

Newsletter

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How Young is Too Young to Make a Difference?

A 6-year-old boy learns from his teacher that some people in Africa have to walk for many hours to get water. As if that wasn't bad enough, the water is often dirty, which makes the people sick. The boy decides to help by raising money to build a well for Angolo Primary School in Uganda. Between earning money for extra chores and speaking to service clubs and school classes, he succeeds



Ryan in Uganda 2000

in raising enough money for the well. This was the start of Ryan's Well Foundation. Today, the foundation has been involved in over 1,000 community-led clean water projects in 16 countries. Ryan's Well Foundation has helped improved the lives of almost one million people.

A 5-year-old girl saw a homeless man eating out of a garbage can on a cold winter day. She became sad and asked the question “how could this happen?” She would soon start organizing bake and art sales with her first grade teacher in order to help the homeless. By the time Hannah was 8-years-old, she started a nonprofit to raise awareness and help feed and shelter the homeless. Today, Hannah has spoken at over 175 schools, corporations, service clubs, fundraisers and other events. Her Ladybug Foundation has helped raise more than 3 million dollars for homelessness projects.

How young is too young to make a difference? As Ryan and Hannah have showed us, you are never too young to make a difference.

Kiva Aims to Alleviate Poverty

Microfinancing can be defined as loans available to entrepreneurs and small business owners who do not qualify for standard loans available from banks. These loans are often provided or supported by individuals. There are up to three billion people worldwide with little or no access to loans. Many of them live in poverty. These microloans enable them to start or grow their business.

Kiva is a nonprofit established to connect entrepreneurs and small business owners with individuals willing to lend. The Kiva platform contains profiles from thousands of borrowers in over 80 countries. Their profiles explain the purpose for the loans and include the repayment terms. Individuals can read through the profiles at kiva.org and loan as little as \$25 to help fund a project.



Indonesia borrower

According to Kiva, while there is risk for default, borrowers have repaid 97.1% of loans. Although the low default rate can be attributed to the Kiva vetting process, the commitment of the borrowers to repay their loans cannot be overstated. This is one reason why many lenders decide to fund new projects with their repayments when they have the option to withdraw the funds.

YSEClubs started a “lending team” on Kiva to help fund projects worldwide. Any individual can join our team and lend \$25 or more to shared projects or projects of his/her choice. For more information, refer to www.kiva.org and search for team **YSEClubs**.

Cornell University Offers a Unique Opportunity for High School Students

Attention high school juniors and seniors. Have you considered taking a course in social entrepreneurship during the summer for college credit? Cornell University offers a course called AEM 3380 Social Entrepreneurs, Innovators & Problem Solvers through its Summer College. This course is available to high school juniors and seniors (must be younger than 18 years old at the time of high school graduation). The course is for three weeks and meets Mondays through Fridays for three hours per day. At the successful completion of the course, students receive three college credits on a Cornell University transcript.

This course is unique for many reasons. For starters, while this is a college course, the students are still in high school. Further, the course does not have the traditional college lecture approach. It is experimental and highly interactive. Students will be involved in research, critical analysis, case studies and self-reflection. There will be readings, discussions of social entrepreneurship concepts and guest speakers. Lastly, students will spend three weeks developing their own “social impact idea.”

There are other benefits to this course. High school students will experience the independence of college life while living in a residence hall on the beautiful Cornell University campus. They will also meet like-minded students from around the world and make new friends.

Students interested in this course must apply for admissions. As part of the application, students must write an essay about why they are interested in social change. In addition, they must write a second essay which describes an idea they have that might serve as the basis for their social impact project.

According to the university, the online application for summer of 2017 will open in late January. Since the course accepts approximately 20 students on a rolling basis, it is recommended that you apply early before the course is filled to capacity. The tuition for this course is what you might expect from an Ivy League university, but financial aid is available for those who qualify.

For more information, refer to the Cornell Summer College page at www.sce.cornell.edu/sc/index.php

Did you Know That.....

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan pledged 3 billion dollars to cure, prevent and manage all diseases by the end of the century.

According to the Thomas Reuters Foundation, the top 5 countries for social entrepreneurs in order are United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Singapore and Israel.

Bill Drayton, founder of Ashoka, coined the phrase “Social Entrepreneurship.” Ashoka is a global association of leading social entrepreneurs.

Hollywood actor Matt Damon co-founded Water.org, a nonprofit to help solve the world’s water and sanitation crisis.