



Yale Entrepreneurial Society

2008 Y50K Business Plan Competition

www.yesatyale.org

This year's competition has been a great success thus far with some very high quality entries! We received a total of 13 submissions in the Social Entrepreneurship division, and we are announcing here the 8 First Round winners, who will compete in the ninth annual YES Y50K Final Round Presentations on Saturday, April 19, 2008. Y50K finalists will present their ventures before a panel of live judges to compete for a total of four cash prizes. Congratulations to all the teams on your impressive effort and innovative ideas! Here are the results and the public summaries – in alphabetical order by business plan name – of the First Round winning teams:

2008 Y50K Social Entrepreneurship Finalists

AutoTB

More than one-third of the world's population is infected with tuberculosis (TB), a disease that kills over 2 million people annually. Improved diagnostics are desperately needed to combat this growing epidemic. AutoTB plans to create a device to automate sputum microscopy, which will decrease analysis time, increase sensitivity and eliminate the human error present in current procedures, while integrating into the existing infrastructure and remaining inexpensive and accessible to developing countries. The medical and economic benefits of this device will provide a competitive advantage over existing technologies and make it very marketable to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for both rural and urban clinics in developing countries. Furthermore, due to the inexpensive nature of the device, users will purchase replacement devices rather than pursue maintenance options, providing long-term sustainability for AutoTB's sales and profits.

CHWired

CHWired deploys user-friendly software applications over an inexpensive Wi-Fi network for rural community health workers in impoverished areas. Through this network, we connect these health workers to distant doctors and referral clinics to triage and treat patients, obtain training, share experiences, and collect health data.

Easy Office

Easy Office is an early stage business services firm focused on serving the back-office needs of the non-profit industry. Through in-depth market research of non-profit groups around the country, the Company recognized a market need for an outsourcing firm geared towards non-profits. Easy Office will provide bookkeeping and financial reporting services to non-profits. The Company will focus on creating a nationally saleable model to provide affordable services.

EquityEdit

EquityEdit is a team of scientists and scholars from elite institutions in the United States and Europe who edit and translate biomedical research manuscripts. A portion of the compensation they earn for this work then goes to fund small, innovative, pro-poor global health organizations. We meet the high demand for technical editing services for scientific research reports, and simultaneously raise funds to make use of this research through public health programs in poor countries. Our current beneficiary is Nyaya Health, our current for-profit partner is ProEdit Japan.

Gardens for Health International

Gardens for Health International (GHI) is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that aims to provide a sustainable means of nutritional support and economic empowerment to HIV-positive individuals by establishing a network of community gardens in Rwanda. The gardens are cultivated exclusively by people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), supplementing their nutritional needs and empowering them with a source of income. GHI is particularly innovative not only because it targets the vital link between malnutrition and HIV/AIDS, but also because it does so in a sustainable way.

Healthy Group Activities (HGA)

Healthy Group Activities (HGA) is a portable, non-for-profit health club that comes to your workplace and offers regular classes in activities such as Yoga, Tai Chi and Pilates taught by professional instructors. The classes, which all require minimal equipment and space, are offered on site and at convenient hours—before or after work or during lunch hours. By signing up for regular classes, employers can improve the health and well-being of their workforce—reducing employee absenteeism and stress and increasing productivity and morale.

Mangrove Partners

Mangrove Partners seeks to provide domestic microfinance institutions (MFIs) with liquidity to expand the breadth of their lending operations to low-income entrepreneurs. Mangrove channels funds from large institutions to community microlending organizations. By handling the complex and inefficient diligence process involved with investing in small and medium scale microlending organizations, Mangrove enhances the efficiency of capital allocation to underserved areas of the economy.

The Wildblue Foundation

Founded in January 2007, the Wildblue Group is an umbrella organization designed to establish and support a national network of student-run consulting and marketing groups. Modeled upon the successes of two existing firms at Harvard and Yale Universities, Wildblue strives to help local nonprofits, businesses, and student groups realize their true potential while educating future leaders and problem-solvers in the business and nonprofit worlds.