Changemaker Communities

It takes an ecosystem to raise a changemaker
The context.

“65 percent of today’s school children will eventually be employed in jobs that have not even been created yet”
The U.S. Department of Labor

A Yale research surveyed around 22,000 high school students and revealed that students were bored in school 70% of the time and stressed 80% of the time. The top three feelings students identified with were bored, tired, and stressed.

Additionally, lack of wellbeing is increasingly becoming a challenge for students and teachers
The complexity of problems today is not matched by the efficacy of our solutions! To thrive in a world increasingly defined by change, we need children, young people and adults to be changemakers – to discover their power to co-create their world.

"The key factor of success for any society going forward is what percentage of its people are changemakers. It's the new literacy and empathy is the foundation of that new way of being."

- Arne Duncan, USA
Our idea: Changemaker Communities

Changemaker Communities are connected city wide ecosystems to value and support children and young people to be changemakers and collectively co-create innovative solutions to re-imagine how children and young people grow up. Through this approach, we are breaking down the silos separating different institutions supporting children and young people and seeding the possibility for transformational change.
Who is a changemaker?

**Changemaker**: Anyone – parent, coach, programmer, nurse, neighbor – who steps up to solve a problem or create an opportunity for the good of all.
Our approach: The Changemaker Journey

Together with our local partner, we identify influential partners in a region and invite them to participate in the Changemaker Journey. The Changemaker Journey involves meeting together 7 times over 10 months and is designed to activate a city-wide ecosystem to build authentic, co-creative learning communities working together to seed change at three levels:

1. Inner Development
   Developing a new mindset and cultivating wellbeing.

2. Systems Change
   Integrating changemaking into the systems and culture of their institutions.

3. Eco-system Symbiosis
   Collectively co-creating ideas to reimagine the way children and young people grow up in their region.
Through the **changemaker journey**...

- **School Districts**
- **Universities**
- **Teachers/College Prep**
- **Non-profits, museums, businesses, faith orgs, etc.**

**Internalize and Integrate Changemaking**

- **Mindset**
- **Systems**
- **Culture**

**Building a Changemaker Community**

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10 month process
An environment that cultivates empathy, innovation and an innate desire and skills to transform ideas into action.

How our partners are creating changemaker communities.

**Internalize**
74% of our educators are influencing others to practice empathy and changemaking.

**Integrate**
Changemaking is being integrated into STEM and social sciences curriculum, teacher professional development, teacher evaluations, etc.

**Influence**
Change team leaders are proactively supporting other partners to scale the changemaker framework.

**Result**
An environment that cultivates empathy, innovation and an innate desire and skills to transform ideas into action.
Example of an ecosystem in action:

A changemaker community in North Central Massachusetts that is enabling children and adults to discover their purpose, potential, and passion for learning and social impact.
The Impact

Surveys and testimonials from 3 school districts that piloted changemaking in Connecticut and Maryland showed the following results:

- **100%** of educators deepened their sense of purpose and joy in teaching.
- **94%** of educators believed that students practicing empathy and changemaking was as important as learning any other subject.
- **100%** of educators want to be involved in scaling changemaking in their school district.

“We talk about consumers and producers and in much of education the student is a consumer if we don’t challenge them to be a producer. The Changemaker movement has helped us help teachers, help students become producers”

– Maureen McMahon | Deputy Superintendent | Anne Arundel School District, MD
Principles underlining our work

1. **Team of Teams:**
   Engage in challenges and solutions with all the relevant stakeholders

2. **Co-creation:**
   Our unique methodology enables the creation of collaborative impactful solutions among multiple stakeholders.

3. **Individual & Social Transformation:**
   The journey starts within ourselves. In order to create a changemaker community, we need to first start with change in ourselves and in our institutions.
Transforming School Districts into Hubs for Changemaking

Click here to see the video.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZ8hOivOyvk
Leading Social Entrepreneurs

Have changed a National System in at least one way within 10 years of election.

- 55% have changed national policy
- 73% have changed national patterns in the field
- 94% have been copied by independent groups
- 66% have created cultures of changemaking
- 83% have changed a national system in at least one way within 10 years of election

Years After Election as Ashoka Fellows

Have significant impact.