

CGI U COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

“Today’s generation of young people holds more power than any generation before it to make a positive impact on the world.”—President Bill Clinton

A CGI U Commitment to Action is a new, specific, and measurable student initiative that addresses a local or global challenge with practical, innovative solutions. For additional information about these and other Commitments to Action, visit cgiu.org.



CGI U Commitment Examples by Focus Area:

EDUCATION

In 2009, Sara Minkara, a student from Wellesley College, committed to establish an education and empowerment program for blind and visually-impaired students in Lebanon. Minkara, a Lebanese-American who became blind at age seven, has since won a Davis Projects for Peace grant and launched the Empowerment through Integration (ETI) summer camp in Tripoli and Beirut. The ETI program has provided training for more than 100 visually-impaired youth in basic French and English, computer technology, and other practical life skills that help them overcome the difficulties typically associated with blindness. At CGI U 2010, Minkara formed a partnership with a fellow CGI U commitment-maker, Matthew Morantz of McGill University. The pair sent a specially-trained volunteer to Lebanon to teach visually-impaired children how to swim as a part of Making Waves, Morantz’s organization that provides affordable swimming instruction for children with special needs. In 2012, Minkara and Morantz plan to replicate their success by establishing a third ETI camp in Ghana.



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Jessica Matthews, a student from Harvard University, committed to providing clean energy to resource-poor areas around the world through the creation of SOCKET, a soccer ball that doubles as an eco-friendly, portable generator. With just 30 minutes of play, the SOCKET captures the energy of motion to power at least three hours of light, run a variety of small appliances, or charge batteries. Since making her Commitment to Action, Matthews has co-founded Uncharted Play, an organization dedicated to developing and distributing SOCKET and several other “FUNctional” products. For her work, Matthews has won several awards, including honors from: Parade, Popular Science, Popular Mechanics, TED, and the Women in the World Foundation. Uncharted Play has also been featured by the Huffington Post, CNN, New York Magazine, Essence Magazine, and The Atlantic.

CGI U COMMITMENTS TO ACTION (CONTINUED)



PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In the aftermath of the Nepali Civil War, Subhash Ghimire, a CGI U 2010 commitment-maker from St. Olaf College, founded the Sarswati Foundation to build Nepal's first peace school for war-affected children. Turning down lucrative job offers in the U.S. and returning to Nepal after graduation, Ghimire led the construction of the school, which selected 217 children for its first class of students in 2011. The curriculum incorporates art, drama, music, dance, and sports into project- and field-based learning, a new concept for Nepali schools. Ghimire has raised more than \$80,000 for the school, which now has partners in Nepal, Europe, Australia, and the United States. He is a blogger for the Huffington Post, represented Nepali youth at the World Bank's Annual Meeting in 2011, and was a panelist at CGI U 2012.



POVERTY ALLEVIATION

As a student at Vanderbilt University and a CGI U 2010 commitment-maker, Kyle McCollom founded Triple Thread Apparel with the goal of providing ex-convicts in the United States with opportunities for gainful employment. Triple Thread accomplishes this by providing the ex-convicts with job training in garment manufacturing. Since its inception, Triple Thread has impressed more than 13,000 prints on more than 6,000 shirts, and has received orders for apparel from across the United States. In addition to raising \$65,000 for his commitment to date, McCollom has also been featured in a wide range of media outlets, including ESPN U, Good Morning America, Fast Company, and BusinessWeek. Having provided income generation to more than 20 former offenders, Triple Thread is empowering ex-convicts who would otherwise be unemployed.



PUBLIC HEALTH

In 2009, Ashifi Gogo, a student at Dartmouth College, committed to address the proliferation of counterfeit drugs in the developing world. Gogo proposed a simple and easy-to-implement solution—using text messages to verify the authenticity of medicine. With this mobile technology, each bottle of medicine is marked with an ID tag that consumers can text to a given number to determine a drug's authenticity. Gogo developed his Commitment to Action into a broader social business, Sproxil, and has since raised more than \$1.8 million through the Acumen Fund. Gogo also went on to become a winner at IBM Boston's SmartCamp, and was a panelist at CGI U 2012. Merck, GlaxoSmithKline, and Johnson & Johnson's distributors have all signed up for Sproxil's service in Nigeria, and more than 400,000 consumers have submitted texts to verify drug authenticity.