

The Global Youth Fund

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Changemakers

A Leadership Program for Today's Young Global Citizens

Global Youth Fund is pleased to present **Changemakers** - an innovative project on **global citizenship**.

The core program of **Global Youth Fund**, **Changemakers** engages youth in a *unique* bottom-up democratic process to innovate and implement change, as well as exercise group leadership.

Democratic. That means each member of your youth group has equal say in designing and selecting a group project for change – and defining the change you wish to bring about.

We are using this approach – and creating **the first democratic charity for youth** – because we believe in the power of “collective wisdom” – the idea that we can be smarter and stronger when we work *together as equals* to solve problems.

Through regular meetings, workshops, online and in-person dialogues, you will work with your peers to...

- generate ideas for action
- research and nominate projects for funding
- evaluate projects through dialogue & debate
- set achievable, measurable goals
- vote democratically to select your group project

Once a project is chosen, you will continue to work together to achieve your project goals.

The 2008 Changemakers Challenge

This fall, we are issuing a challenge to **FOUR** schools in the Vancouver-Lower Mainland area: form a group of 20 youth and use Global Youth Fund's bottom-up democratic process to select a project for change, and we will fund your project up to \$1,000. (See rules and guidelines below.) Ask yourself – **What can you do with \$1,000 to create maximum impact in your community or the world?**

HOW IT WORKS

The process can be adjusted to accommodate each group's needs but the following 7 steps can be completed in less than 2 months:

- 1. Form Chapter**
Find 20 students who are interested. You don't have to be in the same class. All you need is a common desire to help the group create positive change.
- 2. Global Youth Fund Presentation**
Invite Global Youth Fund's founder to come in and give a presentation, explaining the bottom-up democratic process and its benefits.
- 3. Brainstorm Ideas**
Work individually or in pairs to come up with project ideas for the group to consider and evaluate. Post them on Global Youth Fund's website in your chapter's discussion forum.
- 4. Online Dialogue**
Engage in discussion about the ideas that your group has come up with. Ask questions. Make sure you understand each idea's purpose, potential impact, and its strengths and weaknesses.
- 5. Vote for Finalists**
Take part in online voting to choose your top 3 ideas. These are the finalists.
- 6. Prepare for Youth Assembly**
Pick a day when your group can set aside 3 to 4 hours to evaluate the finalists and pick the winner. The finalists should prepare 10-minute presentations to give to the entire group. You may revise your ideas to incorporate comments if you wish.
- 7. Youth Assembly**
Global Youth Fund facilitates your group through presentations, evaluations, dialogue and voting to choose the winning project. Lunch can be provided.

RULES & GUIDELINES

To ensure the best outcome and to fulfill our program goals, we need to impose the following conditions:

1. **No Fundraising or Funding Campaigns**

Fundraising can serve a lot of good but we want to encourage you to come up with your own solutions to the problems you want to address. Asking yourself “How would I solve this problem?” is very different from “Who do I want to give money to?”

Also, the funding you receive from GYF is for you to use. It's not meant to be redirected to organizations or persons in need.

2. **Project Should be “Charitable”**

Your project should benefit society and the planet in some obvious way. If GYF thinks your project would not fall under Revenue Canada's fairly broad definition of what's “charitable,” then it cannot be one of the three finalists.

3. **Under \$1,000**

You should be able to implement your project with the funding Global Youth Fund gives you. You should not have to raise more money from other sources. Keep this in mind when you're brainstorming ideas.

4. **No “Canvassing” for Votes**

Make the best case for your project idea by talking about its benefits. But do not ask others in the group to vote your project. Respect their right to make their own decision about what's best. Do not ask them to vote for you because you're their friend.

5. **Impartial Organizer**

The process works best if one of the lead organizers of your group remains impartial throughout the selection process. That means you are not trying to get other students to support one particular idea. Rather, you are encouraging everyone to come up with their own ideas and get involved in the discussions, dialogue and voting.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who Should Get Involved?

For the Fall 2008 pilot program, we are looking for youth who are...

- Interested in working with others to make a real difference
- Open-minded and willing to learn from your peers
- Able to contribute time, energy, and creativity to improving our planet.
- Living in Vancouver-Lower Mainland region

I don't know much about what's going on in the world. Is this program right for me?

Yes. Global change is not for experts only. Everyone has a role to play. You may be surprised at how much you already know and how much you have to teach your peers.

What if I don't have ideas for projects?

That's perfectly ok. You can still contribute in many other ways. Ask questions about the project ideas submitted by other members. Take part in the dialogues. Tell your peers what you like and what you don't like.

What are some examples of projects that would qualify?

- An electronic waste recycling program for your community to properly recycle old computers, gadgets, and electronics
- An organic garden at your school
- A tutoring service for youth in need
- A series of cooking classes to improve eating habits of youth (or vulnerable youth)
- A campaign to involve the local community in a global issue (but ask yourself what measurable change you can create). For example, you can educate people about the power of microfinance and get 100 people to become lenders on Kiva.org.

What Will I Learn?

- Lots of different ways to create change and produce measurable results.
- The many critical challenges facing our planet.
- Collective Wisdom – what it is, what it isn't, and how to foster it.
- A group-based approach to leadership.
- How to “champion” causes, not just support them.
- Creative activism – how to develop innovative approaches to creating positive change

What's required of me?

Your ideas, opinions, and creativity. Your participation in the project selection process and your commitment to achieving the goals you set for yourselves.

What is Global Youth Fund?

Global Youth Fund is a charity that provides young people with training and support to become effective leaders in a pluralistic world. Its mission is to invest in young people's solutions for our planet and promote peer-to-peer learning among youth. GYF is a registered charity in Canada.

Who can I contact with questions?

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