Youth-led Social Development and Young Philanthropy

Introductory remarks:
Jonah Wittkamper is the Director of Search for Common Ground-USA. Previously he was part of Distributive Networks LLC, where he helped build the text messaging technology used by the Obama campaign. Prior to this, he co-founded the Global Youth Action Network to strengthen youth participation in global decision-making. As the organization grew, it merged with TakingITGlobal.org to form one of the largest websites dedicated to empowering young leaders. He has also helped to develop global networks of young philanthropists, inspiring new charitable activity from wealthy families. Jonah has served as co-founder, board member, and advisor to a number of organizations.

Moderator:
Susan Raymond is a consultant to the Partnerships Bureau charged with developing the philanthropy strategy for UNDP and is also the Executive Vice President of Changing Our World, a global philanthropy management company. Susan is an internationally recognized expert on philanthropic and nonprofit organizations and the role of philanthropy in economic development and civil society. She has designed and managed economic development initiatives in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Eastern Europe. She is also a Wiley and Sons book author, published in peer reviewed journals on topics of international economic development, global health, and international philanthropy.

First panel

Mr. Ryan Allis named one of the “Top 25 Entrepreneurs Under 25” and Ernst & Young’s “Entrepreneur of the Year” for the Carolinas in 2008. Mr. Allis co-founded “iContact”, a socially responsible company that provides email marketing tools to small businesses and non-profits. He is founder of the Humanity Fund, which invests in high-growth socially responsible companies in the USA and Africa and is the Board Chairman of the non-profit Nourish International.

Mr. Ryan Richards is the Executive Director of Nourish International, a student movement addressing global poverty. Mr. Richards also sits on the Board of Directors of Reading Village, a non-profit organization aimed at fostering a culture of reading in Guatemala. Seeking to support young change-makers in addressing society’s problems, Mr. Richards firmly believes in the power of cross-cultural exchange.
Mr. Kalu Ugwumono is the founder and original member of the Hip Hop Caucus, a national non-profit organization which aims to foster civic engagement among young people of color on various issues. Recently, Mr. Ugwumono helped launch “Green the Block” as part of the White House’ Green Jobs initiative with the Hip Hop Caucus and partner Green For ALL. He takes great pride in his ethnic heritage as an Igbo from Eastern Nigeria, and has recently launched The Aku Foundation, which is working on mechanisms to promote and execute sustainable industrial development in the delta region.

Ben Bronfman is an environmental entrepreneur, progressive thinker and musician. In 2007 he co-founded Global Thermostat, a revolutionary carbon capture firm that separates CO2 directly from the air. The firm recently completed construction of it's first pilot plant at Stanford Research Institute (SRI). Mr. Bronfman recently became a principal in Algae Systems LLC, a third-generation bio-fuel company that takes waste water from cities and (by using CO2 captured by GT) generates Jet-Fuel and Diesel fuel. Bronfman is also the founder of Green Owl, an environmentally conscious record label & apparel brand.

Second panel

Mr. James Eberhard is the Founder and Chairman of Mobile Accord, and was one of the original pioneers of the mobile content and services space. He also founded 9 Squared Inc., the mobile content and Services Company responsible for developing the U.S. ring tone market and deploying the first U.S multi-platform mobile content delivery systems. Mr. Eberhard has a mission to enable social good, by utilizing the power of the mobile phone— and hi is currently supporting banking, crime and corruption reporting, SMS emergency alert and warning systems, mobile polling and mobile donations.

Mr. Ian Thorne Simmons is a real estate investor, and initiates projects that seek to enhance democracy. Mr. Simmons is also co-founder and seed-funder of ActBlue, an organization which provides citizens with easier methods to raise money for their candidates. The company has channelled over $40 million in political contributions since 2004. Mr. Simmons volunteers as director of the Foundation for Civic Leadership and has made site visits to exemplary businesses and outstanding non-profit initiatives all over the world.

Ms. Mary Galeti serves as the Vice-Chair of the Tecovas Foundation. The Tecovas Foundation is dedicated to social change by supporting equitable economic development, innovation and entrepreneurship locally and internationally. Ms. Galeti serves as a member of the Council on Foundations’ Family Philanthropy Committee, and Public Policy Committee. She recently served as co-chair of the COF Family Philanthropy Conference in San Diego. She also serves on the board of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, Startingbloc Social Innovation Fellowship Program and the City Club of Cleveland Endowment Foundation.

Mr. Matt Tranchin is the Executive Director of Kundavi, an international community of people, projects and places designed to amplify good in the world. Anchored by a network of 100 Ambassadors who are committed to the
efforts of their peers and the community as a whole, Kundavi is designed to create the most effective ways to help its members help one another. Mr. Tranchin previously served in the White House Office of Public Engagement as the National Service Liaison, overseeing the Obama Administration's outreach to nonprofits, foundations and social entrepreneurs.