



Youth**Action**Net<sup>®</sup>  
*at fifteen*

# Youth**Action**Net<sup>®</sup> *at fifteen*



**1,338 social  
entrepreneurs**  
IN OUR NETWORK



**90 countries**  
REPRESENTED



**22 youth  
leadership  
institutes**  
SUPPORTING THEM

**T**oday's **1.8 billion youth** are one of the world's greatest resources—and they are solving some of our biggest challenges.

**For 15 years**, YouthActionNet has provided founders of social ventures, ages 18 to 29, with the training, networking, coaching, funding, and advocacy opportunities they need to strengthen and scale their impact. These young social entrepreneurs have pioneered innovative solutions to critical local and global challenges, resulting in increased civic engagement, improved health, education reform, economic opportunity, environmental protection, and more inclusive societies.

Our work is carried out through a network of national and regional youth leadership institutes—currently **numbering 22 and growing**.

## What have we learned along the way?

More than 3,000 college volunteers have served as mentors and teachers to underserved youth through Make a Difference (MAD) in India. Co-founded by 2010 Laureate Global Fellow **Jithin Nedumala**, MAD is now transforming young lives in 23 cities.



Since 2013, PACE has trained more than 300 high school graduates as volunteer teaching assistants, who have mentored 10,000 students in 15 public schools. As a result, individual students' grades and mean scores have improved, with volunteers launching new extracurricular activities from reading clubs to soccer teams.



# LESSON 1

## Youth are uniquely equipped to change the world.

Young people possess a unique ability to look at old problems in new ways. Their energy and idealism propel them to take risks, to challenge the status quo, and innovate solutions. Faced with formidable challenges, today's young leaders across the globe are transforming obstacles into opportunities. They're asking tough questions. 'Why are women not treated equally?' 'Why are children denied a decent education?' It's time to listen. It's time to trust them.



"The answer to Africa's teacher shortage already exists: it's young people."

2014 Laureate  
Global Fellow  
**Peggy Mativo**  
(pictured at left),  
Founder, PACE,  
KENYA

## LESSON 2

# Real change requires lasting commitment.

Even the most accomplished leader struggles with big decisions throughout his or her career. How and when to grow an organization? Who are the best partners? When is the right time to start something new? No matter what their age, founders need help navigating these questions. We begin with transformational leadership training, coaching, and skill building, followed by learning opportunities offered throughout a fellow's social change journey. Our ten-year partnership with Laureate International Universities also reflects this long-term commitment to supporting change leaders—for life.

"The [YouthActionNet] executive coaching was transformational. I gained clarity around what I can achieve and how."

2012 Laureate  
Global Fellow  
**Agustin Rodríguez Aké,**  
Founder, Caza Sonrisas,  
MEXICO

Fellow **Gitanjali Babbar** (pictured at right), founder of Kat-Katha, an organization that empowers women sex workers and their children in New Delhi, addresses a crowd during the second annual G.B. Road Festival. The idea for the event—and creating opportunities for Kat-Katha beneficiaries to realize their self-worth—emerged during a design thinking workshop as part of her YouthActionNet training in 2013. With the busy commercial corridor having never been closed in its long history, the festival offers a potent example of how today's young leaders are making the impossible possible.

In 2014 alone,  
nearly 70% of our alumni  
benefited from  
coaching, mentoring,  
and online learning  
opportunities through  
YouthActionNet.



**Agustin Rodríguez Aké** founded Caza Sonrisas to empower hospitalized children in Mexico to play a role in their own healing through games that nurture positive emotions. More than 350 children are supported annually by 35 trained volunteers. Faced with critical decisions about how to sustain and diversify his social enterprise while pursuing a master's degree, Agustin credits the one-on-one coaching provided by YouthActionNet with helping him set achievable goals.

YOUTH  
ACTION  
NET

"Over four years, Premio Yo Creo has emerged as a key reference point for youth-led social innovation in Costa Rica. We can say with pride that we've contributed to a vibrant movement of young people taking action in their communities."

**Clotilde Fonseca,**  
Rector, Universidad  
Latina, COSTA RICA



"YouthActionNet provided a time-tested framework and curricula that could be easily adapted—along with access to its global network of young innovators and local leadership institutes. We couldn't ask for a better partner."

**Waswa Balunywa,**  
Principal, Makerere  
University Business  
School (MUBS), UGANDA

## LESSON 3

### Full and meaningful local ownership is key.

Our growing network of 22 youth leadership institutes is locally owned and globally connected. Firmly rooted in the environment where they operate, each YouthActionNet institute equips young social entrepreneurs with a customized, local-language learning experience. Ours is not a 'top down' approach, rather we collaborate as equal partners united around a shared mission: to strengthen and scale up the impact of youth-led social change. When asked to identify the greatest benefit of this network, our partners and fellows point to feeling part of something bigger than themselves.



# ENGAGE



In 2014,  
YouthActionNet  
Fellow ventures  
engaged more than  
**60,300**  
**VOLUNTEERS.**

## LESSON 4

### Change-making is contagious.

Through Voluntariado Kúrame, 2013 Laureate Global Fellow **Patricia Barrios** trains volunteers, ages 18 to 30, to support hospital patients in Peru. Last year alone, the initiative's 9,000 volunteers reached more than a million patients at 12 public hospitals and 3 shelters.

Young change-makers are engaging their peers like never before, unleashing a wave of volunteer energy. Far beyond painting walls and cleaning vacant lots, today's young volunteers contribute diverse expertise—from mentoring to marketing, from managing teams to measuring impact. Even so, many millennials struggle with finding ways to channel their social conscience into effective grassroots programs. On college campuses around the globe, YouthActionNet connects aspiring change-makers to our fellows on the ground. Whether a student seeks to be an engineer or an artist, we believe social change should be a part of every professional path.



**Kwabena Danso** launched Boomers International as a subsidiary social enterprise of the Yonso Project, which provides educational and economic opportunities to help low-income, rural families in Ghana improve their lives. Boomers produces and markets bamboo bicycles on both the Ghanaian and international markets. Its goals: to improve transportation, provide youth with employment, mitigate climate change, and alleviate rural poverty.

# LESSON 5

## People learn differently.

Young leaders learn by doing. They grow best when exchanging ideas, strategies—and failures—with their peers. We create flexible learning environments that allow fellows to share their knowledge and experience across cultures and contexts. We support them in pushing beyond their comfort zones to question, test, and explore. Recognizing that a leader's learning needs change and evolve over time, we provide coaching, tools, and resources for life.



**Taufan Putra** launched Amartha Microfinance in 2010 to provide affordable financial services to low-income women living in remote rural areas of Indonesia. To date, Amartha has distributed loans totaling US\$2.5 million to more than 10,000 women. Through YouthActionNet's continuing education program, Taufan received coaching from Georgetown University graduate students aimed at developing an online platform to facilitate peer-to-peer lending.

"The [YouthActionNet] storytelling training got me to rethink how I tell my story and that of my organization. As a result, the Yonso Project now has a global market and credibility."

2010 Laureate Global Fellow **Kwabena Danso**, Executive Director, The Yonso Project; Founder/CEO, Boomers International, GHANA

"The social business lending model developed by the Georgetown University student consultants was useful and clear. We can now use it to pitch investors."

2013 Laureate Global Fellow **Taufan Putra**, Founder, Amartha Microfinance, INDONESIA

# A Locally Rooted, Globally Connected Network

Below are the people and programs that are working with us to make our vision a reality.

## Anglophone Africa Regional Program

*Diana Ntamu* | Social Entrepreneurs Transforming Africa (SET Africa)  
Kampala, Uganda  
[www.setafrica.org](http://www.setafrica.org)

## Arab Regional Program

*Noor Homoud* | King Abdullah II Award for Youth Innovation and Achievement  
Amman, Jordan  
[www.kafd.jo](http://www.kafd.jo)

## Australia

*Alissa Holton* | Young Social Pioneers  
Melbourne, Australia  
[www.fya.org.au](http://www.fya.org.au)

## Brazil

*César Dinóla* | Iniciativa Jovem Anhembi Morumbi  
São Paulo, Brazil

*André Lemos Araújo* | Iniciativa Jovem UnP  
Natal, Brazil

*Kellen Gasque* | Jovem Empreendedor UniNorte  
Manaus, Brazil

*Carolina Spinola* | Jovem Iniciativa Unifacs  
Salvador, Brazil  
[www.premiolaureatebrasil.com.br](http://www.premiolaureatebrasil.com.br)

## Chile

*Ana María Correa* | ACCIONJOVEN Reconimiento Universidad Andrés Bello  
Santiago, Chile  
[www.accionjoven.cl](http://www.accionjoven.cl)

## Costa Rica

*Lourdes Brizuela* | Premio Yo Creo Universidad Latina  
San José, Costa Rica  
[www.premiocyocreo.com](http://www.premiocyocreo.com)

## Francophone Africa Regional Program

*Ciré Kane* | Innove4Africa  
Dakar, Senegal  
[www.synapsecenter.org/innove4africa](http://www.synapsecenter.org/innove4africa)

## Honduras

*Ana Villeda* | Premio Yo Emprendo UNITEC  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
[www.premioyoemprendo.com](http://www.premioyoemprendo.com)

## Jordan

*Hafez Neeno* | BADIR  
Amman, Jordan  
[www.badir.jo](http://www.badir.jo)

## Kyrgyzstan

*Mirbek Asangariyev* | School of Social Entrepreneurship  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
[www.ase.kg/en](http://www.ase.kg/en)

## Mexico

*Miguel Romo Cedano* | Premio UNITEC a la Innovación Tecnológica para el Desarrollo Social  
Mexico City, Mexico  
[www.unitec.mx/premio](http://www.unitec.mx/premio)

*Sandra Herrera Lopez* | Premio UVM por el Desarrollo Social  
Mexico City, Mexico  
[www.premiouvvm.org.mx](http://www.premiouvvm.org.mx)

## Morocco

*Dina Kerboute* | Entrepreneurs en Mouvement  
Casablanca, Morocco  
<http://entrepreneursenmouvement.com>

## Nigeria

*Asuquo Asuquo* | Social Innovators Programme  
Lagos, Nigeria  
[www.leapafrica.org](http://www.leapafrica.org)

## Peru

*Jack Zilberman* | Premio Protagonistas de Cambio UPC  
Lima, Peru  
<http://premioprotagonistasdelcambio.upc.edu.pe>

## Senegal

*Prof. Ousmane Sene* | Projet JETS (Jeunesse, Entreprise et Transformation Sociale au Sénégal)  
Dakar, Senegal  
[www.warccroa.org/jets](http://www.warccroa.org/jets)

## Spain

*Silvia Lavandera Ponce* | Premios Jóvenes Emprendedores Sociales Universidad Europea  
Madrid, Spain  
[www.emprendoressocialesuem.com](http://www.emprendoressocialesuem.com)

## Turkey

*M. Serdar Apaydin* | BİLGİ Genç Sosyal Girişimci Ödülleri  
Istanbul, Turkey  
[www.bilgiggo.org](http://www.bilgiggo.org)



## MEXICO

Partners: Universidad del Valle de México and Universidad Tecnológica de México (UNITEC)

## HONDURAS

Partner: Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana

## COSTA RICA

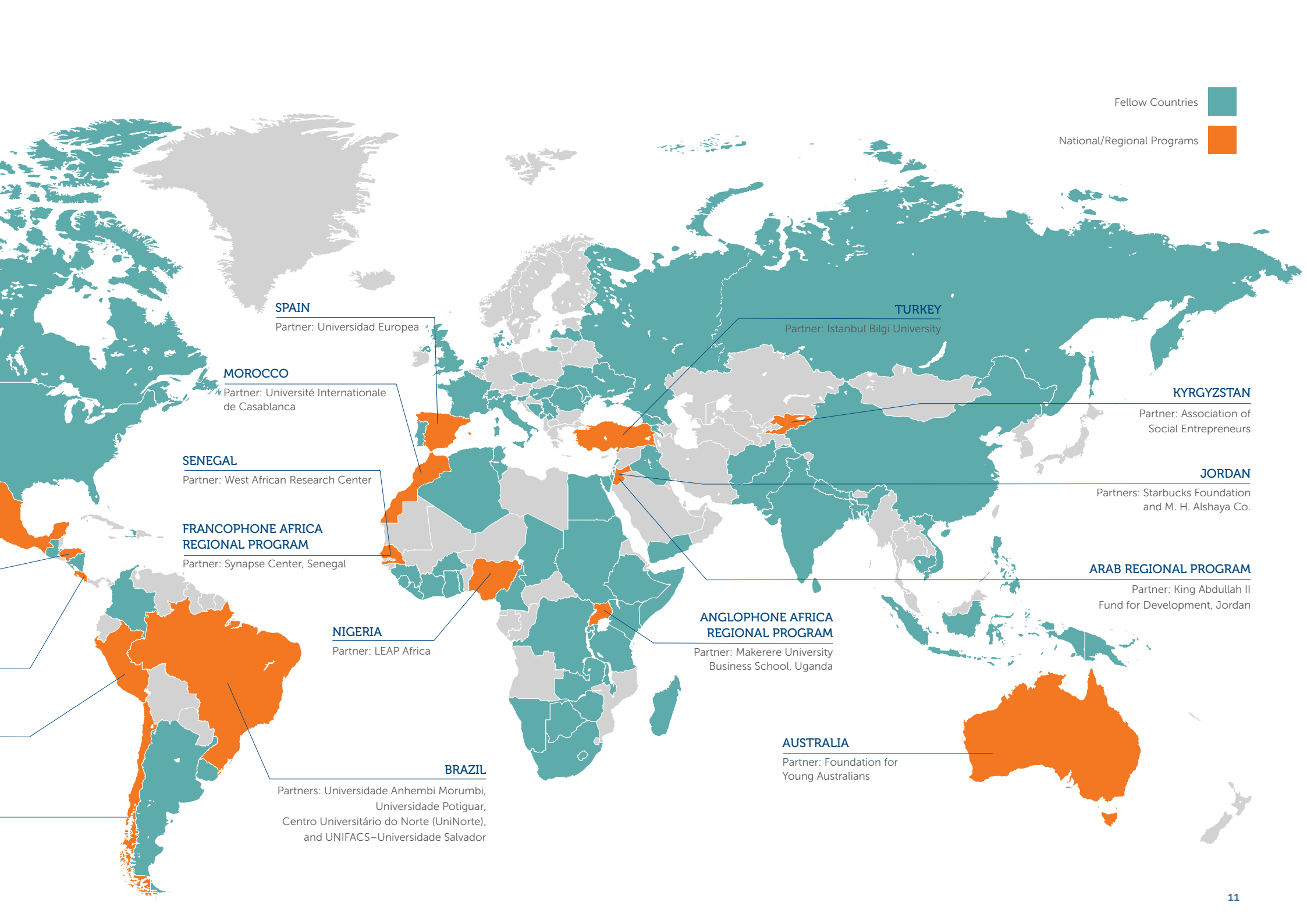
Partner: Universidad Latina

## PERU

Partner: Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas

## CHILE

Partner: Universidad Andrés Bello



Fellow Countries ■  
 National/Regional Programs ■

**SPAIN**  
 Partner: Universidad Europea

**MOROCCO**  
 Partner: Université Internationale de Casablanca

**SENEGAL**  
 Partner: West African Research Center

**FRANCOPHONE AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAM**  
 Partner: Synapse Center, Senegal

**NIGERIA**  
 Partner: LEAP Africa

**BRAZIL**  
 Partners: Universidade Anhembi Morumbi, Universidade Potiguar, Centro Universitário do Norte (UniNorte), and UNIFACS—Universidade Salvador

**TURKEY**  
 Partner: Istanbul Bilgi University

**KYRGYZSTAN**  
 Partner: Association of Social Entrepreneurs

**JORDAN**  
 Partners: Starbucks Foundation and M. H. Alshaya Co.

**ARAB REGIONAL PROGRAM**  
 Partner: King Abdullah II Fund for Development, Jordan

**ANGLOPHONE AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAM**  
 Partner: Makerere University Business School, Uganda

**AUSTRALIA**  
 Partner: Foundation for Young Australians

# CLASS OF 2015 // Laureate Global Fellows

Each year, we proudly support the leadership journeys of 20 outstanding young social entrepreneurs through the Laureate Global Fellowship. Supported by Laureate International Universities, the yearlong program includes advanced leadership training, coaching, advocacy, and networking opportunities. Together, these young founders/CEOs—all under 30 years of age—demonstrate Laureate’s commitment to developing an emerging generation of global leaders.

## ▶ CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



**Deepa Gupta, 27**

*Jhatkaa.org*  
INDIA

Through Jhatkaa.org, Deepa is building a nationwide, non-partisan movement of Indian citizens who hold their decision makers accountable on issues of public welfare. Jhatkaa has used text messages, automated voice calls, email, and social networks to mobilize 100,000+ citizens to take action to combat racism, gender-based violence, and more.

*Jhatkaa.org*



**Ayaz Shalal Hassan, 25**

*Gender-based Violence Prevention and Women’s Protection Project*  
IRAQ

As founder of Asuda’s Gender-based Violence Prevention and Women’s Protection Project, Ayaz empowers thousands of women in Iraq’s Syrian refugee and Kurd populations through creating safe spaces at community women’s centers that offer training and resources related to legal rights, health, and family wellbeing.



**Matthew Morantz, 29**

*Making Waves Canada*  
CANADA

Matthew founded Making Waves Canada to provide therapeutic swim lessons to children with severe developmental disabilities, increasing their water safety and instilling a love for staying active through swimming. The organization serves nearly 900 families each week in 14 cities across Canada.

*makingwavescanada.org*



**Nafula Wafula, 25**

*SEMA Initiative*  
KENYA

Through the SEMA Initiative, Nafula helps Kenyan youth recognize their power to combat gender-based violence (GBV). By training youth to lead workshops, events, and GBV help desks in their communities, the initiative has engaged over 4,000 Kenyan youth in GBV prevention.

*semagbv.org*



**Ayşe Gökçe Bor, 29**

*Eşya Kütüphanesi*  
TURKEY

Through Eşya Kütüphanesi (Library of Stuff), an online platform, Ayşe enables people to lend and borrow—rather than purchase—the items they need. Its goal: to decrease depletion of natural resources while nurturing community ties. To date, more than 2,000 people have used the open source platform.

*esyakutuphanesi.com*

## ▶ ENVIRONMENT

## ▶ SOCIAL INCLUSION



**Daniel Hill, 28**  
*Green Impact Campaign*  
UNITED STATES

With the goal of reducing carbon emissions while empowering young climate leaders, Daniel co-founded Green Impact Campaign, which provides cloud-based tools and training to university students to conduct free energy assessments for local, small businesses. Since 2011, students at 100 universities have completed assessments for 300 small businesses.  
[greenimpactcampaign.org](http://greenimpactcampaign.org)



**Gabriela Destephen, 27**  
*Capsule*  
HONDURAS

Gabriela co-founded Capsule, a company that designs and builds sustainable architectural solutions for people who have lost their homes or lack adequate housing. By engaging families from the start, the company nurtures a sense of ownership among those it serves.



**Leonardo Párraga, 22**  
*The BogotArt Foundation*  
COLOMBIA

Leonardo launched the BogotArt Foundation to empower youth and community members with the training and tools needed to identify local needs and develop arts-based solutions. Through its democratization of the arts, neighborhoods once characterized by discrimination and violence are being transformed into cultural hubs. [bogotart.org](http://bogotart.org)



**Bridie Ritchie, 27**  
*Sprout Ventures*  
AUSTRALIA

Bridie co-founded Sprout Ventures, a social enterprise, to create experiences for authentic human connection. Its flagship project is Sprout Hub™, a community facility designed to equip emerging suburban communities with the spaces and tools they need to become connected and resilient neighborhoods. [sprouthub.com.au](http://sprouthub.com.au)



**Luke Rodgers, 24**  
*Foster Focus*  
UNITED KINGDOM

Through Foster Focus, Luke challenges the stigmas assigned to foster children and provides solutions for foster care policies and practices that incorporate the voices and experiences of the youth they serve. In 2014, the initiative reached 1,000 children in care. [fosterfocus.co.uk](http://fosterfocus.co.uk)

## ▶ HEALTH



**Carolina Zuheill  
Candelario Rosales, 29**  
GUIMEDIC  
MEXICO

Carolina founded GUIMEDIC, a system of mobile medical clinics that provides medical assistance and preventative education to Mexico's most isolated and vulnerable communities. In 2014 alone, GUIMEDIC reached 10,600 patients. [guimedic.org](http://guimedic.org)



**Isaac Gogo, 28**  
*Linda Mtoto*  
KENYA

To improve infant health while reducing maternal and child mortality, Isaac founded Linda Mtoto, which provides women in the Nyatike District with free health-related messages via mobile technology. The initiative has worked with 20 hospitals to develop a database of 1,500 mothers and children. [lindamtoto.weebly.com](http://lindamtoto.weebly.com)

## ▶ EDUCATION



**Teresa Boullón, 29**  
*Un Millón de Niños Lectores*  
PERU

Through Un Millón de Niños Lectores (One Million Readers), a social enterprise, Teresa engages parents, volunteers, and companies in building libraries in low-income schools with the goal of strengthening literacy, educational outcomes, and active citizenship. To date, the initiative has impacted over 7,500 students, 4,000 parents, and 1,200 teachers. [yoleo.org.pe](http://yoleo.org.pe)



**Crystal Goh, 28**  
*Diamonds on the Street*  
SINGAPORE

A talented singer/songwriter, Crystal founded Diamonds on the Street to empower youth at-risk, ages 13 to 21, to craft new life narratives and turn their personal reflections into art. In 2014, the initiative benefited 80 youth while sharing its message of hope and resilience with thousands of audience members. [diamondsonthestreet.com](http://diamondsonthestreet.com)



**Queen Baboloki  
Kgeresi, 25**  
*The Dream Hub*  
BOTSWANA

Through The Dream Hub, Queen helps young women survivors of sexual violence regain their confidence and dignity. Through its holistic intervention, 500 young women and girls have gained access to mentorship, psychological support, and job skills training.



## ▶ ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



**Gustavo Reis, 22**  
*4YOU2*  
BRAZIL

Gustavo founded 4YOU2, a language learning enterprise that enables residents of Brazil's *favelas* to access high-quality English classes at 20 percent of the market rate. Through conversation-based classes taught by teachers from diverse countries, the initiative has promoted language learning and cultural exchange among 3,500+ Brazilians and 100 volunteer teachers. [4y2.org](http://4y2.org)



**Muhamad Iman Usman, 23**  
*Ruangguru.com*  
INDONESIA

With the goal of closing Indonesia's education gap and supporting livable wages for tutors, Iman founded Ruangguru.com, the country's largest online marketplace for private tutors and classes. In its first year, the platform attracted 10,000 tutors who provided lessons in 100+ subjects. [ruangguru.com](http://ruangguru.com)



**Oscar Contreras-Villarroel, 25**  
*Fundación Ciencia Joven*  
CHILE

Oscar founded Fundación Ciencia Joven (Youth Science Foundation) to ensure that all students recognize the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math) as viable career paths and have the skills to pursue them. Through science summer camps, after-school programs, and learning publications, the venture has reached 30,000 students and teachers in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Mexico. [cienciajoven.cl](http://cienciajoven.cl)



**Blessing Mene Oritseweyinmi, 27**  
*UNFIRE*  
NIGERIA

As founder of UNFIRE, Mene provides farmers with access to sustainable, low-cost animal feed while engaging more youth in agriculture. UNFIRE's highly-nutritious feed blend results in higher profits and increased availability of protein-rich foods in rural areas.



**Natalie Emery, 28**  
*Change the World Trust*  
SOUTH AFRICA

Through the Change the World Trust, Natalie provides unemployed youth and disadvantaged students with free IT training to support their entry into the workforce or self-employment. In 2014, the Trust provided training to 1,200 unemployed youth and students. [changetheworld.org.za](http://changetheworld.org.za)

# What's Next?

## From the President & Chairman

**William S. Reese**  
*President & CEO*  
International Youth  
Foundation

**Douglas L. Becker**  
*Chairman*  
International Youth  
Foundation  
*Chairman & CEO*  
Laureate Education, Inc.

**I**n the **15 years** since YouthActionNet came into being, the largest generation of youth the world has ever known has proven itself a potent force for change. Investing in the ability of today's young leaders to question the status quo, to innovate, and to inspire others lies at the heart of our mission.

Central to our efforts has been creating one of the **world's largest networks of locally-owned, globally-connected youth leadership institutes**. Now **numbering 22**, each is dedicated to ensuring that young change-makers have the knowledge and skills needed to deliver on their visions of a better world. Their ability to do so will fundamentally shape our collective future.

The **1,330+ youth** we proudly serve are redefining traditional notions of development. Their work is firmly rooted in local ownership and sustainability. Many are pursuing alternatives to traditional nonprofit organizational models, with nearly half of their ventures representing for-profit or hybrid approaches. And while it is often the novelty of their approaches that catapults these young leaders into the spotlight, their innovations are achieving real and lasting impact. In 2014 alone, our fellows' ventures benefited more than **3.9 million lives**.

**As we continue to support these pioneering young men and women, our plans for the future include:**

- » Increasing the number of YouthActionNet leadership institutes to 30—and the number of fellows served to 2,200—by the year 2018
- » Providing ongoing continuing education opportunities to fellows throughout their social change careers
- » Analyzing fellow ventures to distill sector trends and share valuable lessons about what works in strengthening the impact of youth-led social change
- » Working within university systems to ensure greater numbers of students are motivated and empowered to be catalysts of change
- » Engaging an ever-growing community of local partners—universities, civil society organizations, companies, and government agencies—in support of young change-makers

Today's young leaders teach us that far-reaching change very often evolves from grassroots innovations. Through refining, adapting, and scaling their models over time, YouthActionNet Fellows have proven their ability to address big challenges in diverse contexts. Many have embarked on the long-term project of influencing systems, with one out of four fellows reporting that they have influenced policies at the local and/or national level.

Perhaps most importantly, these harbingers of change are ushering in a new set of values for us to live by. There is a world that stresses collaboration over competition, belonging over belongings, the collective over the individual, and sustainability over no holds barred growth. We are grateful to these young visionaries for what they teach and give the world—and look forward to the next 15 years of working with them to achieve goals we all share.

## 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.

[www.iyfnet.org](http://www.iyfnet.org)

## LAUREATE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

This publication was produced with support from Laureate International Universities. Since 2001, Laureate International Universities has provided more than US\$23 million in grants to more than 100 non-profit organizations to support initiatives around education, youth leadership, global citizenship, economic opportunity, and the arts.

A member of the YouthActionNet community, Laureate International Universities sponsors the Laureate Global Fellows and is co-sponsor of YouthActionNet programs at institutions within their network—which is the world's leading higher education provider, comprised of more than 80 institutions of higher education in 28 countries and with over a million students.

[www.laureate.net](http://www.laureate.net)

## PHOTO ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Page 1: Make a Difference, India; Page 2: Sam Mulwa; Page 5: Kat-Katha, India; Caza Sonrisas, Mexico; Page 6: Sheila Kinkade; Page 7: Voluntariado Kúrame, Peru; Page 8: Boomers International, Ghana; Page 9: Amarthia Microfinance, Indonesia.

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**“Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas’ work with IYF to develop young social entrepreneurs in Peru—and connect them to their peers around the world—is carried out in the spirit of true partnership.”**

**Mariana Rodriguez,**  
President/CEO,  
Laureate, PERU

YOUTHACTIONNET® GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OUR JOURNEY

Signature Partner



Partners



**SAMSUNG**





**LAUREATE**  
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