Youth Venture empowers young people to come up with business ideas to improve their community, and then helps make those ideas a reality.

This year, 300 youth (age 16-20) will set out to create the change they want to see in their community.

They’ll have the opportunity to work with professional mentors from Boston’s business world, learn how to write a business plan, and even earn up to $1,000 to launch their own social venture.

We already know today’s youth are our future leaders who will design the next innovations that will make our communities stronger. Why not start now?
BE A PART OF THE CHANGE!

▼ HOW DOES YOUTH VENTURE WORK?
• Youth from schools, community centers, and United Way partner agencies form teams, identify a pressing community issue to tackle, and brainstorm possible solutions.
• Volunteer mentors are matched with teams.
• Teams pitch their ideas to a panel of volunteer business leaders.
• United Way hosts events to support teams throughout the process.
• Participating teams showcase their success at a year-end celebration.

▼ WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

“Social entrepreneurs are individuals with innovative solutions to society’s most pressing social problems.”

PREVIOUS YOUTH VENTURE PROJECTS INCLUDE:
• “Rerunz” — A team out of the BCYF Martin Pino Community Center in East Boston opened a thrift shop business. They collect donated clothing, clean and sell it to provide neighborhood residents with an affordable place to shop. They’ve even partnered with a local laundromat to clean the clothes!
• “Quality Kicks 4 Kids” — Venture team from the BCYF Mildred Ave. Community Center in Mattapan is using their talents to run a shoe and sneaker restoration business in the community center. The profits are used to start a thrift store for kids, which also promotes community service hours.

GETTING TO CHANGE.
A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF YOUTH VENTURE.

DREAM IT, DO IT - OCTOBER
Your team will join 300 other local youth to brainstorm ideas, learn about social entrepreneurship, and connect with mentors to help you get started.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT - NOVEMBER
As you shape your business plan, you’ll have the opportunity to meet with local professionals about a variety of business topics that will help you finalize your pitch presentation.

THE PITCH - DECEMBER
The big day! Present your venture to a panel of experts who will evaluate your plan, provide feedback, and decide how much funding (up to $1,000) you will be awarded to launch your business.

CONSULTING SESSIONS - MARCH & MAY
How is your venture going? If you need help getting through some roadblocks, we’ll have local business professionals on hand to work through your team needs — marketing, finance, technology, event planning, and more.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION - JUNE
Celebrate your success! Show off your hard work to your peers, family, and the professional volunteers and mentors who supported Youth Venture throughout the year.

INTERESTED?
TALK TO YOUR YOUTH WORKER ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED.