CmC Update | May 2013

Each year NYU Reynolds encourages, empowers and supports NYU undergraduate students to realize their visions of sustainable and scalable social change through the Changemaker Challenge (CmC). Below are updates on 2012 grand prize winner Youth Take Charge and 2012 seed grant winner Farm to Live. Check out the impact and accomplishments they have achieved in just ONE year!

Youth Take Charge’s founding members, alongside six volunteers that they recruited and trained, facilitated a total of 16 workshops at Harry S. Truman High School, Bronx Center for Science and Math, and the High School Law Institute at NYU School of Law generating awareness about human trafficking to over 300 students.

On May 4, YTC held their first annual Youth Take Charge High School Summit. 37 students from New York City’s five boroughs attended the day of festivities which included multiple workshops about leadership, activism, social entrepreneurship, conscious consumerism and different forms of human trafficking. Students met, mingled and exchanged ideas on how to end modern-day slavery. The Summit concluded with a public film screening of Very Young Girls, a documentary about the commercial sexual exploitation of young girls in New York City, followed by a panel discussion with youth outreach workers from Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS), a recovery agency in New York City for girls who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. To add to the energy that infused the Summit, the YTC team shared a noteworthy letter with attendees that they received from former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, a longtime anti-human trafficking advocate, declaring her support of Youth Take Charge and the High School Summit.

www.youthtakecharge.org
Below are a few photos from the Summit. See additional photos here.

Looking ahead…

In September 2013, YTC plans to implement their mentorship program at Bronx Center for Science and Math, and Harry S. Truman High School. They will continue their outreach and plan to deliver YTC workshops at additional NYC high schools including the Little Red School House and Elisabeth Irwin High School, and Hillcrest High School.

View the [High School Summit Promo Video](#).

[Images of photos from the Summit]
A look back…

Farm to Live has built and successfully maintained three farms in New Jersey – Swan Farm in Ramsey, Bergen Community College Farm in Paramus and Pony Power Therapies Farm in Mahwah. Approximately 2000 square feet of grassy, empty space was cultivated into flourishing gardens that generated 130 pounds of produce, 115 of which were donated to the Center for Food Action. Farm to Live is currently raising over 1000 seedlings in two greenhouses, one at Bergen Community College and the other at Ramapo College. All of the seedlings will be planted throughout the Farm to Live gardens; any leftover seedlings will be sold at local farmers markets. Farm to Live has also incorporated four bee hives into their gardens which proved to be a great educational experience for their farm maintainers and volunteers.

In addition to nurturing land, the Farm to Live team nurtured children at Pony Power Therapies through their educational summer camps. The curriculum included workshops about composting, pollination, bees, soil, plant parts, seed saving, food miles and food systems. This experience led to partnerships with other not-for-profit organizations that support individuals with disabilities. New Concepts for Living will be bringing a group to volunteer at their farms once a week and students from the Turning Points Program will volunteer on a weekly basis at their Bergen Community College garden.
Looking ahead…

This summer Farm to Live will expand the number of farms they maintain by acquiring four to eight additional plots of land, as well as their farming repertoire by exploring maple syrup tapping and growing edible mushrooms. They will also build approximately ten additional gardens for not-for-profit organizations and community members.

They will continue hosting their educational summer camp at Pony Power Therapies in July and August where they will teach workshops about organic gardening, worm composting, beekeeping, rain water catchment, plant parts, different types of vegetables and pollination. They will also be teaching the children about raising chickens upon obtaining a chicken coop in June.

Farm to Live is seeking additional partnership opportunities with homeless shelters and other organizations that support individuals with disabilities. Arrangements are currently underway with Hackensack University Medical Center to grow their roof-top gardens and teach educational programs to their cancer patients.