From the age of 14, Carrie had been intent on creating good in the world. On a trip to Jamaica with a non-profit group, Teens for Technology, she had the opportunity to work with local business and teens her own age.

“I was trying to do something to make the world a better place one person at a time,” she recalls. “I saw how combining resources and human capital could have a positive impact on the community and, selfishly, that made me feel good.”

After college, Carrie had the good fortune to work for a most unusual boss. She says he invested in her personally, coaching her, mentoring her, and constructively critiquing her work. Then, to celebrate her 26th birthday, he surprised her with a momentous challenge. He offered to give her the $100 he was going to spend taking her and her colleagues out for a birthday lunch. But she had to accomplish something good with it.

Still very much committed to changing the world, Carrie spent the money reaching out to six organizations she admired, asking them what they would do with a thousand dollars that would have a sustainable impact in their communities. Their replies were eye-opening.

“That small amount of money could improve literacy rates in a Washington D.C. classroom or allow 25 women to graduate from high school in Tanzania.”

Carrie was inspired. If everyone she knew contributed just a little bit of money, it could add up to something big. Galvanized, she sent emails to family and friends asking for small donations. Amid the flurry of $20s and $50s that came in, there was one reply from an address she did not recognize. And this is where her story takes a jaw dropping turn.

The email Carrie received was from the stranger she had met at the business conference. His words took her breath away.

‘I’d like to stay anonymous,’ he wrote, ‘and I’d like to send a million dollars to The Global Good Fund. Where should I send the check?’

Carrie’s first thought was caution, that this was a prank, or worse. But she agreed to meet with him in a public place with surveillance cameras.
Not only did the man show up, he came ready to hand over a cashier’s check for one million dollars!

“He asked, ‘What would you do with the money?’ I hadn’t even thought this through because I honestly didn’t think he would come. But I told him that I would identify high potential young leaders around the world, pair them with targeted capital and seasoned executives who have the experience to help grow their leadership development, which would, in turn, grow their businesses and create positive social impact.”

With that plan, the million dollars was hers. And, just to add another astonishing twist, when Carrie told her boss the story, he said he would match the million dollars himself.

So virtually overnight, The Global Good Fund became a reality with a two-million dollar kickoff!

“I still pinch myself,” says Carrie. “A stranger renewed my faith in what strangers can do for each other.”

Carrie Rich is the Co-founder and CEO of The Global Good Fund, designed to accelerate the development of high potential young leaders and global problem solvers through financial investment and executive mentoring. For her work, Carrie has been recognized as a 2018 Enterprising Women of the Year Awardee and as a Hearts on Fire Visionary.

Accelerating social impact by investing in social innovators

Carrie is making an impact in 32 countries across the globe