

CHANGE



YOUTHACTIONNET®

A program of the International Youth Foundation, YouthActionNet pursues a bold mission: to strengthen and scale up the impact of youth-led social ventures around the world. Through its local and global initiatives, YouthActionNet provides training, funding, advocacy, and networking opportunities to social entrepreneurs, ages 18 to 29, who have pioneered solutions to urgent global challenges. Joining us are universities, foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individuals — all united in their support of young leaders whose innovations are changing the world — one community at a time.

To learn more, visit: www.youthactionnet.org.

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.

To learn more, visit: www.iyfnet.org.

SYLVAN/LAUREATE FOUNDATION

This publication was produced with support from the Sylvan/Laureate Foundation, the company foundation of Laureate Education, Inc. Since 1997, the Sylvan/Laureate Foundation has provided more than \$13 million in grants to 100 non-profit organizations. Its mission is to support best practices in training and education worldwide.

A member of the YouthActionNet community, the Sylvan/Laureate Foundation sponsors the *Laureate Global Fellows* and is co-sponsor of YouthActionNet programs at Laureate International Universities — the world's largest network of private universities, comprised of more than 60 institutions of higher education in 29 countries and 740,000 students. YouthActionNet programs are currently operating at *Universidade Anhembi Morumbi* (Brazil), *Universidade Potiguar* (Brazil), *Universidad Andrés Bello* (Chile), *Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas* (Peru), *Universidad Latina* (Costa Rica), *Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana* (Honduras), *Universidad del Valle de México* (Mexico), *Universidad Europea de Madrid* (Spain), and *Istanbul Bilgi University* (Turkey).

To learn more, visit: www.laureate.net.



WHAT DO BEES, BOOKS, & BICYCLES HAVE IN COMMON?

Each is being used by a YouthActionNet® Fellow to solve an urgent local challenge.

In Uganda, Benjamin Sunday helps rural villagers build beehives to generate income, while keeping elephants at bay. In Australia, Lachlan Ritchie uses bikes to improve health, prevent air pollution, and build the skills of disadvantaged youth. And in Spain, Miriam Reyes Oliva makes online books — featuring pictograms — to facilitate learning among children with autism.

Each of these young visionaries — and 680 innovators like them — has benefited from the advanced leadership training, funding, advocacy, and networking opportunities made possible through YouthActionNet.

The result? These youth-led innovations are more effective, more sustainable, and reaching scale. In 2012 alone, youth-led projects supported by the YouthActionNet community benefited more than a million people around the globe.

YOUTHACTIONNET®: INVESTING IN YOUTH-LED SOCIAL INNOVATION

OUR IMPACT

2012

11

LOCAL INSTITUTES

71

COUNTRIES

680

YOUTH-LED ORGANIZATIONS

34,000

VOLUNTEERS RECRUITED

1,254,000

LIVES IMPACTED

► IYF Board Chair Douglas Becker presents 2007 Fellow Rama Shyam with the IYF-sponsored Martti Ahtisaari Peacemaker Award for her efforts to build bridges of understanding among Hindu and Muslim youth in Mumbai, India.



CHANGE CAN BE both disquieting and exhilarating. It rouses us from our routines; invites us to look at the world through fresh eyes.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN

Most of us are adverse to change, which inevitably involves disruption and learning new ways of being in the world. Change can be both disquieting and exhilarating. It rouses us from our routines; invites us to look at the world through fresh eyes.

As trite as it may sound, change is the mantra of our time. As a global society, we need to reinvent the very foundations of how we live and interact in order to create a more sustainable world. At the International Youth Foundation (IYF), we are reminded every day that it is young people who are developing some of the most innovative, pragmatic, and audacious ideas for setting the planet right.

Youth, by virtue of their age, are far more likely to experiment, to take risks, and question the status quo. They get that the world they are inheriting is in trouble and are taking bold action to set a new course. Eleven years ago, IYF launched YouthActionNet to identify and herald these young innovators, to strengthen their skills, connect them, and advocate for their valuable role in society.

At the same time, we knew that youth, because of their age and relative inexperience, were also often marginalized, even dismissed, by the powers that be. What was needed was a fundamental shift in how society views young people and their contributions. In a word: change.

That change is now upon us as youth — along with policymakers, government institutions, development agencies, companies, and foundations — explore new ways of collaborating to realize the true promise of great ideas. Time is of the essence. We need to work faster and smarter to identify promising solutions to social challenges, to maximize their effectiveness, and bring them to scale.

This is where YouthActionNet comes in. We have here a network of 680 young innovators — all CEOs and founders of their respective social enterprises — representing 71 countries.

On page 12 of this report, we invite you to read about the 2012 *Laureate Global Fellows*, the latest members of this expanding network. A number of these accomplished leaders are ‘graduates’ of local YouthActionNet institutes and will be able to take their leadership and management skills to an even more advanced level.

Also in 2012, we established new youth leadership institutes in Brazil, Costa Rica, and Honduras — bringing the total number of programs launched through the Laureate International Universities Network to eight. In addition, we deepened our five-year partnership with Starbucks through the launch of a Jordanian institute called *BADIR* (Take the Initiative), providing young leaders in that country with advanced skills training, funding, and networking opportunities.

By 2015, the YouthActionNet community is expected to expand to more than 1,500 young social entrepreneurs, who will be supported by curricula and leadership development opportunities offered through 24 national/regional institutes. We invite you to learn more about this expanding network and the people and organizations who have joined with us in support of today’s young change makers.

William S. Reese
PRESIDENT & CEO
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FOUNDATION

Douglas L. Becker
CHAIRMAN
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FOUNDATION
CHAIRMAN & CEO
LAUREATE EDUCATION, INC.

Change was on the mind of Rodrigo Arnaud Bello in Mexico when he began exploring solutions to two pressing, yet seemingly unrelated, problems. On the one hand was the complete lack of recycling services in his native Oaxaca; on the other was a growing number of low-income families experiencing poor living conditions. Rodrigo understood that it was possible to solve both problems at the same time. Through *Techamos Una Mano*, an organization he founded in 2009, Rodrigo mobilizes high school volunteers to collect discarded milk and juice boxes, and then trains them to transform the materials into quality, affordable housing.

Rodrigo was recognized for his efforts in 2010 with a *Premio UVM* award from YouthActionNet's local partner in Mexico and in 2011 became a *Laureate Global Fellow*. His ability to look at old problems in new ways typifies that of YouthActionNet Fellows across the globe. Today's young innovators are bold, passionate, creative thinkers. They work long hours. They take risks. They possess an uncanny ability to attract goodwill and volunteers to their cause. They realize that to succeed, they need to be willing to fail — and to persevere in pursuit of their goals.

CHANGE INNOVATIVE

While the business community has long embraced unconventional thinking as a means of maintaining a competitive edge, the development sector has tended to favor the tried-and-true over the up-and-coming, placing a premium on experience, expertise, and long-term, quantifiable results. And for good cause, no one wants to see funding go to waste. At the same time, the magnitude of problems we face demands swifter, albeit road-tested solutions — the kinds of solutions emerging from today's young change makers.

More and more, a middle path is being forged between these two extremes as a result of dynamic new partnership models and the vetting of promising practices through initiatives like YouthActionNet. As for Rodrigo, he recently partnered with the municipal government of Oaxaca to expand his low-income housing model. In 2012, IYF and Starbucks awarded Rodrigo a *Youth Action Grant* that will enable his project to generate earned income through the sale of solid waste collected at schools.





► **PHOTOS:** Through *Techamos Una Mano* in Mexico, volunteers recycle milk and juice boxes into quality housing for low-income families. The initiative was founded by *Premio UVM* Fellow Rodrigo Arnaud Bello, who was selected as a *Laureate Global Fellow* in 2011.

► **“YOUTHACTIONNET[®]**
is leading the
way in identifying
and supporting
talented young
innovators — all
under 30 — whose
work is essential
to sparking new
solutions to global
concerns.”

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON
HONORARY CHANCELLOR, LAUREATE
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

LASTING CHANGE



The magnitude of problems we face demands large-scale change, leading some to question whether disparate groups of young people around the globe can make a big enough difference. YouthActionNet is predicated on the notion that together today's young leaders can accomplish far more than alone. Our job is to link talented young innovators to one another so they can share ideas, connect, and collaborate.

At the same time, we realize that today's youthful leaders are themselves reinventing traditional notions of scale — influencing local and national policies, harnessing the power of technology, and partnering with the government — to dramatically expand the impact of their work.

For three years, Fredrick Ouko, founder of the *Action Network for the Disabled* (ANDY) in Kenya, has not only provided disabled youth with employability training but advocated on their behalf. Fredrick recognized early on that delivering high-quality programs serving youth with disabilities was not enough; through ANDY he also needed to tackle the larger policy framework that kept these youth at a disadvantage. Today, ANDY is training youth with disabilities to assume roles in government and as importantly, is



working with the Electoral Commission in Kenya to ensure barriers to their running for office are removed. With many health care workers ill-trained to provide individuals with disabilities with proper support, ANDY is also advocating for changes in health care policy. "Health is a basic right," affirms Fredrick, "as is the ability to run for elected office." Through ANDY, he's working to ensure such rights are upheld.

Other Fellows have partnered with their local or national government to take their projects to scale. Through the *Toolkit for High Schools*, Antonella Vagliante and her team provide high school students in Argentina with everything they need to carry out environmental projects in their communities. In just two years, 40 schools in 16 cities across the country have adopted the toolkit, with the initiative now being replicated in Panama and Colombia.

Still other Fellows are leveraging the power of technology to scale their impact. In Spain, *Premios UEM* Fellow Francisco Polo launched *Actuable*, an online platform, in 2010 to mobilize citizens to take a stand on issues they care about. Over two years, more than two million people made their voices heard through this social media portal, resulting in policy changes affecting gay rights, prison reform, and the rights of families with houses in foreclosure. So successful were *Actuable's* efforts that it recently merged with Change.org, a global online activism platform.



"YOUTHACTIONNET[®]
Fellows excel at seeing the world through new eyes. They know to not let others define them... We are proud to support these young innovators in achieving an even greater impact in their communities and nations."

RODNEY HINES

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
STARBUCKS FOUNDATION**

PHOTOS: (Left) 2009 Fellow Fredrick Ouko, founder of the *Action Network for the Disabled* (ANDY) in Kenya, furthers ANDY's advocacy agenda as a torch bearer in the 2012 Paralympic Games in London. (Middle) Kumari Middleton was honored as a Young Social Pioneer in Australia for her use of the performing arts to facilitate educational opportunities for young people. (Right) In Argentina, students at more than 40 schools have launched environmental projects with tools developed by 2011 Fellow Antonella Vagliante and her peers.

EXPONENTIAL CHANGE



When she set out to lift rural women in Cambodia out of poverty, Vanntha Ngorn had other complementary goals in mind. Members of her collaborative would not only learn high quality silk-weaving techniques and gain access to markets but they would preserve a centuries-old tradition at risk of disappearing. An added benefit was educating consumers about the value of purchasing handcrafted, fair trade goods that promote environmental sustainability. Three years later, *Color Silk*, the social enterprise Vanntha created, is a resounding success, having boosted the incomes of more than 280 rural women, while being lauded by the national government as one of the country's top silk producers.

"We're working to preserve a silk weaving culture that was at risk of vanishing," says Vanntha, "while reducing poverty and contributing to economic development." Like many of her YouthActionNet peers, Vanntha's work has netted multiple benefits — social, cultural, and environmental. It's this triple — and often quadruple bottom-line orientation — that makes their work so appealing.

Equally impressive is the ability of today's young innovators to mobilize volunteer support for their efforts. In 2001, Jennifer Staple Clark founded *Unite For Sight* (UFS) in the U.S. to empower communities to improve eye health and eliminate preventable blindness. Today, UFS is a thriving global organization that has

worked with local partner eye clinics in Ghana, Honduras, and India to provide care to more than 1.4 million patients. To carry out its mission, UFS has trained and worked with more than 8,500 volunteers. Jennifer's success at attracting volunteers is echoed throughout the YouthActionNet community. In 2012, our 680 Fellows mobilized 34,000 volunteers whose efforts impacted the lives of over a million people.

No doubt one of the most persuasive rationales for investing in today's young leaders is their potential to continue leading positive change throughout their careers. A significant number of YouthActionNet Fellows eventually assume new roles beyond the organizations they originally founded; yet most do so with a firm sustainability plan in place. Many go on to pursue even bigger and bolder social change agendas — whether starting new NGOs, launching companies, or pursuing roles in the public sector. In the U.K., for example, Rajeeb Dey founded the *English Secondary Students' Association* at the age of 17. Four years later, he went on to launch *Enternships.com*, a leading social enterprise that connects university graduates to small businesses and startups. Over three years, more than 4,000 companies in 20 countries have used *Enternships.com* to find talented graduates.

► **PHOTOS:** (Left) Through *Unite For Sight*, founded by 2004 Fellow Jennifer Staple Clark in the U.S., more than 1.4 million people globally have received critical eye care. (Below) In Cambodia, more than 280 rural women have benefited from income-generating opportunities provided through *Color Silk*, a social enterprise created by 2010 Fellow Vanntha Ngorn.



► **“THROUGH UNITEC’S *Premio Yo Emprendo*, young social entrepreneurs in Honduras will now receive vital support and connections to a global network. Youth across the nation will gain inspiration and hope for their futures.”**

PORFIRIO LOBO SOSA
PRESIDENT OF HONDURAS

YOUTH-LED SOCIAL INNOVATION

680

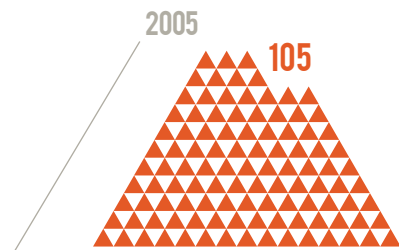
FELLOWS IMPACTING

1,254,000

LIVES GLOBALLY

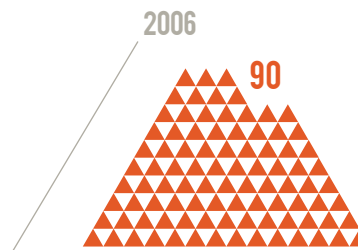


► YOUTHACTIONNET® INSTITUTES / # OF FELLOWS



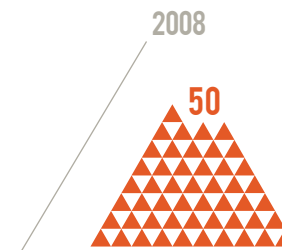
MEXICO

PARTNER: UNIVERSIDAD DEL
VALLE DE MÉXICO



BRAZIL

PARTNER: UNIVERSIDADE
ANHEMBI MORUMBI



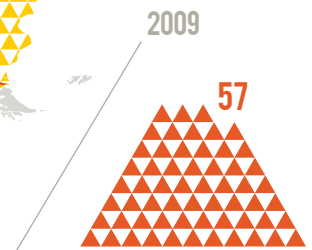
SPAIN

PARTNER: UNIVERSIDAD
EUROPEA DE MADRID



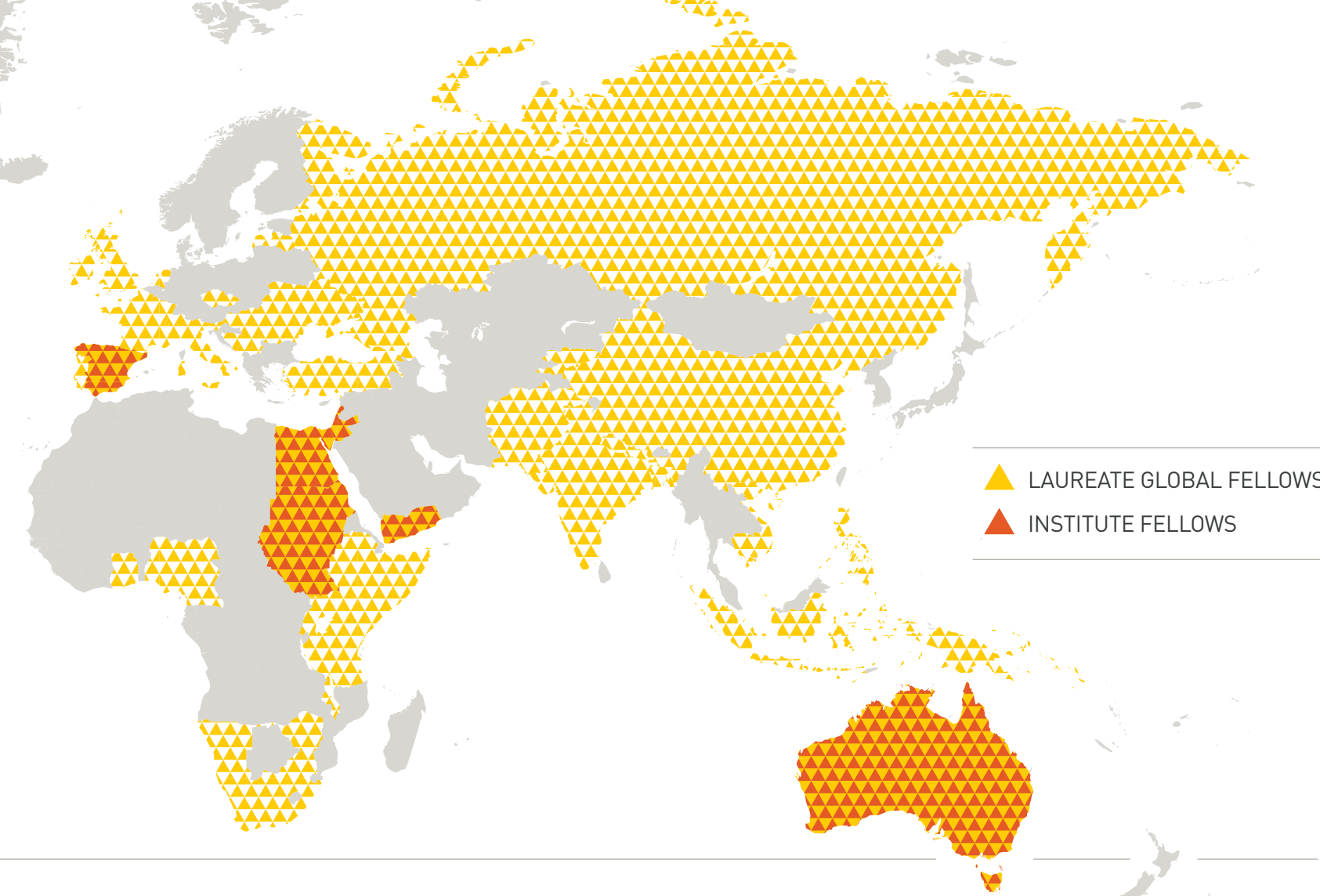
**MIDDLE EAST
REGIONAL PROGRAM**

PARTNER: KING
ABDULLAH II FUND
FOR DEVELOPMENT



AUSTRALIA

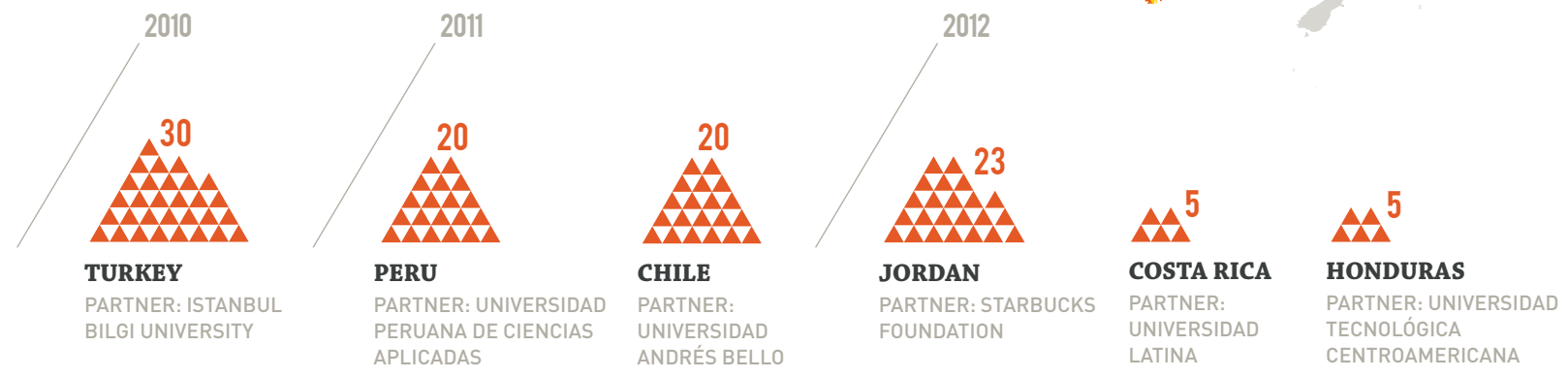
PARTNER: FOUNDATION
FOR YOUNG
AUSTRALIANS



▲ LAUREATE GLOBAL FELLOWS
▲ INSTITUTE FELLOWS

FELLOWS BY COUNTRY

AFGHANISTAN	1	MEXICO	113
ARGENTINA	7	MOLDOVA	4
ARMENIA	2	NAMIBIA	1
AUSTRALIA	70	NEPAL	3
BANGLADESH	4	NETHERLANDS	1
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	2	NICARAGUA	1
BRAZIL	95	NIGERIA	9
CAMBODIA	3	PAKISTAN	4
CAMEROON	1	PALESTINE	5
CANADA	4	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1
CHILE	21	PERU	25
CHINA, PR	5	PHILIPPINES	8
COLOMBIA	2	PORTUGAL	1
COSTA RICA	5	ROMANIA	3
CZECH REPUBLIC	1	RUSSIA	2
EGYPT	6	RWANDA	1
ETHIOPIA	1	SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO	1
FRANCE	1	SINGAPORE	1
GEORGIA	1	SLOVENIA	1
GHANA	3	SOMALIA	1
GUATEMALA	1	SOUTH AFRICA	5
HAITI	26	SPAIN	54
HONDURAS	8	SUDAN	2
HUNGARY	1	SWITZERLAND	1
INDIA	13	TANZANIA	1
INDONESIA	1	TOGO	1
ISRAEL	13	TURKEY	32
ITALY	1	UGANDA	7
JORDAN	30	UK	3
KENYA	9	UKRAINE	2
KOSOVO	1	UNITED STATES	29
KYRGYZSTAN	1	URUGUAY	1
LATVIA	2	VIETNAM	3
LEBANON	5	YEMEN	1
MALAWI	1	ZIMBABWE	4



MEET THE CLASS OF 2012

Laureate Global Fellows are young social entrepreneurs who have pioneered cutting-edge solutions to urgent societal challenges. Each year, 20 leaders, ages 18 to 29, are selected for this distinction through a partnership between the Sylvan/Laureate Foundation and IYF through its YouthActionNet program. Fellows benefit from leadership training, networking, advocacy, and funding opportunities. Together, they demonstrate Laureate Education Inc.'s commitment to developing a generation of global leaders who are *Here for Good*.



LAUREATE GlobalFellows

A MEMBER OF YouthActionNet®

▼ CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

ALEX BUDAK, 28

STARTSOMEGOOD
WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES



Alex co-founded *StartSomeGood* to empower changemakers to mobilize people — and funding — to transform their ideas into action. The *StartSomeGood* website offers social innovators a platform for communicating world-changing ideas. On the site, they detail their plans and establish a deadline by which they need to reach a financial goal. Says Alex, "Our approach leverages the most important trends in philanthropy today — internationalization, personalization, transparency, micro-giving, and gaming — to create a powerful new fundraising platform for change-makers." Learn more: www.startsomegood.com.

BESA LUCI, 28

KOSOVO 2.0
PRISTINA, KOSOVO



Through *Kosovo 2.0*, Besa gives voice to Kosovo's silenced, disenfranchised majority: its young people. *Kosovo 2.0* combines traditional and new media to create a self-sustaining platform for youth to become active participants in their communities. An independent, youth-led media outlet, the initiative publishes a print magazine and manages a robust online presence where youth post blogs, vlogs, and photo essays. *Kosovo 2.0* also organizes trainings and workshops on citizen journalism, advocacy, and activism. Learn more: www.kosovotwopointzero.com.

MAKA GREEN BCN
BARCELONA, SPAIN

Karina co-founded *MAKA GREEN BCN* to promote social action, creative entrepreneurship, and participatory governance to build a sustainable and livable Barcelona. To achieve its goals, *MAKA GREEN* publishes an online magazine promoting sustainable design and sparks dialogue

around creative solutions to local environmental issues. The magazine's readership now extends to 120 countries and 1,400 cities. Through the *MAKA SHOP*, local eco-designers market their products. Karina is a fellow of YouthActionNet's national partner in Spain, *Universidad Europea de Madrid*. Learn more: www.makagreenbcn.com.

AIE SERVE
BEIRUT, LEBANON

Afif co-founded *Aie Serve* to nurture a new spirit of volunteerism among Lebanon's youth and to promote the values of respect, acceptance, and love. Each year, *Aie Serve* equips hundreds of youth, ages 15 to 30, with the skills they need to develop their communities. Activities are carried

out through a network of 12 Aie Clubs established at universities and in communities to work on projects that solve local problems. The organization also conducts campaigns, offers trainings, and provides consulting services to help youth launch or strengthen their NGOs. Afif is a fellow of the King Abdullah II Award for Youth Innovation and Achievement, a YouthActionNet partner. Learn more: www.aieserve.org.

MY MOTHER'S RUG
MERSIN, TURKEY

Through *My Mother's Rug*, Gökden empowers low-income, rural women to make rugs out of recycled fabric and links them to urban markets. The women earn an average of US\$430 per month — contributing not only to their family income but their sense of self-worth. Gökden sees herself as a

bridge builder, connecting rural women to opportunities in urban areas. With leftover curtain fabric used to make the rugs, the project pursues both a social and environmental mission. Gökden is a fellow of YouthActionNet's national partner in Turkey, Istanbul Bilgi University. Learn more: www.anneminkilimleri.weebly.com.

▼ **ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT****NATIONAL SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM**
BENGALURU, INDIA

Yashveer founded the *National Social Entrepreneurship Forum* (NSEF) to address talent inequity in the development sector and influence youth culture in India by inspiring and supporting university students to pursue social innovation and entrepreneurship. Among its activities,

NSEF establishes student-run chapters at major learning institutions, links developmental organizations to qualified students, strengthens the capacities of youth through social venture planning tools, and facilitates networking by organizing conferences and competitions across the country. Learn more: www.nsef-india.org.

DISMANTLE
FREMANTLE, AUSTRALIA

Lachlan co-founded *Dismantle*, a social enterprise, to empower people to adopt cycling as a part of their everyday lives. The *Dismantle* concept centers around the notion that bicycles are a powerful tool for social change — enabling people to be healthier, happier, more environmen-

tally-friendly, and connected to their community. Among its activities, *Dismantle* operates a community bicycle recycling workshop and empowers disadvantaged youth, ages 15 to 20, to refurbish used bikes. Through its corporate wellness program, *Dismantle* encourages company employees to integrate cycling into their day-to-day activities. Lachlan is a fellow of the Foundation for Young Australians, a YouthActionNet partner. Learn more: www.dismantle.org.au.

▼ **EDUCATION****SELF HELP COMMUNITY CENTRE**
SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

Sambat launched the *Self Help Community Centre* (SHCC) to improve the quality of life for children and families living in the rural community of Kro Bei Riel through offering a range of educational and vocational opportunities. Among its activities, SHCC operates a school serving

1,700 students, ages 3-20; trains youth in computer skills; hosts arts and crafts workshops; runs an organic farm; and provides educational scholarships to young people in need. Its long-term goal: to build a prosperous and independent community free from poverty. Learn more: www.shcccambodia.org.

BENJAMIN FAIVOVICH, 24

EMPRENDEJOVEN (YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP)
SANTIAGO, CHILE



Benjamin started *Emprendejuven* to encourage young people, ages 14 to 18, to embrace entrepreneurship as a way of life. Through emphasizing experimentation and “learning by failing,” the initiative develops youths’ noncognitive skills (e.g., self-esteem, motivation, persistence). Since 2008,

Emprendejuven has worked with 25,000 students and is now collaborating with the national government in its efforts to integrate entrepreneurship and the development of non-cognitive skills into the educational curricula for all Chilean schools. Benjamin is a fellow of YouthActionNet’s partner in Chile, *Universidad Andrés Bello*.

TOLULOPE SANGOSANYA, 29

LOTS CHARITY FOUNDATION
LAGOS, NIGERIA



Through the *LOTS Charity Foundation*, Tolulope transforms the lives of vulnerable children through providing education, health care, and training in life and leadership skills. Through the program, disadvantaged young people living in the Dustbin Estate, a slum community on the

outskirts of Lagos, benefit from instruction in literacy, financial management, reproductive health, and computer usage. Emphasis is placed on intervening in the family lives of children who are at risk of living on the street. “Our goal,” says Tolulope, “is to prepare children to be world class leaders through education.” Learn more: www.lotscharityfoundation.org.

▼ **ENVIRONMENT**

ARUN KRISHNAMURTHY, 25

LAKE BIODIVERSITY RESTORATION PROJECT
CHENNAI, INDIA



Arun launched the *Lake Biodiversity Restoration Project* as a program of the Environmental Foundation of India (EFI), an organization he co-founded to promote greater awareness of the interconnectedness of all life and to empower citizens to play an active role in

conservation efforts. EFI is now active in three cities through the efforts of 800 committed volunteers. Through the lake biodiversity project, EFI has restored six lakes, educated and mobilized students in 137 schools, and produced street plays and documentary films in support of its efforts. Learn more: www.indiaenvironment.org.

CRISTIÁN JONATHAN VÉLEZ RAMÍREZ, 25

EXPERIENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE AMAZON
IQUITOS, PERU



Through the *Experiential Environmental Education for a Better Quality of Life in the Amazon* program, Cristian leads educational workshops that engage up to 15,000 students and community members annually in efforts to protect and conserve

the natural wealth of the Amazon. Through the project, children participate in green games, puppet shows, and volunteer activities. Learning is brought to life through exposure to the endangered Amazonian manatee. Cristian is a fellow of YouthActionNet’s national partner in Peru, *Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas*. Learn more: www.acobia-dwazoo.com.

GABRIELA CHUMPITAZ AGUIRRE, 28

PINOTECA
LIMA, PERU



Through *Pinoteca*, Gabriela promotes the positive development of children, ages 5 to 12, through actively engaging parents, teachers, volunteers, government authorities, and the community at-large in meeting students’ educational needs.

Among its activities, *Pinoteca* facilitates learning through interactive games and role playing, delivers life skills instruction, and conducts workshops for teachers to maximize student engagement in the classroom. Parents also receive training in how to support their children’s education at home. Gabriela is a fellow of YouthActionNet’s partner in Peru, *Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas*. Learn more: www.afiperu.org.

RAFAEL HENRIQUE SIQUEIRA RODRIGUES, 29

SISTEMAS ORGANIZADOS PARA SUSTENTABILIDADE (ORGANIZED SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABILITY)
SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL



Rafael launched *Organized Systems for Sustainability* (S.O.S.) to foster more efficient recycling across the entire production chain, while creating fair incomes and decent jobs for workers engaged in recycling. To date, S.O.S. has established

over 10 partnerships with universities, companies, government agencies, and NGOs. Through one initiative, S.O.S. analyzed the collection of materials at recycling facilities to increase overall efficiency. S.O.S. also offers lectures and workshops on sustainability, green building, and permaculture. Rafael is a fellow of YouthActionNet’s local partner, *Universidade Anhembí Morumbi*. Learn more: www.sosustentabilidade.org.br.

ECOFIRE
HANOI, VIETNAM

Dang launched *EcoFire* as a social enterprise that develops technological solutions to address urgent health and environmental issues in low-income communities in Vietnam. Central to its work is the sale of Eco Carbon as a renewable fuel produced from agricultural waste (e.g., rice straw). Eco Carbon offers a safe and economical substitute to the burning of traditional coal, producing 50 percent fewer toxic emissions. In addition to producing greener energy and contributing to improved health, *EcoFire* tackles the issue of poor management of agricultural waste in rural areas.

▼ **HEALTH****MUHAMMED KISIRISA, 24**
ACTION FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT
KAMPALA, UGANDA

Muhammed launched *Action for Fundamental Change and Development* (AFFCAD) to empower slum communities to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS while promoting local self-reliance. Among its activities, AFFCAD offers HIV/AIDS prevention and reproductive health workshops, trains youth to serve as peer educators, distributes condoms and informational materials, and operates an orphanage for children abandoned by sex workers. Recognizing the strong link between HIV/AIDS and poverty, AFFCAD provides youth with formal and vocational education and empowers women to launch small businesses. Learn more: www.affcad.org.

JANE NAMPIJJA, 29
BEFRIENDER UGANDA
KAMPALA, UGANDA

Jane is the co-founder of *Befriender Uganda*, the nation's first and only suicide prevention center, which runs a toll free crisis intervention helpline, creates awareness about suicide and mental illness, and offers counseling and support to youth in crisis. Its school ambassadorship program trains school personnel in how to identify and support youth with suicide-risk behaviors. Currently 15 schools, representing more than 9,000 students and their parents, are benefiting from the initiative. Learn more: www.befrienderuganda.org.

AGUSTÍN LORENZO RODRÍQUEZ AKÉ, 26
CAZA SONRISAS (HUNTING SMILES)
MERIDA, MEXICO

Agustín founded *Caza Sonrisas*, a social enterprise, to empower hospitalized children to play a role in their own healing process through games that nurture positive emotions. After being diagnosed with cancer as a child, Agustín experienced firsthand the traumatic impact of being hospitalized and how important positive emotions are to healing. To date, more than 350 young patients, ages 3 to 16, have been introduced to innovative games through *Caza Sonrisas'* network of trained facilitators. Agustín is a fellow of YouthActionNet's local partner, *Universidad del Valle de México*.

▼ **SOCIAL INCLUSION****NICOLE LE ROUX, 25**
I AM SOMEBODY!
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Through *I Am Somebody!*, Nicole uses the art of storytelling to build diverse communities committed to supporting the development of youth leaders. Its goal: to build a network of strong relationships among individuals and organizations that results in integrated solutions to young people's needs. Among its activities, *I Am Somebody!* facilitates the exchange of resources and expertise, hosts storytelling events, and provides critical training to strengthen the work of youth-serving nonprofits. Together, these programs support young adults, ages 18 to 25, participating in its "Rites of Passage" program, a personal development initiative that encourages youth to address issues related to integration that affect their ability to achieve their goals. Learn more: www.iamsomebody.co.za.

MIRIAM REYES OLIVA, 26
CUENTOS PARA APRENDICES VISUALES (BOOKS FOR VISUAL LEARNERS)
BARBATE, SPAIN

An estimated 200,000 children in Spain have autism, a disease that affects up to 64 million children worldwide. Through *Books for Visual Learners*, Miriam develops print and online educational materials featuring pictograms for children with autism. Central to its efforts is making these materials free to the public. Miriam's first book, which explores everyday tasks children perform, has been downloaded more than 4,000 times. Miriam is a fellow of YouthActionNet's national partner, *Universidad Europea de Madrid*. Learn more: www.aprendicesvisuales.com.

youngsocialpioneers



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* New programs are being planned for Africa in 2013.

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