



Global Potential (GP) empowers youth and communities around the world to energize each other through education, international service work and cultural exchange. Through its innovative and holistic model, GP effectively and positively transforms the lives of urban at-risk youth aged 15 to 23, to become the leaders of tomorrow in business, community development, education and politics. In 2011, 28% of the world population is made up of youth, or 1.3 billion youth. One billion youth will enter the job market in the next 10 years, yet half live under two dollars a day. These disadvantaged youth are typically minority youth who are first or second generation migrant youth with higher suspension and incarceration rates than their wealthier and typically white counterparts. Furthermore, in the U.S., France and in most urban cities worldwide, there is an increased need for youth to gain skills to face global issues, as they are “unprepared without basic skills to navigate the future as it stands today” (National Geographic, 2006).

GP helps solve these unemployment and inequality cycles by training these “high potential” under-resourced youth in quality educational and professional learning programs based on meaningful social entrepreneurship, service-learning, international cultural exchange and state-of-the-art leadership training in major cities worldwide.

There are nearly zero accessible meaningful volunteering opportunities for youth from these backgrounds to get outside their environments to make positive triple impact change on themselves, their communities and the global community.

GP fills the void of this education and opportunities “achievement gap” in today’s globalized world. GP has a simple and replicable model: it takes its team only a year to establish itself in a city and reach a handful of high schools and youth programs, and impact an average of 30 youth directly. GP does this successfully through a 100% volunteer model, after which the goal is to employ key staff to expand its program five fold. GP has successfully established itself in two key cities in the U.S. (New York, Boston) through this volunteer-run model. By expanding to Paris and London in 2012-2013, GP uses its global model to reach out to parallel urban youth in need of these services and connect to relevant developing countries to impact the global community - based on the Diaspora of the youth in Europe.

Growth-wise, Youthbuild is a very comparable organization to Global Potential. Established 34 years ago in the U.S., it is now located in over 17 countries and 45 cities in the U.S with 273 programs in the U.S. It works on community and youth development through building houses and impacts school enrolment, diminishes violence and increases employment. GP has a faster and more sustainable growth model because of its holistic approach in partnering with high schools, youth programs and villages, both citywide and worldwide.

In less than 5 years, GP expanded to 2 cities in the U.S. and 3 developing countries (Dominican Republic, Haiti and Nicaragua), while being entirely volunteer-run. In 2012 GP will pilot its program in Paris, France. In its volunteer-model, it costs GP \$1500/youth to participate in its year and a half program, that has since 2007 contributed to positively changing the lives of 300 youth, half of whom have travelled. By raising this investment to \$6000 per youth, GP can serve in 2012-2013 five times as many youth. With a million dollar investment, GP would serve an additional 1000 youth in the next three years, in up to five cities in the U.S., 1 in France and 2 additional developing countries such as Algeria or Morocco. In a three-year time-frame, GP seeks to primarily employ its youth fellow graduates in the actual organization to contribute to the job market and continued professional development.

MISSION

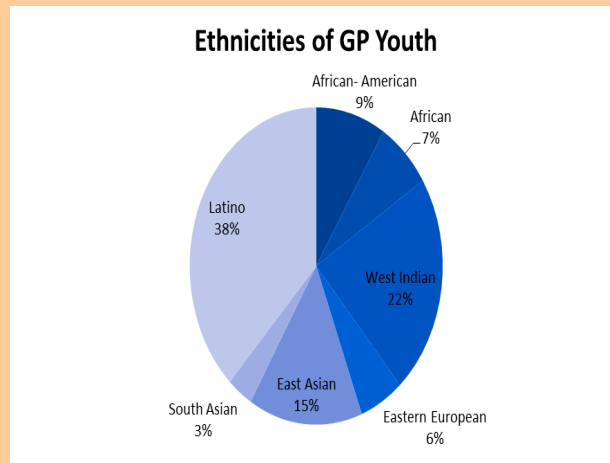
Global Potential’s mission is to empower youth and communities in industrialized and developing countries to empower each other through education, international service learning and cultural exchange. GP provides high potential at-risk urban youth from low-income communities around the world with the skills and perspective that enable them to affect positive change in their lives, communities, and the global community. GP’s year and a half youth engagement model trains youth in media, leadership and social entrepreneurship, global awareness and community development.

WHERE:

GP partners with ten high schools and GED programs in the U.S., so far in New York (e.g. Brooklyn, Bronx, Harlem, Queens) and in Boston (e.g. Roxbury, Fenway, Dorchester). The weekly education workshops occur in these schools and in GP offices. For the international component, GP has worked in very active and marginalized rural villages in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Nicaragua. The rural villages are carefully selected to welcome GP youth for the international cultural exchange and community projects for 45 days during the summer times. In 2012, GP will open a branch in Paris, France.

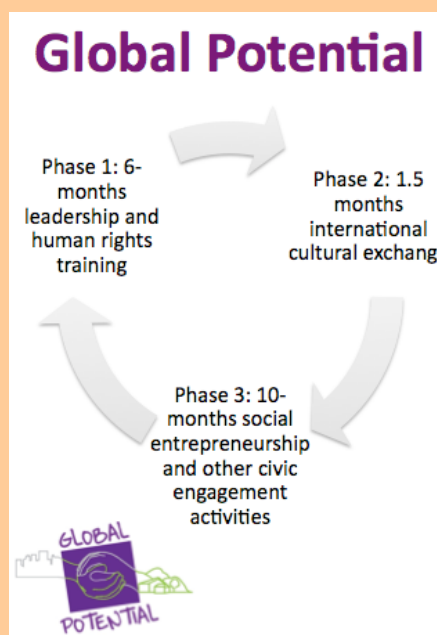
WHO:

GP recruits 15-23 year old youth from low-income and urban communities who have social entrepreneurial and leadership visions and high potential that are aligned with the GP mission. Most of GP youth are first generation immigrant students. Students have origins from Bangladesh, China, Belize, Guinea, Mauritania, DR, Mexico, Honduras, Colombia, Senegal, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, El Salvador, Somalia, Ivory Coast, and much more.



HOW:

Global Potential (GP) is an innovative holistic year and a half service-learning program that is scalable over a year in a 100% volunteer model to render quality services to 60 youth and young adults in urban communities every year. The GP core divides up in three phases for the youth and young adults:



PHASE (1) JANUARY-JUNE: 6-month weekly training after school on human rights, global issues, social entrepreneurship, team building, communication, conflict resolution, race, religion, culture, poverty and sustainable changemaking. This occurs in afterschool format after a school day, 2 hours per session.

PHASE (2) JULY-AUGUST: 1.5 months of immersion in a rural village in a developing country. In 2008-2011, this has taken place in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The youth live in host families, carry out individual internships as well as community development projects and youth-led conferences to dialogue and create change. For those who are unable to travel, a local equivalent of this experience is developed in their own communities locally (e.g. film making projects, conferences-). Their days are full with activities and have down time for only about 3-hours a day.

PHASE (3) AUGUST-JUNE: 10.5 months of individualized and group attention based on the passion and abilities of each youth, carried out in the high schools and in the surrounding community centers also afterschool and during the weekend. The youth then choose one of five Majors to focus their time and energies during this last phase of GP before graduating the following July. They can also choose a Minor, like in College.

1. Social Entrepreneurship and creation of social ventures (e.g. [Real Talk!](#))
2. Documentary-Making (self expression, e.g. [Camino Al Manana](#), [The Congos](#)).
3. Community Service and Activism (community development, service-learning, e.g. [Yale Day of Service](#))
4. School Leadership (personal development)
5. Internship (professional development, e.g. engage in recruiting next cohort of GP youth)



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