 YouthActionNet® Fellows. Each saw a pressing societal need, developed a solution, and rallied their peers to achieve concrete results. Over the next year, each Fellow will hone his or her leadership skills through an intensive weeklong workshop, along with virtual learning, networking, and advocacy opportunities.

In 2001, when Nokia and the International Youth Foundation (IYF) launched YouthActionNet®, we were guided by the belief that an emerging movement of young change-makers had the power to deliver transformative innovations. Since then, we’ve selected 180 leaders in 59 countries as Global Fellows. Each is a CEO, a founder of an organization, and together they have impacted hundreds of thousands of lives.

Today’s young visionaries speak to a human yearning to live a life of passion and purpose.

We admire the creativity and drive of leaders like Lucinda Hartley in Australia, who mobilizes young architects, engineers, and designers to generate appropriate solutions for community development projects. “With half the world’s population living in cities, sustainable urbanization is the greatest design challenge of our generation,” she says.

Today, all sectors — governments, companies, and nonprofits alike — are looking to scale up the impact of proven innovations. Each of the 2010 YouthActionNet® Fellows has articulated ambitious plans for deepening and expanding their work. In India, Jithin Nedumala co-founded Make a Difference (MAD) to recruit college students to serve as teachers of low-income students. Now serving 2,500 students in 10 cities, MAD seeks to expand its reach to 50,000 children over the next five years.

For its part, YouthActionNet® provides these phenomenal leaders with the knowledge, networks, and skills needed to fully deliver on their social change visions.

Kirsi Sormunen

Vice President, Sustainability
Nokia

William S. Reese

President and CEO
International Youth Foundation

“Today’s young visionaries speak to a human yearning to live a life of passion and purpose.”



KWABENA DANSO

Yonso, Ghana

Age: 29

INNOVATIVE IDEA: Improve educational and economic opportunities in five rural towns through pursuing a comprehensive, community-led strategy.

“Growing up, I’d see kids dropping out of school, or going to school without uniforms, books, shoes, or food because their parents couldn’t afford them.”

Kwabena Danso grew up poor in the rural community of Yonso in south-central Ghana. Today, the very place where he once struggled against poverty is where he now works to improve educational outcomes for children and employment opportunities for women.

“Growing up, I’d see kids dropping out of school, or going to school without uniforms, books, shoes, or food because their parents couldn’t afford them,” Kwabena recalls. “I realized that something needed to be done to help children who were suffering through no fault of their own.”

Kwabena was one of the lucky ones. His grandparents, who were peasant farmers, sacrificed everything they had to support his education. With hard work, he ended up attending the University of Ghana where Kwabena and several of his peers teamed up with a group of American students to launch the Yonso Project. Focusing its efforts on a group of five small towns with a combined population of 12,000, the Project seeks to tackle some of the largest problems facing the developing world on an effective, manageable scale.

Among its activities, the Project offers scholarships to children, renovates schools, provides textbooks and other equipment, sponsors

teachers, and honors quality teaching through an awards program. Recognizing that families frequently can’t afford to send their children to school, the Project provides business training workshops and microloans to rural women. A bamboo bicycle production initiative employs local youth, while providing rural farmers with a way to transport their goods to market.

“Our approach is an all embracing one,” says Kwabena. “We use all the interventions available to make a sustainable impact.”

To date, the Yonso Project has renovated three rural schools, provided scholarships to over 130 students, and made loans to more than 200 women. Participating schools reported dramatically improved test results in the latest nationwide examination, with 100 percent of those loans made to rural women repaid. Most of the young scholars the Project supports are now top in their class, with teachers demonstrating increased motivation.

Based on the Yonso Project’s success, Kwabena is now looking to expand its approach to other rural communities in Ghana.

For further information, visit:
www.yonsoproject.org

GEORGE GACHARA

Nairobi, Kenya

Age: 23



INNOVATIVE IDEA: Create spaces for young people to become agents of peace and reconciliation in their communities.

In the aftermath of the 2007 Presidential election in Kenya, waves of political and ethnic violence swept the country. Over 1,500 people died, with 500,000 internally displaced. Seeking to prevent such violence from erupting again in the future, George Gachara joined with two other young leaders in launching the *Picha Mtaani* (Swahili for Street Exhibition) initiative. With the majority of the nation's population under the age of 30, *Picha Mtaani* equips young people with the tools to serve as agents of change and reconciliation in their communities.

“As a country we stood on the brink of collapse,” recalls George of the days and weeks following the election. “We saw how bad things can get. For us, peace cannot be just an interval between wars which is why we’re driving a much needed cultural transformation.”

Picha Mtaani creates safe spaces where youth dialogue on critical issues facing their country's future. More than two million young people have joined its *Pamoja tunaweza* (Together we can) movement, a network of young social activists and peace volunteers living throughout Kenya's 210 constituencies. Network members receive training in how to facilitate town hall meetings and forums focused on building trust among diverse segments of the population.

To spark reflection and dialogue, *Picha Mtaani* hosts photography exhibitions of the 2007/8 election violence. Over a half million young people have viewed the exhibits so far. Says George, “We hope that by staring at the horror we inflicted on each other, we can steer individuals towards personal reflection.”

For George, it's critical that Kenyan citizens not be lulled into thinking that the violence of the past is now over. For this reason, *Picha Mtaani* works with the media to keep reconciliation efforts in the spotlight, and has produced its own “Heal the Nation” documentary. With the next Presidential election just two years away, *Picha Mtaani* is strategizing ways to engage youth in voter registration and civic education activities — while encouraging more youth to seek public office.

Picha Mtaani is supported by the United Nations Development Program, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, among others. Over the next five years, George plans to expand *Picha Mtaani's* work to all eight provinces of Kenya, and throughout the warring countries of Africa's Great Lakes Region.

For further information, visit:
www.pichamtaani.org

“For us, peace cannot be just an interval between wars which is why we’re driving a much needed cultural transformation.”



KENNETH ODUR

Lira, Uganda

Age: 24

INNOVATIVE IDEA: Mobilize community members to protect and advocate for the rights of women and child victims of abuse resulting from civil warfare.

“The situation has severely eroded the quality of life in northern Uganda, where children, women, youth, and adults have lost their dignity and live with almost no hope for the future.”

For more than two decades, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) terrorized northern Uganda in what is one of Africa’s longest-running conflicts. The LRA, which in recent years was largely pushed out of the country by government forces, is accused of extensive human rights violations, including murder, abduction, rape, torture, and forcing children to serve as soldiers.

“The situation has severely eroded the quality of life in northern Uganda, where children, women, youth, and adults have lost their dignity and live with almost no hope for the future,” says Kenneth Odur who founded Children’s Chance International (CCI-Uganda) in 2008 to protect and care for the most vulnerable members of society.

Among its activities, CCI-Uganda promotes children’s rights, rehabilitates war-affected children, protects women against violence, educates disadvantaged youth, and promotes the peaceful resolution of conflict. To sensitize local communities about the importance of protecting individual rights, CCI-Uganda trains law enforcement officials and opinion leaders to speak out for and uphold human rights, forms child protection committees, and works with the local media to get its message out. It also provides material and moral support to the most vulnerable children and youth, including child soldiers and street children.

“Communities are beginning to appreciate the different forms of gender-based violence and are able to identify, report, and refer human rights cases,” Kenneth explains. “Our social mobilization and advocacy strategies work to create a supportive environment for children, youth, and families affected by war and rising rates of HIV.”

In 2009-10, CCI-Uganda succeeded in reuniting 82 street children with their families and guardians and supported more than 500 orphans and other vulnerable children through providing them with school supplies, books, uniforms, and food. Kenneth estimates that the rate of gender-based violence in the region has decreased by thirty percent as a result of CCI-Uganda’s awareness-raising activities and new means of reporting abuses, such a call-in radio program. The number of school dropouts — previously as high as forty percent — has also dramatically decreased as a result of CCI-Uganda’s educational supports.

In carrying out its work, CCI-Uganda collaborates with local government authorities; the United Nations Population Fund, which trains CCI-Uganda staff to respond to gender-based violence; ChildFund International, which provides medical support to women in crisis; and War Child Canada, which offers legal advice to survivors of human rights abuses.

BENARD WAKOLI

Mumias, Kenya

Age: 27



INNOVATIVE IDEA: Empower vulnerable girls and women through providing access to education and income, while mobilizing young men as part of the solution.

While attending high school in the rural Matungu district of western Kenya, Benard Wakoli grew acutely aware of the disparities between girls and boys his age when it came to having the freedom to direct the course of their lives.

“I realized that ninety percent of the girls I went to school with were married off immediately after undergoing female genital mutilation (FGM) and ten percent dropped out due to poverty and lack of support,” says Benard. “Some of the girls were married to elderly men who subjected them to domestic and sexual violence.”

Benard also realized that women and girls living in Kenya’s male-dominated society were ill-equipped to change the situation. During his second year at the University of Nairobi, Benard launched the *Yaya* (Kiswahili for “Caretaker”) Education Trust (YET). Its mission: to empower women and girls through education and property ownership, while engaging young men as advocates for women’s rights. Among its activities, YET provides scholarships and educational materials to girls in need, links young women to mentors, equips out-of-school girls with vocational skills, and supports women and youth-led households in launching income-generating ventures.

Through its social enterprise model, YET empowers youth with valuable skills and employ-

ment opportunities, while generating revenue for its activities. Program participants sew uniforms, rent solar lanterns, and are paid by local authorities to collect and dispose of solid waste. To date, fifty vulnerable girls have participated in YET’s “sew sisters project,” which teaches them dressmaking skills. Through YET’s “solar sisters program,” school girls are given access to solar-powered lamps to help them complete their assignments at home.

Also important is sensitizing the community to the importance of girls’ education and advocating for the abolition of traditional practices, including FGM, wife inheritance, polygamy, wife battering, early forced marriage, sexual violence, and lack of property ownership. Such practices subject women to extreme poverty and further marginalizes them, Benard explains, while admitting that shifting deeply-ingrained cultural attitudes hasn’t been easy. Soon after launching YET, he received death threats. Today, most local citizens embrace what Benard calls “inevitable changes.”

“Ninety percent of the girls I went to school with were married off immediately after undergoing female genital mutilation and ten percent dropped out due to poverty and lack of support.”



EJAJ AHMAD

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Age: 29

INNOVATIVE IDEA: Create a poverty free Bangladesh by training a new generation of homegrown leaders.

“If future leaders cannot understand where the other half of the population is coming from, how will they exercise correct judgment and leadership?”

“The biggest obstacle to development in Bangladesh is poor quality leadership across different sectors,” says Ejaj Ahmad. To address this issue, in 2008 Ejaj launched the Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC). Its goal: to create a more inclusive, tolerant, and just society by training the next generation of leaders.

“I’ve always believed that leadership is a function of courage and compassion,” says Ejaj, who worked without a steady paycheck for nearly two years from a small room in his father’s apartment to develop and raise funds for BYLC.

At the core of BYLC’s approach is a month-long program: Building Bridges through Leadership Training, based largely on principles Ejaj learned while pursuing his masters degree in Public Policy at Harvard University. To date, 140 youth, ages 16 to 21, have participated in the program, which includes training on leadership development, public speaking, and volunteer mobilization. In recent months, BYLC launched a similar program for secondary school students taught by program graduates.

A key aim of BYLC is providing opportunities for diverse segments of the nation’s youth population to interact. Education in Bangladesh is provided through three distinct systems — English, Bengali, and Madrassas, Ejaj explains,

with students rarely given the chance to share ideas and experiences. “Lack of interaction among students from different backgrounds is a threat to peace and progress,” he says. “If future leaders cannot understand where the other half of the population is coming from, how will they exercise correct judgment and leadership?” To address this need, BYLC incorporates individuals from diverse religious, educational, and socio-economic backgrounds into its programs.

BYLC places a premium on learning by doing. Participants carry out volunteer activities in local slum neighborhoods. Past service projects have ranged from teaching residents how to cultivate mushrooms to installing water filtration systems.

Already, BYLC graduates are positively impacting local communities. After finishing BYLC’s leadership training, three students in Chittagong founded *Karushilpo*, a social enterprise that employs female acid-attack survivors in the production of handicrafts. Similarly, Ryan Nabil, 16, launched Youth for Community to engage young people in voluntary activities such as distributing clothing in refugee camps.

For further information, visit:
www.bylc.org

ROBIN CHAURASIYA

Mumbai, India

Age: 25



INNOVATIVE IDEA: Create the first organization by trafficked girls, not for them, with a focus on empowering young women to realize their full potential.

In India, an estimated three million women — forty percent of them minors — are trafficked each year. Many are exploited in the commercial sex trade. In 2008, Robin Chaurasiya spent six months volunteering at a prominent anti-trafficking NGO in Mumbai. “I spent my nights lying awake with the girls, learning how they were trafficked, what their lives were like in the brothels, and what their futures might hold,” she recalls.

A year later — after completing her master’s degree in Gender Studies, Robin joined with Trina Talukdar in launching *Kranti*. Its mission: to empower trafficked girls through providing them with a healing home, comprehensive education, and leadership opportunities to realize their full potential.

Kranti (in English “Revolution”) bills itself as the first organization by trafficked girls — not for them. “We believe it’s time for a revolutionary approach to prevention, rehabilitation, and repatriation,” says Robin, who started *Kranti* as an alternative to mainstream anti-trafficking NGOs.

“Through focusing on the symptoms of trafficking — as opposed to root causes — current approaches are largely ineffective,” she explains. “Most anti-trafficking organizations offer short-term interventions and outdated training with

the eventual goal of returning girls to vulnerable situations.”

By contrast, *Kranti* provides long-term housing, comprehensive education, and life skills training, with a focus on leadership development. *Kranti* currently serves 12 young women, ages 14 to 20, who were sexually trafficked. Focusing its efforts on girls who do not have families or communities they can return to, *Kranti* offers a stable home and the chance to develop long-term goals. Its programs are co-created, with participants’ monitoring and evaluating their own success.

In the future, Robin seeks to engage *Kranti* beneficiaries in building a compressed earth brick home capable of accommodating up to thirty girls, while expanding its trafficking prevention efforts to Nepal and Bangladesh.

Looking ahead, Robin also seeks to redefine gender stereotypes in India. “Our hope is that the accomplishments of *Kranti*’s revolutionaries will serve as an example and inspiration for women — even those from low socio-economic strata — to effect change and become leaders,” she says.

For further information, visit:
www.kranti-india.org

“I spent my nights lying awake with the girls, learning how they were trafficked, and what their futures might hold.”



LUCINDA HARTLEY

Melbourne, Australia

Age: 28

INNOVATIVE IDEA: Mobilize and train young people working in the design professions to generate appropriate solutions for community development projects.

“Human settlements in the future will rely disproportionately on architects and urban designers — but are we ready?”

Trained as a landscape architect, Lucinda Hartley spent two years working in slum communities in Vietnam and Cambodia before launching the [co] design studio. Its goal: to develop appropriate, accessible, and sustainable design solutions for community projects. Or, put simply, “to redesign design.”

“With half of the world’s population living in cities, sustainable urbanization is the greatest design challenge of our generation,” says Lucinda, adding that most design degrees focus on meeting the needs of the affluent as opposed to addressing urgent social and environmental challenges. “Human settlements in the future will rely disproportionately on architects and urban designers — but are we ready?,” she asks.

To prepare for the challenges of the future — including needs for shelter, education, health care, and open spaces — the [co]design studio offers emerging designers opportunities to work with partner organizations in four countries to deliver built solutions for community projects, emphasizing knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning.

Particular emphasis is placed on teaching designers core principles of cross-cultural communication and how to enlist active community involvement. Monthly studio labs bring together

designers, experts, and community leaders to discuss critical issues such as appropriate technology, sustainable urbanization, and design thinking. More experienced [co]design members can become part of its consulting register. Its directors have worked on design projects for AusAID and UN-Habitat.

Through [co]design, multi-disciplinary teams — with expertise in architecture, planning, landscape architecture, engineering, and more — take on community development projects. In the city of Broome in Western Australia, for example, [co]design is currently working with Indigenous Australians to develop a community health care center. A similar project aimed at addressing the education needs of migrant children and their families is underway in Bangalore, India. In both cases, [co]design has partnered with local non-profit organizations to co-create solutions.

In the future, Lucinda seeks to develop [co] design into a self-sustaining social enterprise through paid consulting work and to expand its reach to five countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

For further information, visit:
www.codesignstudio.com.au

JITHIN NEDUMALA

Cochin, India

Age: 23



INNOVATIVE IDEA: Recruit and train outstanding college students to serve as teachers of children in low-income communities.

In India, only 40 percent of those young people who complete their secondary educations are employable due to a lack of emphasis on skills development. “Curriculums are entirely theoretical and outdated and not in touch with industry requirements,” explains Jithin Nedumala, who, in 2006, joined with two friends in launching Make a Difference (MAD), a nongovernmental organization that recruits outstanding college students to teach part-time in under-served communities.

“We rebranded social service, making it more appealing and accessible to college students,” says Jithin. Today, MAD operates in ten cities. Its 800 teachers now reach 2,500 students, ages 8 to 15.

With a young person’s chances of landing a job increasing by 400 percent if they can communicate in English, MAD emphasizes quality English language instruction. Among its activities, MAD delivers the Cambridge University English for Schools curriculum to children living in street shelters and orphanages. Leveraging the power of technology, MAD uses a state-of-the-art web application to further enhance students’ exposure to spoken and written English. Also offered are visits to various workplaces so that program participants are aware of potential opportunities and can establish goals to work toward.

Says Jithin, “We seek a world where every child gets to choose their destiny based on their ability and not on their parents’ financial capacity.”

MAD’s approach has proven relatively easy to ‘scale up,’ in part due to the development of MAD-app, a web-based organizational management system. The sophisticated application connects volunteers, provides real-time reports, and tracks every child’s progress. To date, MAD has maintained a zero percent student dropout rate from school because its programs inspire hope and its teachers offer positive reinforcement.

MAD is supported through individual and corporate contributions. Through “Friends of MAD,” anyone can sign up for a monthly subscription starting at US\$2, providing MAD with a steady income stream.

Just under 20 percent of MAD volunteers go on to pursue careers in teaching, a number Jithin would like to see increase to 50 percent. Over the next five years, MAD hopes to reach 50,000 children in India and to identify committed youth in other countries (e.g., Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and China), who would be interested in replicating its approach.

For further information, visit:
www.makeadiff.in

“We seek a world where every child gets to choose their destiny based on their ability and not on their parents’ financial capacity.”



VANNTHA NGORN

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Age: 27

INNOVATIVE IDEA: Economically empower rural women — and contribute to greater gender equality — by equipping them to make and sell silk products.

“We’re working to preserve a silk weaving culture that was at risk of vanishing, while reducing poverty.”

Silk weaving, once a cherished tradition in Cambodia, languished under the bloody regime of the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s. Today, Vanntha Ngorn is helping to revive her country’s silk weaving heritage, while empowering low-income women living in rural areas where livelihood options are few.

In 2009, Vanntha launched Color Silk, a social enterprise, after winning a national student business plan competition. Today its product line includes a richly-hued array of raw textiles, scarves, and sarongs. Color Silk provides at-home training to rural women to build or enhance their weaving skills, and then equips them with materials and startup capital to launch their own home-based enterprises.

Through partnerships with local NGOs, Color Silk pursues a special focus on women with HIV/AIDS and those who are disabled. To date, it has provided the financial support to install 150 silk looms in three villages in Takeo Province, where women produce an average of 800 meters of silk per month. The women now generate an average of US\$75 per month, a roughly one-third increase over the past.

“We’re working to preserve a silk weaving culture that was at risk of vanishing, while reducing poverty and contributing to economic

development in more isolated areas,” says Vanntha of Color Silk’s mission.

Color Silk distinguishes itself from other silk makers through the use of natural Khmer dyes made from tree bark, leaves, and seeds. The process, while more expensive and time consuming, honors long-held traditions.

In addition to contributing to the lives and livelihoods of women weavers, Vanntha seeks to influence the purchasing behavior of consumers. “We hope people will become less interested in buying bags made out of crocodile or tiger skin and see the value in silk products,” she says. “Our customers already claim they are motivated to buy Color Silk products because they are not only high quality, but benefit poor women who have few, if any, other livelihood options.”

In the future, Vanntha hopes to open a boutique in Phnom Penh dedicated to the sale of Color Silk products and to expand its reach to consumers in Australia, Canada, France, Japan, and the United States through web-based marketing.

For further information, visit:
www.colorsilk.biz

SUMNIMA SHRESTHA

Kathmandu, Nepal

Age: 26



INNOVATIVE IDEA: Mobilize and unite young people to play a proactive role in protecting the environment and conserving precious natural resources.

How can solar power be harnessed to meet agricultural energy needs in Nepal? What can be done to improve air quality in the Kathmandu Valley, where respiratory diseases are on the rise among children? And what steps can be taken to reduce the 337 tons of solid waste produced by Kathmandu's citizens daily?

Seeking answers to these and other urgent environmental challenges facing her country, Sumnima Shrestha joined with her university peers in launching the Youth Network for Social and Environmental Development (YONSED). Founded in 2005, YONSED builds support networks among different sectors of society, including youth, scientists, community members, and policy makers. Its efforts include environmental advocacy, researching promising solutions, and incentivizing citizens to be active stewards of their natural environment.

"I came to realize a gap existed between policymakers and the community when it came to generating concrete action on environmental issues," says Sumnima. "Advocacy and awareness-raising are critical if we're to make lasting progress."

The cornerstone of YONSED's advocacy efforts is "Environ Vision," a program that seeks to elevate the voice of youth when it comes to influencing Nepal's environmental agenda. Through the pro-

gram, young people attend environmental policy discussions and make recommendations. Most recently, YONSED members prepared a working paper that was distributed to members of Nepal's Parliament charged with drafting the country's new constitution. At the local level, YONSED successfully advocated for the creation of a Tourism Development Board in the Dang District to promote ecotourism.

Another YONSED program, *Smriti Brichhya*, invites individuals and organizations to plant a tree in honor of their loved ones, themselves, or their institutions. In addition to promoting environmental awareness, the program generates revenue for YONSED's activities. The price for planting a tree ranges from US\$90-250, depending on whether the purchaser is an individual or an organization. To date, more than five hundred trees have been planted in areas lacking vegetation.

To spur environmental entrepreneurship among youth, YONSED launched the Green Initiative Saving and Credit Cooperative, Ltd. To date, more than ten youth have received loans through the program to start environmental initiatives such as organic vegetable farming.

For further information, visit:
www.yonsed.org.np

"I came to realize a gap existed between policymakers and the community when it came to generating concrete action on environmental issues."



PHUC DO THI

Hanoi, Vietnam

Age: 28

INNOVATIVE IDEA: Engage foreign and local volunteers in carrying out service projects benefitting disadvantaged children and communities.

“SJ Vietnam is proving to society that volunteers can play an important role in development through the exchange of experience, skills, and cultures.”

When she was 19, Phuc Do Thi went with a group of friends to picnic along the banks of the Red River in Hanoi. As she was crossing the Long Bien Bridge, a floating village where people lived on slum boats captured her attention. Phuc learned that the boat dwellers earned roughly US\$1 a day recycling garbage, with their children unable to attend school.

Shortly thereafter, she and her peers established a small non-formal school for the children, volunteering their time as teachers. As more and more people got involved, the group formed a youth-led nongovernmental organization: *Solidarit es Jeunesses Vietnam* (SJ Vietnam).

Each year, SJ Vietnam hosts 500 foreign and thousands of local volunteers in 70 short-term work camps and 20 long-term projects focused on helping the disadvantaged and promoting community development. The volunteers work in pediatric hospitals and homeless shelters; many assist orphans or the elderly. Long-term projects, lasting from one to twelve months, offer volunteers the chance to live and work in the communities where they serve, and can involve teaching, environmental, or social work. Training courses and workshops are also offered on topics such as conflict management, leadership, and intercultural learning.

SJ Vietnam seeks to contribute to a new perception in Vietnam of what volunteering is all about. “In the opinion of most Vietnamese, local volunteers are young people with spare time who pursue relatively useless activities for fun,” says Phuc. “International volunteers are simply rich foreigners who come to Vietnam to do charity work.” By contrast, “SJ Vietnam is proving to society that volunteers can play an important role in development through the exchange of experience, skills, and cultures.”

To promote its volunteer opportunities, SJ Vietnam benefits from strong partnerships with the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service at UNESCO and the Network for Voluntary Development in Asia, which also equips SJ Vietnam trainers with improved management and leadership skills.

For Phuc, who was once poised for a career in banking, starting SJ Vietnam proved a life-changing experience. Since 2001, she has travelled to 33 countries as part of her work. “Voluntary activities have become my passion, my love, and an important part of my life,” she says.

For further information, visit:
www.sjvietnam.org

MANPREET DARROCH

Willenhall, United Kingdom

Age: 21



INNOVATIVE IDEA: Educate youth about road safety issues through a creative campaign, including television specials, outreach in schools, and a robust online presence.

Every month, 500 young people are killed or seriously injured on British roads. In fact, “road traffic crashes are the single biggest killer of young people worldwide,” according to Manpreet Darroch, founder of Tune into Traffic, which seeks to significantly reduce the number of youth killed on roadways in the U.K. each year.

Manpreet first learned of the severity of youth traffic deaths while attending the United Nations World Youth Assembly for Road Safety held in Geneva, Switzerland in 2007. So began “three days of shock, revelation, reflection, and inspiration,” Manpreet recalls, who returned to the U.K. with a mission to raise awareness of the issue. Soon thereafter, he was selected by Channel 4 television as a participant in its Battlefront initiative, through which twenty youth annually develop social awareness campaigns with the help of expert mentors.

With more and more young people wearing headphones while walking, Manpreet opted to focus his campaign on the dangers of listening to music while crossing the street. His efforts were backed up by research demonstrating that 75 percent of young people admitted to listening to music when crossing the road. Says Manpreet, “A lot of young people were simply tuning out their environment.”

Manpreet’s efforts to launch the campaign were chronicled in a thirty-minute documentary film, which aired as part of Channel 4’s educational programming. Viewers followed Manpreet’s step-by-step process in developing his idea — from designing a logo, brochures, and stickers with the pro bono help of a marketing agency to producing a fast-paced viral video available on YouTube. His comprehensive approach includes maximizing Tune into Traffic’s web presence, where visitors can download campaign materials, and training youth as peer educators. Manpreet even convinced an international music star, Apache Indian, to join the effort by asking young people to contribute their own music to be part of Tune into Traffic’s viral video.

Since 2008, Tune into Traffic has attracted over 5,000 unique visitors to its website, with over 10,000 people viewing its Internet viral video. Through pursuing a robust social media strategy, Manpreet has attracted nearly 1,200 members to Tune into Traffic’s Facebook page and is actively contributing to global solutions through participation in YOURS: Youth for Road Safety, an international youth network.

For further information, visit:
www.tuneintottraffic.co.uk

“Road traffic crashes are the single biggest killer of young people worldwide.”



ANASTASIYA GERETS

Kharkiv, Ukraine

Age: 25

INNOVATIVE IDEA: Create an accessible environment for individuals with visual disabilities through adapting existing technologies and pursuing public-private partnerships.

“I used public transportation every day and always felt uncomfortable. I felt anxious when I would go somewhere and had no one to accompany me.”

More than 100,000 people in Ukraine have some form of visual disability; yet the public transportation system — including buses, trolley cars, and metros — makes no allowances for those whose vision is severely impaired.

Anastasiya Gerets lives in Kharkiv, the country’s second largest city, and grew up with limited vision. “I used public transportation every day and always felt uncomfortable,” she says. “I had to ask the person next to me what number bus was approaching and when the light was changing at street crossings. I felt anxious when I would go somewhere and had no one to accompany me.”

To create an accessible environment for those with visual disabilities, Anastasiya co-founded NOTIS (based on a Greek term meaning notification) in 2009. Among its activities, NOTIS researches the needs of the visually disabled, increases public awareness of the challenges they face, develops and manufactures audio signal facilities, and works with partner organizations to influence policies and install audio devices at street crossings and public buildings. NOTIS also links those with disabilities to employers — placing lawyers, accountants, and economists with limited vision, for example, in jobs with nongovernmental organizations.

Those who know Anastasiya well describe her as goal-oriented, optimistic, and driven to make a difference. Her persistence paid off when she convinced the public utility company and a prominent car manufacturer to collaborate in creating audio-signal facilities at major traffic lights throughout Kharkiv. Anastasiya also commandeered the support of engineering students at the Kharkiv University of Radio-Electronics, who volunteer their time in developing audio-signal technology.

Already, NOTIS has positively impacted the lives of 3,000 visually-disabled persons in Kharkiv, who now are able to travel safely at ten major street crossings. Anastasiya estimates that more than 150,000 people are now more sensitive to the needs of the visually disabled as a result of exposure to the city’s new audio-signal devices.

Over the next five years, Anastasiya plans to install audio devices at 3,000 locations throughout Kharkiv and other major Ukrainian cities and to expand NOTIS’ reach to Russia. She’s also studying laws established in other countries, such as the U.S. and United Kingdom, related to those with disabilities in hopes of strengthening the policy environment in Ukraine.

SIMÓN MENÉNDEZ SADORNIL

Castilla y León, Spain

Age: 28



INNOVATIVE IDEA: Provide educational and employment opportunities for youth and unaccompanied immigrant minors without legal guardianship.

Tens of thousands of Africans — men, women, and children fleeing their homeland — attempt to make the perilous trip to Europe every year in search of refuge, asylum, and opportunity.

“They risk their lives in small boats called *cayucos* to find the so-called ‘lost city of gold’ in Europe,” says Simón Menéndez Sadornil. “They dream that their journey across this oceanic border will open up a new world of economic opportunities.”

Seeking to meet the needs of Unaccompanied Foreign Minors, Simón co-founded the *Hechos* Association in 2007. Among its activities, *Hechos* (in English, “Do Something”) develops programs for children, youth, and families; provides residential homes for immigrant youth; connects such youth to existing social services; answers key questions (e.g., where to go to obtain visas, learn Spanish, enroll in school); and offers vocational training and links to employment opportunities. In 2009 alone, *Hechos* addressed the needs of nearly 500 young people, 100 of whom had immigrated from Senegal, Ghana, Mali, and other sub-Saharan African countries. Eighty-five percent of those youth trained through *Hechos* are now working.

Hechos bases its approach on an empathetic pedagogy that encourages pro-social behavior

and makes it easier for participating youth to establish goals in life.

Hechos also creates spaces for immigrant youth to volunteer in the community. Says Simón, “We provide opportunities for them to become responsible citizens in the Spanish community, without making anyone feel like second class citizens.” At the same time, *Hechos* sensitizes the public at large about the needs of children and youth coming from Africa — combating discrimination and nurturing greater empathy for and understanding of their circumstances.

“I grew up in a family that always cared about those in need and worked actively for them,” says Simón, who first started working with youth involved in the criminal justice system before committing himself to addressing the needs of Unaccompanied Foreign Minors. “I see the capacity of these young people and the promising future they could have if they were granted the support they need.”

In 2009, Simón was honored with the Universidad Europea de Madrid Prize for Young Social Entrepreneurs, created with support from the Sylan/Laureate Foundation.

For more information, visit:
www.hechos.eu

“They risk their lives in small boats called *cayucos* to find the so-called ‘lost city of gold’ in Europe.”



VINCENT THIBERVILLE

Jouy le Moutier, France

Age: 20

INNOVATIVE IDEA: Enable people with disabilities to express themselves creatively through the use of robotic technology.

“It [Handibot] helps those who are mentally or physically disabled to integrate into society and not feel cut off. It gives them a reason to feel alive and to live.”

Vincent Thiberville has been creating robots since the age of 14. At 18, he met an artist struggling with a crippling disease — polyarthritis — and decided to put his robotics knowledge to work in helping his new friend pursue his passion for painting.

The result was Handibot, a robotic device that enables users with limited motor function to paint using adapted interfaces. Made out of metal, Handibot is a circular, tiered instrument measuring roughly 12 inches in diameter. Artists equipped with a remote control are able to move the Handibot, which sits on wheels, across a flat surface. With the same remote device, the user has the choice of dipping one of three brushes affixed to robotic arms into small pots of paint. The brushes can then be applied directly to a piece of paper or canvas.

While robotic devices already exist that help people with disabilities perform essential tasks, Handibot is the first such invention that allows such individuals to express their creativity.

Says Vincent, “It helps those who are mentally or physically disabled to integrate into society and not feel cut off. It gives them a reason to feel alive and to live.” The same artist who first inspired Vincent has already used

Handibot to create more than a hundred paintings, calling his creations ‘robotic art.’

Vincent has received numerous requests from parents and disability organizations for his invention, which he plans to begin selling in September 2010. The device is easily adaptable to the needs of the elderly as well, says Vincent, who hopes to one day see Handibot used by hospitals and in elderly communities across the country.

The development of Handibot would not be possible without the support of a range of public, private, and nonprofit organizations, which have provided legal advice, financial support, and volunteers to help in testing and refining prototypes. ESIEE, the engineering school where Vincent is pursuing his degree, provides workspace where he and other students develop robotic applications.

How does he balance being a student with the demands of developing a business? “I’ve learned to manage every second of my life,” says Vincent, “developing Handibot during my nights and weekends.”

For further information, visit:
www.handibot.fr

JUDITH SANTOPIETRO

Veracruz, Mexico

Age: 26



INNOVATIVE IDEA: Promote and preserve indigenous languages through the creative use of media.

It was following a trip to Sierra de Zongolica, a mountainous region southeast of Veracruz, that Judith Santopietro was inspired to launch a magazine dedicated to celebrating and preserving Mexico's indigenous languages.

"People told me stories of sacred hills and sorcerers," says Judith of the region's Náhuatl speakers. "I listened to a native language spoken in a fluid way, a language that maintains its roots in the life and legends of its place." Judith recognized Náhuatl as the language spoken by her grandmother, which reinforced her personal connection and commitment to keeping Mexico's more than 65 indigenous languages alive.

The vast majority of children Judith encountered on her visit grew up without learning the native language of their families. "The parents of these children had come to associate being indigenous with poverty and disdain," she says. Through engaging indigenous community members in telling their stories, *Revista Iguanazul* (in English, "Blue Iguana Magazine") seeks to reinforce their cultural identity, while nurturing greater appreciation of Mexico's cultural diversity among the population as a whole.

Since 2005, seven multilingual editions of *Revista Iguanazul* have been published — in print and online. Each issue centers on a specific

theme such as urban life, women and art, cultural identity, and the indigenous languages of various regions within Mexico. Given its online presence, the magazine is now appreciated by readers as far away as Bolivia, El Salvador, Peru, and the U.S., as well as in parts of Europe.

The success of *Revista Iguanazul* led Judith to launch *Radio Nomada* (Nomad Radio) in 2008. The program features poets, novelists, and storytellers who share their work and reflections on the nation's indigenous cultures. Distributed through community and university radio stations, as well as commercial outlets, the show reaches an audience of over one million listeners nationally and internationally.

Through her experience with the magazine and radio show, Judith has also gained a greater sense of her own cultural identity. "I'm now able to communicate to youngsters the importance of taking action to keep languages from disappearing," she says.

In 2007, Judith was honored by Universidad del Valle de Mexico with a UVM Prize for Social Development, created with support from the Sylvan/Laureate Foundation.

For more information, visit:
<http://revistaiguanazul.wordpress.com>

"The parents of these children had come to associate being indigenous with poverty and disdain."



KERSTIN FORSBERG

Lima, Peru

Age: 25

INNOVATIVE IDEA: Pursue a comprehensive, community-based approach to protecting and conserving marine and coastal environments.

“Peru harbors one of the world’s most important fishing basins, yet it’s constantly degraded by overfishing and contamination.”

In the Tumbes region of northern Peru, sea turtles have long been prized for their delicate meat and decorative shells. In recent years, however, over fishing, habitat loss, and pollution have severely jeopardized the area’s turtle population, prompting Kerstin Forsberg to investigate the state of these threatened creatures for her undergraduate thesis. It didn’t take long before hundreds of volunteers joined her effort and the Sea Turtle Project was born.

“Peru harbors one of the world’s most important fishing basins, yet it’s constantly degraded by overfishing and contamination,” says Kerstin. Public education and conservation are essential to sustaining the country’s precious marine resources, she adds.

Today, the Sea Turtle Project is a flagship program of *Planeta Océano* (Planet Ocean), an organization Kerstin co-founded to conserve and protect coastal and marine areas in Peru. Its activities focus on research, environmental education, and sustainable development.

Central to *Planeta Océano*’s work is engaging local citizens in every step of the process — including designing, implementing, and evaluating projects. Links are forged between students, fishermen, government authorities, and scientists to ensure a comprehensive, integrated approach.

Supporting *Planeta Océano*’s research initiatives are a growing number of university students who investigate biology in the region and the environmental impact of humans, including fishing. The organization’s educational outreach targets teachers, students, professionals, fishermen, and the community at large. Residents learn about the challenges facing their marine and coastal environment and are empowered to become part of the solution. To date, *Planeta Océano* has trained over fifty teachers and engaged thirty schools as members of the Marine Educators Network of Northern Peru.

Sustainable development also means encouraging recycling and environmentally-friendly businesses. *Planeta Océano* is currently developing a project that would enable tourists to accompany the region’s artisanal fishermen to learn about small-scale practices such as the use of traditional rafts.

Over the next five years, Kerstin seeks to strengthen and expand *Planeta Océano*’s work to cover the entire Peruvian coast.

For further information, visit:
www.planetaoceano.org

LINA USECHE

Curitiba, Brazil

Age: 26



INNOVATIVE IDEA: Provide microloans and technical support to low-income entrepreneurs while linking them to angel investors worldwide through a dynamic website.

In 2007, Lina Useche travelled throughout Brazil meeting with successful entrepreneurs who had received microcredit loans to start their businesses. What she discovered was that the majority of these small business owners represented relatively safe investments. Most possessed the knowledge and backgrounds needed to succeed.

Left out of the microcredit equation were aspiring entrepreneurs, especially young people, who had great ideas and instincts, but no formal training or support networks to help shape and troubleshoot their business concepts.

Seeking to bridge this gap, Lina launched *Impulso Microcredit*, an initiative of *Aliança Empreendedora*, an NGO she co-founded to promote social and economic inclusion.

“We help start ups with great business ideas and no money or know how,” says Lina in describing *Impulso’s* unique niche. “We give 360-degree support to plan their businesses and sell products.” At the same time, the program connects low-income entrepreneurs to angel investors around the globe through a dynamic website.

Visitors to *Impulso’s* online marketplace are able to browse micro-enterprises in need of support, with investment minimums set at US\$25. The user-friendly website highlights the amount

of money each project is requesting; capital raised to date; a business plan, if available; and videos and photos of the enterprise and its products. Contributors can monitor the progress of their investment and track repayments online.

In three years, *Impulso* has supported more than 200 micro-enterprises throughout Brazil, with 91% surviving beyond the startup phase. One of those, 21-year-old Edson, achieved success through selling Internet access, postage, and other needed services in his community. The monthly incomes of *Impulso* loan recipients have increased an average of 196%, with 97% of loans repaid. The program has benefited from high visibility partners, such as Santander Bank and WalMart, both of which have invested in its loan fund. By 2014, *Impulso* seeks to reach 3,000 low-income entrepreneurs.

Says Lina of her experience in supporting those whose dreams are often left unfulfilled, “I’ve learned to appreciate the best in people. They have the power to change. We just give them the tools.”

For further information, visit:
www.impulso.org.br

“We help start ups with great business ideas and no money or know how. We give 360-degree support to plan their businesses and sell products.”



ORI WACHTEL

Ra'anana, Israel

Age: 29

INNOVATIVE IDEA: Enable individuals throughout Israel to access volunteer opportunities that match their interests, time availability, and geographic location.

“The classic form of volunteering — on a regular and mandatory basis — is simply too demanding for most people.”

While pursuing his law degree, Ori Wachtel would talk to his university peers about pressing social issues only to find that — while many were interested in making a difference — very few ever volunteered. The reason: lack of time and easy access to opportunities.

“Within Israeli society, the few hours that are not dedicated to work, education, or family, are saved for personal pastimes,” says Ori. “The classic form of volunteering — on a regular and mandatory basis — is simply too demanding for most people.”

To provide alternatives to long-term volunteer assignments, Ori founded *Hevra Tova* (in English, “Good Society”) in 2006. A project of *Nachshon*, a nongovernmental organization, *Hevra Tova* offers a monthly array of more than 400 one-time volunteer activities throughout Israel. Visitors to its website can easily browse for information about events taking place in their vicinity, allowing almost anyone to connect to an activity that’s convenient for them. In 2009 alone, more than 20,000 people accessed volunteer opportunities through *Hevra Tova*’s online guide.

The average *Hevra Tova* volunteer activity takes two to three hours to complete. Some of the most popular activities include renovating buildings, tending gardens, cleaning up beaches

and parks, and spending quality time with the elderly, hospitalized children, and youth at-risk. A majority of *Hevra Tova* volunteers are young people who have never volunteered before. Most prefer assignments that allow them to interact with people, especially children. A substantial number return again, bringing friends.

To promote *Hevra Tova*’s services, a team of regional coordinators stays in touch with roughly a hundred social organizations across the country that keep them informed of volunteer openings. Through a partnership established with one of the country’s leading news and content websites, *Hevra Tova* receives publicity through a weekly article highlighting volunteer activities.

Over the long-term, Ori, who now serves as voluntary chairman of *Hevra Tova* while working full-time as a lawyer, seeks to contribute to an Israel where every person can easily and quickly access volunteer opportunities in his/her community. *Hevra Tova* has set a goal for itself of engaging 100,000 volunteers annually by 2015.

In 2009, Ori was honored as a Zinuk Lamahar fellow by Kav Hazinuk, a member of the YouthActionNet® Global Network.

For further information, visit:
www.hevratova.org.il

DEBORAH WANDERLEY DOS SANTOS

Chicago, United States

Age: 24



INNOVATIVE IDEA: Establish a free orchestra school where college volunteers teach disadvantaged children to perform music, while nurturing their self-confidence and teamwork skills.

“Music transformed and saved my life,” says Deborah Wanderley dos Santos who started playing the violin at the age of ten in her hometown of Brasilia, Brazil.

“The teachers in my free music school gave me the strength to pursue my dreams,” says Deborah, who received little such support at home. Today, Deborah shares her love of music with low-income children living in inner city Chicago through the YOURS Project at the People’s Music School, the only tuition-free community music school in the United States. For two hours every day after school, children receive orchestral music instruction.

For Deborah, who moved to Chicago to pursue her university education, it’s not so much about the music, but its impact on young lives. Performing in the orchestra empowers children with the self-determination to pursue their dreams. “The goal is not to mold the best musicians possible, but to develop well-rounded citizens who are engaged in their communities,” she says.

Through performing music together children learn responsibility, teamwork, listening, and other key life skills. Says Deborah, “They learn that if one member doesn’t do his or her best, the level of the entire group is impacted.” Through dozens of public concerts held each year — including one held at the Chicago Symphony

Center — the children gain confidence and create community connections.

Modeled after the *el Sistema Method* developed by economist and musician José Antonio Abreu in Venezuela, the YOURS Project currently engages 160 students and 25 teachers. While initially Deborah relied on the support of volunteers, YOURS faculty, many of them college students, are now paid.

Teachers and the principal at the William G. Hubbard Elementary School, where the YOURS Project serves as an outreach program, report improved behavior among participating students. Parental involvement, too, has increased. Through engaging in a productive afterschool activity, participating students are far less likely to succumb to the pressures of gang involvement in their free time.

In the future, Deborah hopes to open other centers in Chicago’s South Side, to set up exchanges with similar youth orchestras abroad, and establish a college fund for children who are members of the advanced orchestra.

For further information, visit:
www.peoplesmusicsschool.org/index_files/yours.htm

“The goal is not to mold the best musicians possible, but to develop well-rounded citizens who are engaged in their communities.”





FELLOWS IN ACTION

1. Children living in a floating slum community benefit from the work of SJ Vietnam volunteers.
2. A *Picha Mtaani* photo exhibition promotes peace and reconciliation in Kenya.
3. Ejaj Ahmad, founder of the Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center, facilitates a training.
4. Through Color Silk, Vanntha Ngorn contributes to economic development in rural Cambodia.
5. Young orchestra members trained through the YOURS Project in Chicago, USA.
6. A tree planting organized by the Youth Network for Social and Environmental Development in Nepal.

2010 SELECTION COMMITTEE

Final selection of the 2010 YouthActionNet® Global Fellows was made by a distinguished panel of experts representing the private, nonprofit, and public sectors — along with the 2009 Class of Fellows.

Herbert Bedolfe

Executive Director, *Marisla Foundation*; Chair, *Oceana*; Former *Peace Corps* Volunteer (Paraguay); Board member, *Surf Industry Manufacturers Association Environment Fund*

Meg Garlinghouse

Senior Director, *Yahoo! for Good*; Former Senior Manager, *Netcentives*; Former *Peace Corps* Volunteer (Niger); Board member, *Network for Good* and *Volunteermatch*

Oliver Guinness

Founder/Chief Executive Officer, *Clearpoint Ventures*

Carl F. Muñana

International investment banker; Former Managing Director, *JP Morgan & Co*; President, *Ashoka-Spain*; Board member, *MicroVest*; Former *Peace Corps* Volunteer (Sierra Leone)

Helen Ostrowski

Former Chair/Chief Executive Officer, *Porter Novelli*; Vice Chair, *International Youth Foundation*

Michael Stanton

Deputy Director, *Office of Western European Affairs, U.S. State Department*; Former Deputy Director, *U.S. Embassy to Iraq's Office of Provincial Affairs*; Former *Peace Corps* Volunteer (Paraguay)

YouthActionNet®

Launched in 2001, YouthActionNet® seeks to develop a new generation of socially-conscious global citizens who create positive change in their communities, their countries, and the world. Through its global and national leadership programs, dynamic website, networking, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities, YouthActionNet® offers young change makers ideas, resources, and connections to like minds around the world. YouthActionNet® is in the process of building a global network of national youth leadership institutes in select countries.

For more information, please visit: www.youthactionnet.org

Nokia

At Nokia, we are committed to connecting people. We combine advanced technology with personalized services that enable people to stay close to what matters to them. Every day, more than 1.3 billion people connect to one another with a Nokia device — from mobile phones to advanced smartphones and high-performance mobile computers. Today, Nokia is integrating its devices with innovative services through Ovi (www.ovi.com), including music, maps, apps, email, and more. Nokia's NAVTEQ is a leader in comprehensive digital mapping and navigation services, while Nokia Siemens Networks provides equipment, services, and solutions for communications networks globally.

For more information, please visit: www.nokia.com and www.nokia.com/sustainability



International Youth Foundation

The International Youth Foundation (IYF) invests in the extraordinary potential of young people. Founded in 1990, IYF builds and maintains a worldwide community of businesses, governments, and civil-society organizations committed to empowering youth to be healthy, productive, and engaged citizens. IYF programs are catalysts of change that help young people obtain a quality education, gain employability skills, make healthy choices, and improve their communities.

For more information, please visit: www.iyfnet.org



YouthActionNet® GLOBAL NETWORK

Working in partnership with national organizations, the YouthActionNet® Global Network is vibrant and growing. National and regional programs offer skill-building, recognition, and often financial support. Their goal: to support young leaders and their innovative approaches to solving critical challenges and strengthen the youth leadership sector within individual countries/regions.

AUSTRALIA

Young Social Pioneers (YSP)

An initiative of The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA), Young Social Pioneers promotes youth-led social innovation across the country. Since 2009, the program has honored 28 young social entrepreneurs. The Young Social Pioneers benefit from professional mentoring, training, networking opportunities, skill-building, and recognition for their work over the yearlong program. Such activities strengthen the capacity of these youth leaders to address such vital issues as refugee settlements, climate change, and challenges facing Indigenous peoples.

To learn more, visit: www.youngsocialpioneers.org.au

BRAZIL

Iniciativa Jovem Anhembi Morumbi (Iam)*

Launched in 2008, *Iniciativa Jovem Anhembi Morumbi* (Anhembi Morumbi Youth Initiative) celebrates and supports young Brazilian social entrepreneurs who have developed innovative solutions to persistent problems in the São Paulo metro area. Housed at the Universidade Anhembi Morumbi, the program centers around a four-month certificate course led by professors and local experts, coupled with experiential learning opportunities and access to project funding.

To learn more, visit: www.iam.anhembi.br

ISRAEL

Zinuk Lamahar

Launched in 2009, Zinuk Lamahar is an initiative of Kav Hazinuk, an Israeli nonprofit organization that has worked to strengthen youth leadership in the country since 2002. Based on the YouthActionNet® model, Zinuk Lamahar seeks to strengthen, support, and celebrate young social entrepreneurs in Israel. Following a competitive application process, selected young leaders take part in a professional seminar, participate in a virtual study program, and become part of a growing network of youth leading change globally.

To learn more, visit: www.zinuklamahar.org.il

JORDAN

King Abdullah II Award for Youth Innovation and Achievement (KAAYIA)

In 2008-09, YouthActionNet® provided technical assistance to the King Abdullah II Fund for Development to design and launch the King Abdullah II Award for Youth Innovation and Achievement (KAAYIA). The KAAYIA celebrates and supports young men and women, ages 18 to 30, throughout the Arab region who have pioneered innovative solutions to social, economic, and environmental challenges. The 2009 recipients were recognized for their work at the awards ceremony held during the World Economic Forum on the

Middle East in May 2009. Winners receive a monetary award of US\$50,000 to expand the scope and impact of their work. This year, YouthActionNet® also designed and delivered a capacity building retreat tailored to the needs of the 2009 KAAYIA winners.

To learn more, visit: www.kaayia.org

MEXICO

Premio UVM por el Desarrollo Social (Premio UVM)*

From preserving indigenous art and culture to promoting urban agriculture, young people in Mexico are using their energy and creativity to improve their communities — and country. Launched in 2006, this national program is housed at the Universidad del Valle de México (UVM). In addition to project funding, *Premio UVM por el Desarrollo Social* (UVM Prize for Social Development) provides Fellows with training in project management and communications and connects them to their peers and experts to create a national network of youth leaders affecting positive change.

To learn more, visit: www.premiouvm.org.mx

SPAIN

Premios UEM Jóvenes Emprendedores Sociales*

Housed at the Universidad Europea de Madrid (UEM), the program celebrates and supports young social entrepreneurs across Spain who have developed innovative solutions to community challenges. The *Premios UEM Jóvenes Emprendedores Sociales* (UEM Prize for Young Social Entrepreneurs) fellowship centers around two intensive learning and leadership development sessions, coupled with networking with key Spanish youth development organizations. The fellowship provides access to training and offers project funding. Since 2008, 20 Fellows have been selected.

To learn more, visit: www.premios.uem.es

TURKEY

BİLGİ Genç Sosyal Girişimci Ödülleri*

Launched in May 2010, *BİLGİ Genç Sosyal Girişimci Ödülleri* (BİLGİ Young Social Entrepreneur Awards) seeks to support young social innovators, ages 18 to 29, in Turkey. The program is being realized by Istanbul Bilgi University, in cooperation with the International Youth Foundation, Sylvan/Laureate Foundation, and *Türkiye Eğitim Gönüllüleri Vakfı* (TEGV, Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey). Through a customized, Turkish language-centered learning experience, coupled with a US\$3,500 award, ten Fellows annually will deepen the impact of their work, while connecting to their peers leading social change nationally and internationally.

To learn more, visit: www.bilgiggo.org

*Supported by the Sylvan/Laureate Foundation, Inc.

AUSTRALIA

Young Social Pioneers

Carla Talbot, 28

Initiative: Two Degrees of Separation

Focus: Women's Empowerment

Location: Christies Beach, South Australia

Chris Boyd, 22

Initiative: Australian Youth Against Cancer (AYAC)

Focus: Health

Location: Caringbah, New South Wales

Chris Raine, 24

Initiative: Hello Sunday Morning

Focus: Health

Location: Brisbane, Queensland

Elliot Costello, 26

Initiative: Y-Generation Against Poverty (YGAP)

Focus: Human Rights

Location: Elsternwick, Victoria

Freeman Trebilcock, 22

Initiative: InterAction: Multifaith Youth Network Inc.

Focus: Peace

Location: Daylesford, Victoria

Genevieve Clay, 22

Initiative: Bus Stop Films

Focus: Media & Technology

Location: Petersham, New South Wales

Jakob Quilligan, 19

Initiative: OUTthere Rural Victorian Council for Sexual Diversity

Focus: GLBTQ Issues

Location: Kennington, Victoria

Jo Alvarez, 26

Initiative: C.O.P. Magazine

Focus: Performing & Visual Arts

Location: Rooty Hill, New South Wales

Jonathan Brown, 22

Initiative: CBloggers

Focus: Media & Technology

Location: Adelaide, South Australia

Katherine Wills, 26

Initiative: Art To Burma and Back

Focus: Education

Location: Carlton, Victoria

Kumari Middleton, 25

Initiative: Mayibuye

Focus: Performing & Visual Arts

Location: Morwell, Victoria

Lee Crockford, 26

Initiative: Creative Wire Workshops

Focus: Performing & Visual Arts

Location: Paddington, Queensland

Melissa Cutting, 29

Initiative: Keeping Rural Communities Alive

Focus: Community Development

Location: Ingle Farm, South Australia

Zahra Smith, 26

Initiative: The Creative Peoples Collective

Focus: Performing & Visual Arts

Location: Rosebank, New South Wales

BRAZIL

Iniciativa Jovem Anhembi Morumbi* Anhembi Morumbi Youth Initiative*

Adilson Fernandes, 24

Initiative: Identidade: Tambor (*Identity: Drum*)

Focus: Culture

Adriano Pereira Basílio de Oliveira, 26

Initiative: Amigos de Pano (*Friends of Cloth*)

Focus: Income Generation

Angélica Araújo Santiago, 24

Initiative: Cursinho Chance ("*Chance*" Course)

Focus: Education

Debora Maria dos Reis, 28

Initiative: Capulanas Cia de Arte Negra (*Capulanas African Art Company*)

Focus: Culture

Douglas Samoel Fonseca, 27

Initiative: Curta a imagem na escola (*Short Films — The Image at School*)

Focus: Communication

Eulalia Henrique da Silva Leonardo, 28

Initiative: Sobrato (*Sobrato*)

Focus: Health

Francielen Bernardo da Silva, 24

Initiative: Cultura Dinâmica (*Dynamic Culture*)

Focus: Culture

Francini Nicolau Barbosa de Gusmão, 25

Initiative: Oficina de Comunicação: da carta ao filme (*Communication Workshop: From the Written Word to Film*)

Focus: Communication

Geilza Santana Rios, 29

Initiative: Projeto Informática Educativa (*The Technology Information Project*)

Focus: Technology

Helio Antonio de Lima Junior, 21

Initiative: Sonho Equilibrista (*Acrobat's Dream*)

Focus: Culture

Henrique Rocha Mendes, 21

Initiative: Projeto Batuque Arte: Tambores do Brasil (*Drumming Art Project: Drums of Brazil*)

Focus: Culture

Ítalo Batista Ventura, 20

Initiative: Podologia para todos (*Podiatry for All*)

Focus: Health

Jessé Scarpellini, 22

Initiative: Academia de Música INRI — Música e Cultura Para Todos (INRI — *Music and Culture for All*)

Focus: Culture

Joyce Ferreira, 24

Initiative: Ação Periférica (*Peripheral Action*)

Focus: Education

Luiz Gledson, 28

Initiative: Graffistencil (*Graffistencil*)

Focus: Culture

Marco Antonio Ponce, 29

Initiative: Literatura na Cesta Básica (*Literature in the Basic Basket*)

Focus: Education

Sheila Correia Ramos, 27

Initiative: Oficina e Mostra Rádio-Visualizar (*Radio-Visualize Workshop and Exhibition*)

Focus: Culture

Thiago Alves Britto, 23

Initiative: Multimídia Inovadora Autogestionária Unificada (*Independent Innovative Multimedia Group*)

Focus: Technology

Vanessa Del Neri, 23

Initiative: Quem Conta um Conto Aumenta um Ponto (*A Tale is Never Lost in the Telling*)

Focus: Culture

Vânia Cristina Feitosa, 29

Initiative: Cineclubes Grajaú — Cinema na estação (*Grajaú Film Club — Cinema at the Station*)

Focus: Culture

* All Iam Fellows located in São Paulo metro area.

ISRAEL

Zinuk Lamahar

Jump to Tomorrow

Efrat Vaknin, 30

Project: Hon (*Capital*)

Focus: Human Rights/Economic Empowerment

Location: Beer-Sheva

Maya Brafman-Cohen, 22

Project: Local youth leadership in Jaffa

Focus: Civic Participation

Location: Jaffa

Nadav Eylath, 26

Project: "beehive" — The Entrepreneurship Club of Tel-Aviv University

Focus: Economic Empowerment

Location: Tel-Aviv

Ori Wachtel, 28

Project: Hevra Tova (*Good Society*)

Focus: Volunteerism/Civic Participation

Location: Ra'anana

Pnina Mashasha, 26

Project: Etgarim Bamerkaz (*Challenges in the Center*)

Focus: Youth Empowerment/Sport

Location: Ramla

Ronen Shoval, 29

Project: Im Tirtzu (*If You Wish*)

Focus: Civic Participation

Location: Ra'anana

Sana Knaneh, 28

Project: Baladna (*Our Country*)

Focus: Civic Participation

Location: Jerusalem

Yaniv Efraim, 24

Project: Hitorerut (*Awakening in Jerusalem*)

Focus: Civic Participation

Location: Jerusalem

Yuval Cohen Erenfreund, 25

Project: Reshit Hinuch (*Education First*)

Focus: Education

Location: National

Yuval Raveh, 27

Project: Emek yarak (*Green Valley*)

Focus: Environment

Location: Emek Hefer

MEXICO

Premio UVM por el Desarrollo Social

UVM Prize for Social Development

Ana Cristina Montoya Carranza, 25

Initiative: Derivados del Campo, S.P.R.

(*Holistic Farm Products S.P.R.*)

Focus: Environment and Income Generation

Location: Querétaro

Carolina Elizabeth Lukac Delfavero, 28

Initiative: Colectivo Sembradores Urbanos, A.C.

(*The Urban Gardeners' Collective A.C.*)

Focus: Environment

Location: Distrito Federal

Christian Iván Trujano Cruz, 28

Initiative: Centro Regional para la Conservación Biológica "Lauro Arteaga" (C.R.C.B) (*Lauro Arteaga Regional Center for Ecological Conservation*)

Focus: Environment

Location: Estado de México

Dina Buchbinder Auron, 27

Initiative: Deport-es para Compartir (*Sports to Share*)

Focus: Education

Location: Distrito Federal

Elvia Alejandra Moreno Moreno, 27

Initiative: Dándole Color a la Vida (*Making Life Colorful*)

Focus: Cultural

Location: Puebla

Fernando Bolaños Zarate, 24

Initiative: Programa Niños Unidos (*Children United*)

Focus: Education

Location: Distrito Federal

Gabriela Patricia Torres Galaz, 26

Initiative: Gente por los Animales, A.C. (*People for Animals A.C.*)

Focus: Civic Participation

Location: Baja California

Guillermo Alejo Carlos, 28

Initiative: Centro de Formación Integral con Albergue (CEFIA), A.C. (*Integrated Education Center A.C.*)

Focus: Education

Location: Distrito Federal

Israel Alexander Hermosillo López, 23

Initiative: Acciones para el Desarrollo Sustentable y la Protección Ambiental (*Actions for Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection*)

Focus: Environment

Location: Colima

Jibran Mohamed Noriega, 26

Initiative: Estudiando entre Estudiantes, A.C. (*Students for Students, A.C.*)

Focus: Education

Location: Nuevo León

José Alfonso Salgado Cordero, 26

Initiative: Movimiento Libro Libre (*Free Book Movement*)

Focus: Cultural

Location: Distrito Federal

José Arenas López, 29

Initiative: Grupo Libre e Independiente Binni Cubi (*Free and Independent Group "Binni Cubi"*)

Focus: Cultural

Location: Oaxaca

María Patricia Pérez Moreno, 27

Initiative: Sna Itzamná-Tezcatlipoca, S.C.

Focus: Cultural

Location: Chiapas

Nancy Amado Soto, 28

Initiative: Trascendiendo (*Transcending Leukemia*)

Focus: Health

Location: Distrito Federal

Rosa de Guadalupe López Vásquez, 22

Initiative: Asesorías Psicológicas para Personas de Recursos Limitados, Quien Ama Protege (*Psychological Counseling "Protect the Ones You Love"*)

Focus: Health

Location: Sonora

SPAIN

**Premios UEM Jóvenes Emprendedores Sociales
UEM Prize for Young Social Entrepreneurs**

Amanda Robledo Sánchez- Guerrero, 23

Initiative: Debajo del Sombrero (*In the Shadows*)

Focus: Education

Location: Madrid

Eva Virgili Recasens, 26

Initiative: Y después de la guerra, ¿qué? (*And what happens after the war?*)

Focus: Peace

Location: Tarragona

Gabriel Bastardo Venegas, 27

Initiative: Guía del inmigrante (*Immigrant's Guide*)

Focus: Immigration

Location: Elche, Alicante

Jorge Sáez Jiménez, 27

Initiative: Velero Diosa Maat (*The Goddess Maat Yacht*)

Focus: Environmental

Location: Cádiz

Juan Antonio Merodio Yáñez, 29

Initiative: EllasDenuncian.com (*WomenDenounce.com*)

Focus: Gender violence

Location: Madrid

Juan Gabriel Baile Alcolea, 29

Initiative: Milhistorias (*A Thousand Stories*)

Focus: Immigration, Environment

Location: Madrid

Laura Carrasco, 26

Initiative: El camino de los encuentros (*The Path of Understanding*)

Focus: Civic participation

Location: Madrid

Marta Rueda Montserrat, 22

Initiative: Psicomotricidad (*Psychomotricity*)

Focus: Education

Location: Madrid

Miguel Palomo Fernández, 25

Initiative: AVINTE (AVINTE)

Focus: Civic participation

Location: Madrid

Simón Menéndez Sadornil, 28

Initiative: Asociación Hechos (*Do Something Association*)

Focus: Immigration

Location: Burgos, Ponferrada

The Fellows above were each chosen by local selection committees.



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