



Joint Paper - Social Enterprises that Changed the World

Produced by Buddies Without Borders Online Forum
- Doing Well by Doing Good

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Many of the global challenges we face today are often seen as problems to be solved by charities or governments. However, The World Youth Report, Youth Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda helps us think creatively. During the month of February, more than 50 teens from 20+ countries came together to research products and services that have met consumer needs while addressing SDGs, and brainstormed ideas of their own.

The following are some of the most impactful businesses that changed the world, and we look up to these social entrepreneurs for inspiration for the years to come.

Agia Skepi Therapeutic Community - Cyprus

Nominated by Iliana Skordi - Cyprus - The Senior School Nicosia

Agia Skepi has many co-founders, and is currently under the administration of George Pastellas. It offers a rehabilitation program for people that are struggling with long-term substance abuse, based in Cyprus. The program helps users address their dependence and provides them with the necessary skill-set for social reintegration. The counselling centre is the point of contact for help. It aims to improve the living conditions of addicted persons and encourages them to seek treatment.

The Therapeutic Community, located near the village of Politiko in Southern Cyprus, is a residential centre, where members participate in group therapy, in an ideal environment away from distractions. Daily activities include organic farming, packaging, baking bread, cooking, gardening and sports. Once the members complete the residential part of the program, they move to the reintegration hostel. While continuing group therapy, they are urged to develop the necessary autonomy to re-enter society as active members.

Agia Skepi also offers counselling and support to users not enrolled in its programs and their families. In the context of work therapy, the community has developed a social entrepreneurship action in the field of organic food products. Bio farming and rehabilitation share core values, such as sustainable and chemically free development, reward through labour and perseverance, and respect for nature. This action has resulted in the creation of a number of jobs for programme graduates. It provides members with a sense of accomplishment and is a source of inspiration for potential members. More than 75% of those who complete the program manage to rebuild their life away from substances.

The therapeutic Community was founded by Metropolitan of Limassol, Athanasios, then Abbot of the Monastery of Machairas. It is located in Filani, near the village of Politiko, on land granted by the Monastery. The idea for a community for substance rehabilitation was inspired by the positive effect of the monastery's structured program on young men that were showing up there asking for help. The therapeutic community started its operation in May 1999. Former president of Cyprus, Mr. Glafkos Clerides, was paramount in raising funds for the construction of the community premises.

Agia Skepi is approved by the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) since 2009, and is a member of the European Federation of Therapeutic Communities (EFTC).

Searching for a creative and therapeutic occupation for community members, a small organic bakery was set up. This was followed by an organic egg farm with pasture-raised chicken and the development of an infrastructure for farming organic fruit and vegetables. Encouraged by the public's response, the organisation also started importing, packaging and distributing organic food products, such as cereals, dried fruit, pasta, nuts, seeds, and superfoods. Today, Agia Skepi is a member of IFOAM (the worldwide umbrella organisation

for the organic agriculture movement) and supplies the Cypriot market a comprehensive range of organic goods under the brand name 'agia Skepi bio', in many major supermarkets around the country, being simultaneously a source of food and nurture, as well as a humane and viable way of healing for past drug users.

<https://www.agiaskepi.org/> - Therapeutic Community Website (information page)

<https://www.agiaskepi.com/> - Bio sector online platform



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Σκέπη bio

Startup Atlanta-USA-Kayla Kester

Nominated by Kaitlyn DiThomas- USA-Plainedge High school

Startup Atlanta is an organization with a goal to connect, support and expand entrepreneurship in Atlanta in order to create more jobs and increase companies wealth. They focus on connecting and growing The Metro Atlanta Startup ecosystem. This amazing company helps promote activities that help the region grow and prosper. This is so important because they help them have identified the most important factor for success as access to societal networks which is crucial for success as either an individual or business . Their goal is to strengthen these networks leading to an overall more prosperous society and helping so many people along the way. This is a supporter driven organization, which I personally find amazing. Relying on the support of volunteers can help you generate a bigger business quicker, especially when people are willing to help. They also encourage other startup companies by hosting the Atlanta startup awards, which helps recognize and bring light to the cities most successful new companies and aspiring innovators, this brings light to the smaller companies that need it the most. This organization is equipped with an Atlanta ecosystem startup

guide as well that contains guides to various things such as, programs, media and news groups. This company is truly inspiring and helps promote greater good for the world.

Water Collective - applied to India and Africa - Sophia Sunwoo

Nominated by Annastasya Ardianti - Indonesia - Binus School Bekasi

IMPACT



This picture was taken from Water Collective's Website

[Water Collective](#) is an international nonprofit social enterprise dedicated to spread the availability of clean water throughout areas around India and Africa. This enterprise has set 169 filters in Northern India in 2017, with a purpose to expand larger.

The enterprise itself uses 6 steps to implement their process - activation, research, kinship, create, water independence, and collaboration. These steps are prior to casting their help to the community, and fulfil the demands of clean water in the area.

The team works by observing the area, and discovers the most long-term and sustainable option to carry out, meanwhile educating the society of keeping it running with the period expectation of 3 years. To emphasize this information, the team works first by researching the location, and then they will list down the possible solutions to fix this situation, either by creating a new water source, or fixing an existing water source. Either way, as mentioned; they will find the most sustainable and long-term solution to keep the source ongoing. As mentioned as well, the society will also be educated to keep the water source working, for at least 3 years.

This enterprise has been proved helpful, with its positive impacts and changes to the current situations, and its effectiveness in engaging to spread the welfare of access to clean water.

One Acre Fund - East Africa - Andrew Youn

Jacqueline Surya - Indonesia - Binus School Bekasi

One Acre Fund is an organization that seeks agricultural development for low-income families in East Africa. The aforementioned organization is working with 70,000 families to ensure that those families can increase their income.

One Acre Fund supplies smallholder farmers with the financing and training they need to grow more food and earn more money. Instead of giving handouts, they invest in farmers to generate a gain in farm income.

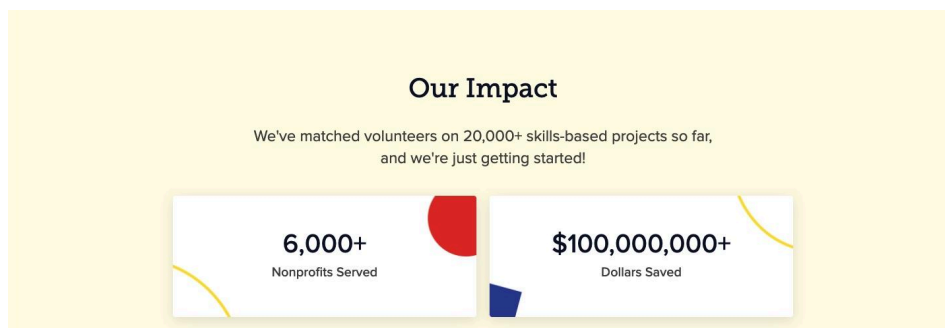
This enterprise ensures that producers market their products at a fair price, cutting off the chain of intermediaries and strengthening cooperative work. In 2019, One Acre Fund has reached the sustainability percentage of 73%.

One Acre Fund envisions a world where all farmers have big harvests, healthy families, and rich soil.

Catchafire- USA - Rachael Chong

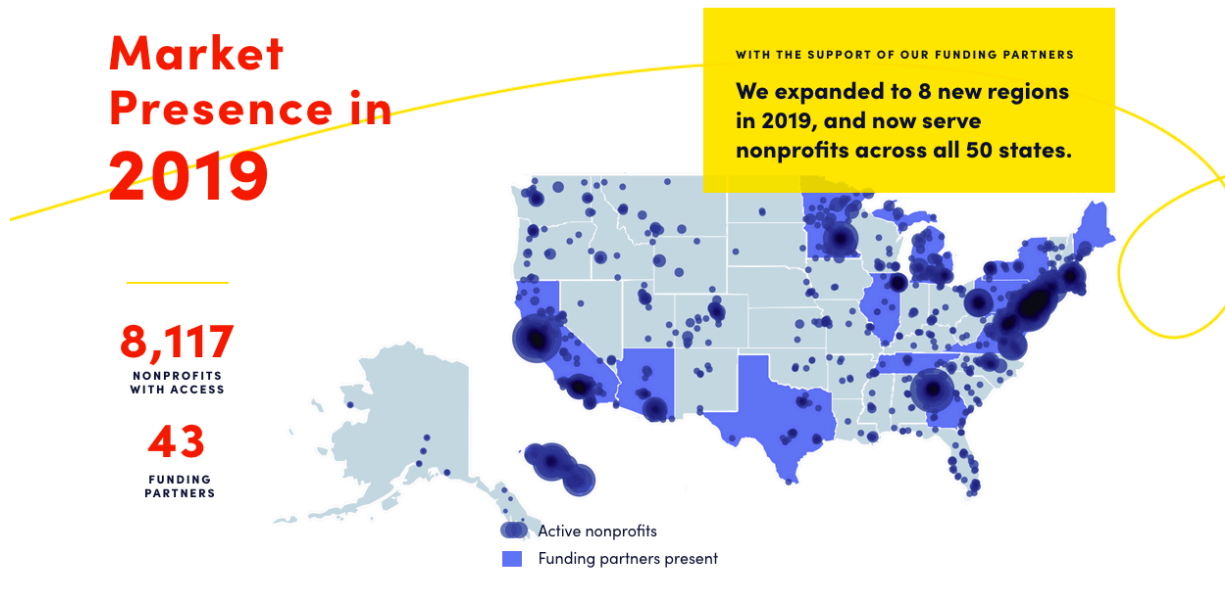
Lakshya Saxena- India- Genesis Global School

The website link- <https://www.catchafire.org/>



This is a San Francisco-based organisation that helps professionals use their skills to volunteer for charitable causes and has a mission to mobilise the world's talents for good. The social enterprise charges a small fee to the charities and foundations who avail of the time of the volunteers. So far it has been a big hit as the professionals get to hone their skills and work for large organizations who may not necessarily have hired them. Non-profit organisations and foundations get to hire top quality talent at a fraction the cost that they might have incurred.

In 2019, they were able to expand their business to 8 new regions and have managed to serve non-profits across all the 50 states till now, showing how they have succeeded in gaining funding with various partners of the organisation.



Green Collect - Australia - Sally Quinn and Darren Andrews

Nominated by Annisaa Aurelia Ardianti - Indonesia - Binus School Bekasi

Green Collect is a social enterprise that cares deeply for people and the planet. It is an enterprise which offers products from reused, recycled, and upcycled waste. These products are then sold in their shops, which include their stationary store, retail shops, and a place to sell their ethical products. They sell these recycle products in the price fees of which covers the costs of logistics and transport, individual assessment of each item for outcome, costs associated with reuse, manual dismantling of items into materials, and recycling fees at responsible local facilities. This enterprise proved to save 1 million items from landfill in 2019, and reused about 60% of it, and about 35% were dismantled as materials for recycling. If you are interested to help, the process is simple. You can simply find any electrical or unwanted things in your house, and bring them to their warehouse and retail outlet in Braybrook, they're available 10am - 5pm Monday to Friday. And then, they will weigh your items, organise them, and finally process them.

Based on their website, greencollect.org, Green Collect Recycling Stations can collect any of the following:

- Ewaste
- Phones

- Data and floppy disks
- CDs, DVDs, video tapes
- Fluro tubes and globes
- Batteries
- X-Rays
- Hard hats
- Printer cartridges
- Assorted stationery and folders

MiraDar - Cyprus (<https://miradar.com.cy>)

Nominated by Daria Gusarova - Cyprus - American International School in Cyprus



In 2015, the company MiraDar first opened in the city of Limassol in Cyprus. This family business was first established based on the philosophy of organic and safe production of fermented dairy products, which has not been as successfully enterprised in Cyprus. Therefore, after acquiring certification, appropriate technology from local equipment, and ensuring high hygiene status, the first shop finally opened with the aim to provide nutritious , safe, and high-quality natural dairy products to the population of Cyprus.

In fact, unlike other competitors in the market, MiraDar does not use any preservatives, antibiotics, stabilizers, thickeners, colors, taste improvers, or any other additives - all products are completely naturally hand-made, containing organic cultures for dairy produce.

MiraDar provides QUALITY, something that is unique in their market area. Although one of the drawbacks of the production of their products is the very limited shelf-life, only about 4-6 days, this further underscores the high quality standards of the products, ensuring that no additives change the consistency and quality taste of the milk. Moreover, they have already begun expanding their business to more cities in Cyprus, and producing not only a large variety of dairy products (from cottage cheese to ice creams) but also daily meals and desserts, all naturally made with high-quality, organic ingredients. They have also started delivering to homes during the pandemic, another factor that helped the business thrive!

Based on the approaches that this business took, some of the important takeaways include providing quality over quantity to ensure that the product is unique on the market and that customers can more easily gain satisfaction, loyalty, and trust to the company.

Evolvin' Women - United Arab Emirates - Assia Riccio

Iran/UAE - Parsa(Harry) Haghani - Tohweed International School Dubai

Evolvin' Women is a UAE-based social enterprise that connects underprivileged women in African countries like Ghana, Rwanda, South Africa, and Zambia to Dubai hotels. Firstly, they open an education institution and enroll disadvantaged women so that they can train them. Next, they connect with hotels in Dubai and offer the hotels to recruit their alumni. Their work dramatically impacts underprivileged women because they provide them an opportunity to gain international job experience.

