NYU REYNOLDS/YOUTH VENTURE
2010-2011 “BE A CHANGEMAKER CHALLENGE”
VENTURE TEAMS

The Buduburam Kitchen Project
Camilla Hermann (Gallatin)
Erika Boll (Gallatin)
Anna Claire Bjerknes (CAS)
Elizabeth Glaeser (Steinhardt)

The Buduburam Kitchen Project (BKP) pilot program is a response to the clearly articulated need of the refugee single mothers on The Buduburam Refugee Camp in Ghana. There are many young, single mothers on the camp, often with multiple children, who struggle in abject poverty. These women are routinely marginalized and receive inadequate support from their community. Many have turned to commercial sex work as a last resort. Their goal is simply to earn enough money each day to eat.

The Kitchen will perform three main services:

1. Serve 40 single mothers and their children one nutritional meal daily for a period of six months. The meals will be cooked by members of this community of vulnerable women, who will be supervised by local Kitchen staff who are trained counselors of survivors of rape and sexual abuse. The Kitchen staff will be paid fair trade wages according to World of Good’s Fair Trade Wage Guide.
2. Trained, local staff will educate participating women in basic math, reading, and writing. These teachers have already been selected by our Organization Director and conduct regular meetings on the camp.
3. The women will receive vocational skill training sourced through already existing schools on the camp. These institutions, founded and run by women, are struggling to find funding now that the UN has pulled out.
CAPE – Child Abuse Prevention through Empowerment*
Katherine Hensley (Stern)
Mona Afable (Nursing)
Rebeca Rubi (Nova Southeastern University)

CAPE is an empowering dance program that educates children about the prevention of abuse and bullying, thereby also preventing the cycle of consequences. The program teaches children about how unique their bodies are, how important their feelings and instincts are, and how essential it is to recognize and report abuse when it occurs. In addition, the program promotes positive communication, physical activity and movement, healthy relationships, self-expression and creativity.

Center for Health & Wellness*
Hewett Chiu (LSP)  Elma Prapaniku (Brooklyn College)
Mon Yuck Yu (Steinhardt)  Lyla Tan (LSP)
Shantel Evans (Manhattan College)  Tony Schwartz (St. George’s School of Medicine)
Sandra Zhuang (Purdue University)  Nattapol Powanpongkul (Johns Hopkins University)

Center for Health & Wellness (CHW) provides an innovative pet CPR and first aid program, which meets a great need in New York City. Through reaching out to individual pet owners, pet shops, and animal shelters to participate in this training, CHW recruits community members to volunteer their animals to visit the terminally ill patients.

In addition to the pets, CHW dispatches a “ComPETssion Team” to each individual patient. Each team consists of the pet, the pet’s owner volunteer, and one of our already-trained clinical healthcare team members. The pets will provide a means of relaxation and companionship to the patient, and the pet’s owner will provide further companionship whether through just simply listening to the patient or being someone to talk with.

All volunteer pet owners will be trained in disease prevention, bloodborne pathogens, and patient communication as per the Occupational Safety & Health Administration standards. CHW will hold sessions to clear up misconceptions about certain diseases and for them to learn more about the conditions and treatments of these patients.

Central Bike
Eddie Ishay (Stern)
Nathan Ishay (Brooklyn Technical High School)

Central Bike (CB) is a bike share program in New York City which will allow commuters the ability to pick up a bike at any bike station, travel to their destination and drop off the bike at a convenient station nearby.

* Denotes Grand Prize Award Finalist
Each bicycle will take up about 12 inches of space, depending upon the location. CB will be implementing foldable bicycles in some location to further conserve space. These stations will therefore take about 1 parking space on a city block. In the same place in which one car would fit, CB could fit as many as 36 bicycles.

CB will adopt the logistical, technical and organizational advancement of contemporary car rental companies, and apply these attributes in a microcosmic form in dense inner cities to achieve mobilization of the masses in an affordable, convenient, healthy, stress free, and in a fashionably “cool” method. By implementing a “Central Bike” bike share program in every four-block radius throughout NYC, CB will make a more convenient transportation service. For the project to work we must introduce all of the stations at once since the success of the project depends on the accessibility of the bicycles. Commuters must find our pickup and drop-off stations conveniently placed near their destinations.

**Collegeboardz***
Jeremiah Leong (Stern)
Kevin Silberman (CAS)
Joshua Pearlman (CAS)

Collegeboardz motivates at-risk youth to enter college and promotes the profile of skateboarding at the college-level. Collegeboardz creates events targeting at-risk youth to come and build their own boards and interact with NYU College students.

**Conscious Properties**
Charlotte Abrams (CAS)
Tiffany Gaines (Gallatin)

Conscious Properties (CP), is a consulting firm that helps fund Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) on a massive scale by tapping into the private housing industry, specifically, apartment buildings. In a “Conscious Property,” a portion of each tenant’s rent goes to funding a permanent supportive housing unit for a homeless individual, which closes the funding gap needed to end homelessness.

The building owner will benefit from an influx in occupancy that will result from an effective marketing campaign for this model. After all, it has become cool and trendy to give and identify one’s self with a cause, and CP predicts that a community with people who care about local social issues will be very appealing. The increase in revenue from occupancy growth substantiates the loss of funds from the rent donations. Rents rise naturally as the community becomes sought after, giving further incentive for owners to adopt this business model. Tenants benefit from costless philanthropic satisfaction, and there is enough funding to assist the chronically homeless through PSH.

CPC (Conscious Properties Consulting) will consult with apartment building owners to assure that this new one-for-one donation model will be profitable and sustainable. Once adopted, CPC will help owners with their installation process. Like any consulting firm, CPC will charge fees for services.

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DareMe
Matthew Ruzicka (LSP)
Myles Tanzer (CAS)
Boris Kachscovsky (Gallatin)

DareMe is an innovative web platform allowing philanthropic organizations to connect with individuals and obtain volunteers as well as donations. As an open social network, DareMe’s audience will extend beyond those who are already actively involved with social causes. Also, by rewarding those who generate content with points that can be exchanged into donation dollars, DareMe will provide people who do not usually donate or can’t afford to donate with the ability to do so. Giving people the opportunity to control donation dollars will also influence them to become familiar with existing humanitarian organizations and hopefully motivate them to personalize various causes.

Elona*
Jessica Kim (CAS)
Gabrielle Tang (Columbia)
Kelly Barneche (Columbia)
Charity Hung (Cornell)
Eunice Ok (Duke)

Elona provides a platform for survivors of sex trafficking to cultivate self-expression and develop skills for future sustainable employment. The participants of Elona will partake in workshops and trainings to build skills and confidence to enter the workforce.

Finding the Fabulous*
Lauren Berninger (Gallatin)
Sarah Orsita (Rutgers)

Finding the Fabulous… In Me is a summer camp for girls, ages 8-12, designed to instill confidence, combat insecurities, forge friendships and provide positive role models. Each girl receives a workbook that becomes their “portfolio” throughout the week, as they discover who they are and learn to express their inner beauty. Team building games, artistic activities, meaningful discussions, and video campaigns are a few of the highlights on the camp’s agenda to reinforce the values of self-esteem. Finding the Fabulous will also host community outreach events throughout the year by collaborating with local middle schools and Girl Scout troops. In addition, training sessions will be held for girls who have participated in the camp and would like to join the program as a junior counselor once they turn thirteen.

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Market-Rewrite
Salim Foirti (CAS)
Lao-Tzu Allan-Blitz (Gallatin)

Market-Rewrite is an online shopping experience that provides shoppers with a market place from which a flat percent of sales is donated to a non-profit of the costumer's choosing. The site provides the bases of an online community that can both support the endeavors of new non-profits as well as establish a constant source of donation for already existing ones.

Milieu
Max Choi (CAS)
Wendy Lin (CAS)
Mary Suen (Gallatin)
JaeYong Heo (Stern)

Milieu provides an encouraging environment where the first-generation Asian immigrants going through acculturation (acclimating to the American culture), second-and-later generation Asian-Americans going through enculturation (learning about their own heritages) can have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with their respective cultural heritages. Milieu offers services and programs aimed at promoting cross-culture learning and awareness.

A New Creation Bakery
Derrick See (Stern)
Jenny Wu (Stern)
Jon Kwan (SCPS)

Working with the local community of Inwood, New York, A New Creation Bakery is a small catering and wholesale business and soup kitchen. The Bakery will also create a holistic training program to hire the unemployed and teach them a specialized skill.

One Cup of Coffee
Avangeline Vacketta (Nursing)
Jessica Assaf (Gallatin)

One Cup of Coffee will link American coffee consumers with the West African AIDS Foundation who, through donations, will pay for medication and better care for HIV+ Ghanaians. One Cup of Coffee will empower and educate the American and Ghanaian public to create a more supportive environment for HIV+ people in Ghana and the US.
Prometheus
Paxton Farrar (Tisch)
Nurit Matuk (CAS)
Ora Katz (LSP)

In January 2005 a group of engineers and MIT faculty, led by Nicolas Negropante, set out to design a $100 laptop that could be distributed to millions of children in the third world. The One-Laptop-Per-Child (OLPC) ‘$100’ laptop went into production in 2007. Called the XO, it is a robust, well-equipped oversized Fisher Price toy, and we believe that it can change the world. It runs on open source software and is designed to mesh-network with other XOs, so that if one is within range of a wi-fi network it can boost the signal in a daisy chain over great distances. It is Amazon’s little known human computing platform The Mechanical Turk. It is a site where people can post ‘Jobs’ for tasks that are simple, tedious, even for humans, but very difficult for computers. “Sort all these car pictures by manufacturer” is a good example. In many cases it would require a super computer to analyze the photo and tell the difference between a Corolla and an Accord, but a human can simply look at the hood emblem.

Prometheus will work with programmers and web designers to create a web portal and OLPC client. It will work with citizens in countries where the XO has been deployed and/or where the internet is being brought to communities that have not found financial sufficiency. We will hopefully work with One Laptop Per Child, and Mechanical Turk or Click Worker.

Prose Worldwide Mobile
Alexander Prose (LSP)
Benjamin Halpern (Gallatin)

Prose is a mobile application designed to enrich lives of students on college campuses, both culturally and socially. The application will serve several functions including access to class information, class scheduling, GPS, student discounts, emergency information, event listings, ticket information and more.

QuesThink
Minjae Kim (CAS)
Shi Lim (Gallatin)

QuesThink organizes and executes workshops and panel discussions to address perspectives of the religious and LGBTQ groups. The events consist of speaking engagements and Q&A sessions, workshops, debates and other related activities. QuesThink wants to create a greater social empathy, acceptance of sexual diversity, and the acknowledgement that every person has the rights to respect life, regardless of sexual orientation.

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