United Way’s Youth Venture, in partnership with the City of Boston and Mayor Martin J. Walsh, will enroll 300 youth in a civic engagement and entrepreneurship program focused on communication and project management skills for college and career.

Youth Venture teams develop, launch, manage and sustain community-benefitting businesses, tackling some of the toughest issues in our communities.

Leveraging their personal and professional expertise, Youth Venture volunteers provide the tools and coaching to make these ventures a reality.

Boston is a hub for innovation. These young people are our next generation of entrepreneurs. Their future starts now!
BE A PART OF THE CHANGE!

HOW DOES YOUTH VENTURE WORK?

- Youth from Boston 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 to advise and help shape their idea into a social venture.
- Teams pitch their ideas to a panel of volunteer business leaders who evaluate the presentations, provide feedback, and award each team up to $1,000 in seed funding.
- United Way continues to provide teams with ongoing training, mentoring and financial support to actualize their ideas.
- At a year-end celebration, teams showcase their work to other youth teams, volunteers, mentors, and local business leaders.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

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.

GET INVOLVED.
INSPIRATION IS GUARANTEED.

Youth Venture would not be possible without a fantastic network of dedicated volunteers.

MENTOR

Mentors meet with teams on a weekly basis from late October through The Pitch in December, guiding them as they develop their business plan.

**Commitment: Weekly for 6-8 weeks from October - late December**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTER

Host a workshop on topics like budgeting, marketing, public speaking, and more. At this one-day event, youth teams learn business skills as they develop their business plan.

**Commitment: 3-4 hours, one day in November**

PITCH PANELIST

If you’re a big fan of “Shark Tank” and always wanted to be a judge, here’s your chance! Evaluate the Youth Venture pitches and help decide how much funding each team will be awarded.

**Commitment: 3-4 hours, one day in December**

TEAM CONSULTANT

Help teams tackle roadblocks by volunteering your professional skills to consult with them on specific challenges they are facing as they implement their ventures.

**Commitment: 2 - 3 hours, sessions in March and May**

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