

United Way Youth Venture of North Central Massachusetts

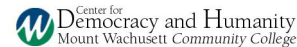
2009-2010

United Way Youth Venture

United Way Youth Venture (UWYV) reaches out to young people and inspires them to take initiative and make a positive, lasting change in their communities. When young people learn early in life that they are powerful and capable of leading social change, they are more likely to continue to lead throughout their lives.

Ventures are completely youth-created and youth-led. UWYV believes that any young person who has an idea for improving their community and launches a Venture will emerge transformed.

UWYV is a three way partnership between Ashoka's Youth Venture, Mount Wachusett Community College and the United Way of North Central Massachusetts. Through this partnership they hope to provide long-term benefits to communities by investing in local youth. Approved UWYV Teams receive up to \$1,000 of seed funding to help launch their project. Since it's inception in 2002, the UWYV partnership has launched 87 teams.



2009-2010 Outputs & Outcomes

- 21 new Teams launched
- Over 3,700 youth actively engaged
- 16 partner schools and organizations
- In Leominster, graduation rates of Venturers are 13.2% higher and 12% higher in Fitchburg compared to their district averages.
- Cost of \$2,329/team (a 10% reduction from FY09)
- Cost of \$172/student directly involved in a Venture
- 90% of teams active after two years

“We get to help the community and that’s all I want because if we don’t help the community what’s going to happen?” - 5th Grade Venturer Jhonnatan Felize-Aquino of Fitchburg



United Way Youth Venture of North Central Massachusetts 2009-2010 Venture Teams

SEEDS FOR SUCCESS

Inspired by the Keene, NH Pumpkin Festival, a group of middle school students wanted to start pumpkin patch outside their school and hold a yearly pumpkin festival in north central Massachusetts.

Seeds for Success aims to provide fresh vegetables for their school cafeteria and a local food pantry as well as start a local yearly pumpkin festival.

Pictured: Team members preparing seedlings for their garden



A.R.K.

Graphic Arts students from Leominster's Center for Technical Education wanted to put their skills to good use but were unsure how. They started Arts for Random Kindness (A.R.K.). To date they have helped fourteen local business including newly launched Venture Teams. They have also raised funds for the Red Cross Haiti Disaster Relief.

ARK aims to help local nonprofits and small business with low cost marketing multimedia from creating posters and brochures to painting murals.

Pictured: Amanda Neuberg painting a 36 ft mural at House of Champions

"I continue to work with United Way Youth Venture year after year because it's become my avenue to make sure that the world is becoming a better place. I truly believe that through giving youth the opportunity to be believed in and supported that they have the ideas to solve our problems. We're also giving them the tools to solve future problems."

- Shirley District Champion Kathryn Lyon

