

YouthActionNet®

a program of the International Youth Foundation

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YouthActionNet® Turns Ten

In 2011, YouthActionNet® celebrates its ten-year anniversary! To honor this milestone, over the months to come we'll present key lessons we have learned and emerging trends shaping the field of youth social entrepreneurship.

This month's [spotlight](#) explores some of the driving forces behind social entrepreneurship - creativity, the search for new possibilities, and the pursuit of an expanded worldview. Given the relevance of these themes to recent events in the Middle East, we asked three YouthActionNet® Network members to share their perspectives on the way forward.

"This is just the beginning," writes YouthActionNet® Fellow Raghda El Ebrashi, founder of the [Alashanek ya Balady Association](#) in Egypt, in her [blog](#). Raghda is now working on a strategic plan to eradicate poverty in Egypt by 2020. "If we were able to change the political system in 18 days, we can end poverty in 10 years," she writes.

Afif Tabsch, launched [Aie Serve](#) in 2008 to nurture a new spirit of volunteerism in Lebanon. Translated from Japanese, *aie* (pronounced "I") means love. Through engaging youth in community service, *Aie Serve* promotes the values of love, tolerance, and respect.

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Is it working? "We find volunteerism is now contagious wherever we go," writes Afif, a 2011 Fellow of the [King Abdullah II Award for Youth Innovation and Achievement](#) (KAAYIA), a YouthActionNet® partner. "We find that caring for others is a universal value that brings people together and bridges divides."

Similarly, Hany Amin, a KAAYIA fellow and co-founder of the [Better World Foundation](#) (BWF) in Egypt, is nurturing an ethic of volunteerism, respect for diversity, and adherence to basic human rights. While BWF's core mission is to equip public university students in Egypt with life, IT, and technical skills, it does so while promoting core values. "We encourage young people to take action to improve their communities," writes Hany in his [blog](#). "We also embrace and respect diversity with our volunteers coming from both within Egypt and around the world."

Fellow Spotlight: Lucinda Hartley

Trained as a landscape architect, Lucinda Hartley, spent two years working in slum communities in Vietnam and Cambodia before launching the [\[co\]design studio](#). Through [co]design, multi-disciplinary teams - with expertise in architecture, planning, landscape architecture, engineering, and more - take on community development projects. Learn more in this [video](#) produced by the global public relations firm Porter Novelli, a YouthActionNet® partner.



Fellow Updates

YouthActionNet® Fellow Cecília Mendes Barros, co-founder of Oficina-Escola de Artes e Ofícios in Brazil, had the opportunity to meet with former U.S. President Bill Clinton during his visit to [Laureate International Universities](#) Network member, *Uninorte in Manaus, Brazil* where he addressed students and faculty. In April, Cecilia, a 2008 [Anhembi Morumbi Youth Initiative Fellow](#), was among 1,000 young leaders to attend the [Clinton Global Initiative University](#) in San Diego, USA. Youth participants developed action plans for social change initiatives which they will implement in their communities and on their campuses.

YouthActionNet® Fellow Bernise Ang, founder of [Syinc](#), which supports youth in realizing their social change visions, was honored on April 6 with the [Singapore Woman Award 2011](#). Bernise also serves on the Board of Directors of the International Youth Foundation.

YouthActionNet® Fellow Ejaj Ahmad reports that in March the [Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center](#) (BYLC) hosted the biggest leadership event in the country: the Youth Leadership Summit 2011. Two hundred young leaders and 50 renowned speakers convened in Dhaka for three days of networking and knowledge sharing. Working closely with The World Bank, BYLC will publish a comprehensive report on the Summit findings by the end of July.

YouthActionNet® Fellow Deborah Wanderley dos Santos, founder of the [YOURS project](#) in Chicago, USA was invited by the Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University to give a presentation on her work as a social entrepreneur on April 7.

YouthActionNet® Fellow Kerstin Forsberg, co-founder of [Planeta Océano](#), was honored with a 2011 [Kinship Conservation Fellowship](#). The Fellowship recognizes the 'best and brightest' minds in the conservation field, awarding them with a monetary stipend and a month of cutting-edge training focused on applying market-based approaches to environmental concerns. In May, Kerstin will travel to Victoria, Canada to present her work at the 2nd Annual Marine Conservation Congress.

YouthActionNet® Fellow Tom Dawkins recently launched [StartSomeGood](#), a social enterprise that connects social entrepreneurs to the support they need to take their world-changing idea and make them a reality. Check it out!

Network News

Anhembi Morumbi Youth Initiative, São Paulo, Brazil

If you're between the ages of 18 to 29 and leading a community change project in greater São Paulo, you have from now until July 15 to apply for an [Iam Fellowship](#). The Fellowship centers around a four-month intensive virtual learning course with Anhembi Morumbi professors and staff, coupled with experiential learning opportunities through local site visits, networking with key local organizations, and attendance at conferences and lectures. This personalized learning experience, together with a \$1,000 USD award to their projects and ongoing mentoring support, allows Fellows to deepen and expand their impact.

Young Social Pioneers, Australia

From now until June 3, applications are being accepted for the [Young Social Pioneers](#) (YSP) program in Australia. An initiative of the Foundation for Young Australians, YSP brings 14 of Australia's brightest young minds together every year, creating a dynamic community of change-makers who develop their skills while learning from and inspiring each other. Each Young Social Pioneer receives 12 months of professional training, development, mentoring, and support for their project, valued at over \$22,000.

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