

fast forward fund ***youth investing in youth for global change***



FAST FORWARD FUND

Portfolio Student Directors **Select Spring 2009 Youth-led Social Investments**

May 26, 2009, New York City, NY: **FAST FORWARD FUND (FFF)** Portfolio Student Directors announced their selections for Spring 2009 youth-led social investments, chosen from 14 outstanding ventures nominated by four FFF Pipeline Partners: [Clinton Global Initiative University](#), [Global Engagement Summit](#), [New York Women Social Entrepreneurs](#), and [Teach for America](#). The 13 student directors from six countries recommended FFF portfolio investments in the following ventures:

- [Focus the Nation's Focus Fellowship Program](#): trains and supports youth leaders from coal-dependent US states to develop and present their vision for clean energy solutions at COP15 climate treaty negotiations (Copenhagen, Denmark, December 2009); build intergenerational mentor relationships with clean energy professionals achieving tangible, replicable results in their communities, and report back at an annual Town Hall event
- [The Generation Project](#): harnesses the ideas of donors to expand opportunities for high-need, low-income K-12 students
- [Mali Health Organizing Project](#): promoting health change, not charity, MHOP assists slums in creating their own health care solutions, with the ultimate goal of engaging the government and the slum to invest in health and development without outside assistance
- [Public Stuff](#): connecting people with local government through a user-friendly, online portal; great things can happen when everyone is involved

The **FFF enables youth to direct philanthropic capital to youth-led** initiatives for global change. Through peer-to-peer investments, FFF catalyzes youth-giving to address the most pressing global challenges faced by this generation and our time: climate change & energy, poverty alleviation, global health, human rights & peace. FFF aims to **transform young people into social investors for life**, mobilizing this generation's financial resources, passion, energy, and drive to advance global sustainability & human dignity. FFF envisions a new generation of global citizens embracing **social investment as action** to shape the global agenda of our times, and create a vibrant, sustainable future.

From the inaugural cohort, FFF Student Director Ruzica Vrdoljak shared her experience on the [FFF Blog](#), "Working with FFF gave me an opportunity to think as an investor and to experience the difficulties and challenges that they face, and at the same time to see the beauty of knowing that your decision will make a huge difference." According to FFF Student Director Ivelina Darvenyashka, "no matter how interesting and fascinating an idea could be, if it is not put into action, it is not as important as it could be with *a little more action*, i.e. investing."

“The FFF Portfolio Student Directors demonstrate the power of youth investing in youth,” says Diana Ayton-Shenker, FFF co-founder & President. As a champion of *investment activism*, Ms. Ayton-Shenker, Senior Fellow and Faculty at Bard College’s Globalization and International Affairs Program in NYC, is thrilled with the social ventures selected by these savvy social investors. “At FFF, we believe *Investing is Action*,” Ayton-Shenker says, “and these FFF directors are taking action with integrity, intention, strategy, and impact.”

WHY NOW?

There’s never been greater need nor opportunity to galvanize youth as social investors to solve today’s social problems. The scale and scope of 21st century global problems demand additional philanthropic funding models, while Millennials enter adulthood with unprecedented enthusiasm to take on social change and spearhead our transition to a global, digital era. FFF meets this enormous need and opportunity to mobilize mass philanthropic participation. *Investment activism* offers young adults social impact through through inclusive, innovative, and global social investment.

FFF INVESTMENT STRATEGY

FFF Portfolios feature outstanding youth-led social enterprises, *pre-screened and nominated only* by FFF Pipeline Partners, invited from leading incubators of social entrepreneurship. The FFF investment strategy focuses on two-year commitments totaling \$50-150K per social venture, augmented by professional mentoring and peer partnerships, directed to start-up and early stage for-profit, not-for-profit, and hybrid social enterprises. With portfolio investments selected, FFF is now raising first round of capital and anticipates investment allocations later this year. FFF invites social investors to seed and capitalize the Fast Forward Fund. ***Investors welcome. Impact guaranteed!***

FFF LEADERSHIP

FFF Founding Board Members: Diana Ayton-Shenker, FFF founder; BGIA Sr. Fellow in Venture Philanthropy & Int'l Affairs; Jonathan Becker, Bard College, Dean of International Studies; Lara Galinsky, Echoing Green, Senior Vice President; Michele Kahane, Clinton Global Initiative, Director of Commitments; Miguel Perez LaFaurie, Citigroup, Vice President, Global Product Development; Deborah Leipziger, CSR consultant and author; Blair Miller, Acumen Fund, Talent Manager; Natalia Oberti Noguera, New York Women Social Entrepreneurs, Director.

FFF PARTNERS

Bard Globalization & International Affairs Program, pilot partner for academic training & student directors; **Fund for the City of New York (FCNY)**, fiscal sponsor & incubator. **Pipeline Partners:** [Clinton Global Initiative University](#), [Echoing Green](#), [Acumen Fund Fellows Program](#), [Global Engagement Summit](#), [New York Women Social Entrepreneurs](#), [Transformative Action Institute](#), and [Teach for America](#).

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