

# youth venture

DREAM IT. DO IT.





An Ashoka Partner





## YOUTH VENTURE

**What if** everyone in the world took initiative to improve society?  
What if instead of looking to others for leadership, everyone stepped  
up, addressed social challenges and led positive change?

**Youth Venture** believes that the most important contribution we  
can make to the world is to increase its number of changemakers.  
As our world becomes smaller and global problems become bigger,  
we need changemakers now **more than ever.**



**YOUTH VENTURE** aims to inspire and support an entire generation of young people around the world to become changemakers.

**We believe** it is critical that people discover early on in their lives that they can lead social change, so we invest in young people to design and lead their own ventures that create social impact. In starting social ventures, young people learn the important skills of leadership, entrepreneurship, teamwork, and empathy, as well as other practical skills, as they form teams and run ventures together. Young people also learn that they are powerful, and they will likely continue to take initiative and lead again and again throughout their lives.

**Established by Ashoka**, the world's leading association of social entrepreneurs and the pioneer of the social entrepreneurship movement, Youth Venture is working in over a dozen countries on five continents, and **continues to grow.**



## OUR VISION

**Youth Venture's** vision is a world of everyone a changemaker through a global culture of young people initiating positive, lasting change.

**Imagine** what a difference it would make in the strength of our society and in our lasting impact on the world if millions more people gave themselves permission to be **changemakers**.

## THE MOVEMENT

**We bring together** Youth Venturers from around the world into the Venturer community, with a common identity as pioneers of youth-led change. Our Venture teams share ideas, collaborate, and ultimately form a global movement to redefine the youth years as a time of leadership and positive **social impact**.



A large silhouette of a man stands on the left, holding a paintbrush and painting a mural on a wall. The mural depicts a city skyline with a playground in the foreground. The playground includes a slide, a climbing structure, a seesaw, and a small tree. The background of the mural is a light green color with scattered yellow and orange leaves. The man is wearing a long-sleeved shirt and pants. The overall scene is set against a dark background.

## HOW YOUTH VENTURE WORKS

**Youth Venture** invests in young people, enabling them to launch their own sustainable social ventures, and then connects them into a global network. The ventures are entirely youth-initiated and youth-led. We reach out to young people and inspire them to take initiative in their communities. Then we support our Venturers by providing guidance, tools, and a process for designing and pitching their venture plans.

**When the Venture team is ready to launch, Youth Venture offers:**

- Tools and support
- Seed funding
- Allies who provide mentoring and expertise
- Identity as part of the global Youth Venture movement
- A supportive network of fellow Youth Venturers

**After the venture has launched**, we work to stay continually involved with the team, and we connect Venturers into a global fellowship of like-minded young people, helping them see that they are part of something bigger, **catalyzing the movement.**



**YOUTH VENTURERS**  
"ARE YOUNG, ENTHUSIASTIC AND HAVE A VISION  
TO **CHANGE THE WORLD** AROUND THEM."

WHAT'S MORE, THEY ARE ALSO WILLING TO GO  
THAT EXTRA MILE AND START THEIR OWN VENTURE  
IN THEIR COUNTRIES TO CATALYSE  
**SOCIAL CHANGE."**

- TIMES OF INDIA

## TEAMS

### PUKAAR

**Pukaar** is an initiative of Rajesh and Sameer. Growing up on the streets of Bombay, their own life experiences have been the motivation for setting up Pukaar as a network for youth living on the streets. After reaching the age of 18, Rajesh and Sameer realized that local organizations were no longer able to provide them services needed. To fill this gap they have created an organization that creates an **identity for street children** who have come of age, by finding them work and giving them general support. The objective of Pukaar is to **encourage street children** and youth to support each other, build relationships, and improve their access to livelihood and shelter. The young people are encouraged to direct and manage their own programs such as medical camps, counseling and referrals, personality development workshops, vocational guidance and development, and cultural and **creative activities**.





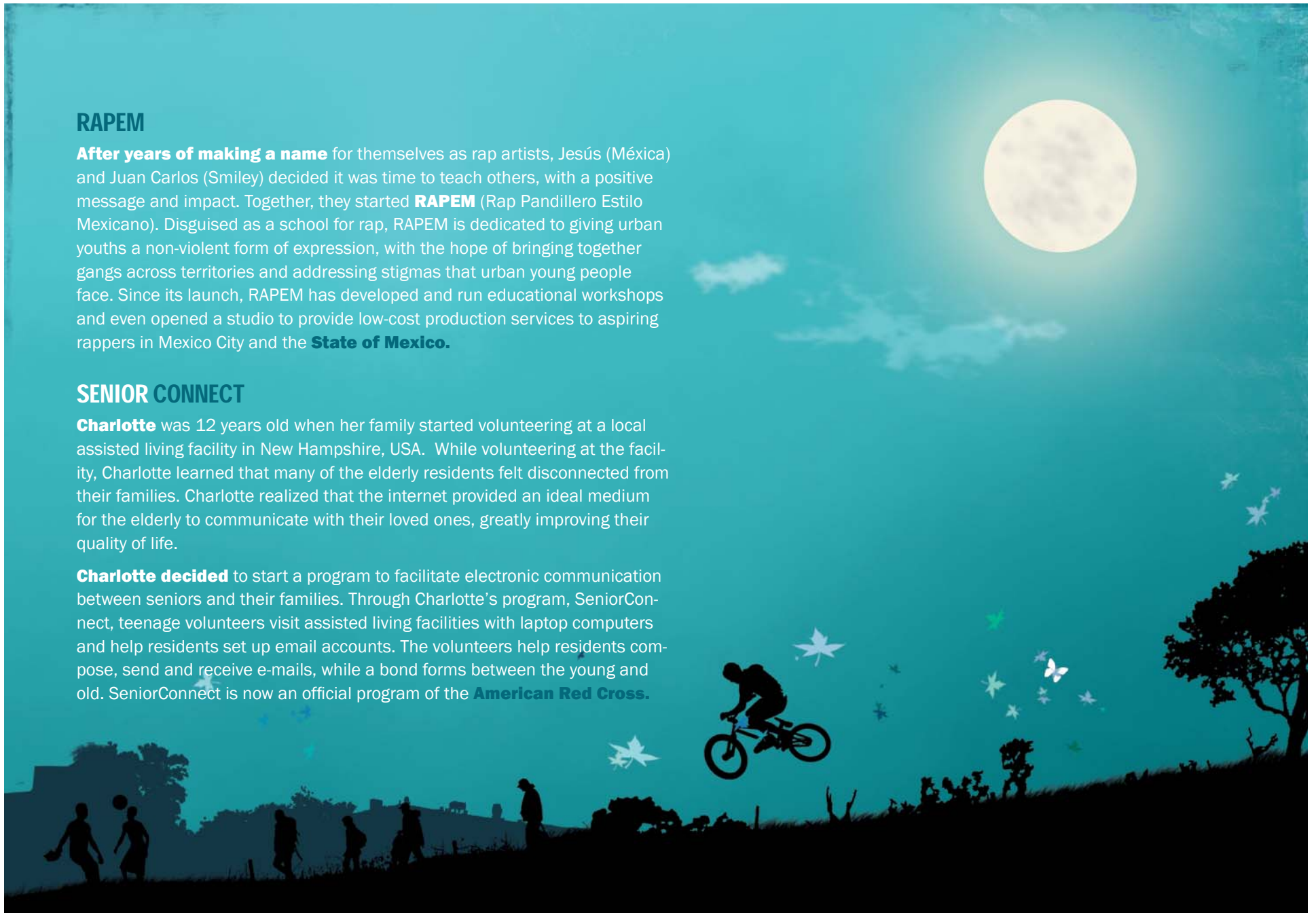
## RAPEM

**After years of making a name** for themselves as rap artists, Jesús (México) and Juan Carlos (Smiley) decided it was time to teach others, with a positive message and impact. Together, they started **RAPEM** (Rap Pandillero Estilo Mexicano). Disguised as a school for rap, RAPEM is dedicated to giving urban youths a non-violent form of expression, with the hope of bringing together gangs across territories and addressing stigmas that urban young people face. Since its launch, RAPEM has developed and run educational workshops and even opened a studio to provide low-cost production services to aspiring rappers in Mexico City and the **State of Mexico**.

## SENIOR CONNECT

**Charlotte** was 12 years old when her family started volunteering at a local assisted living facility in New Hampshire, USA. While volunteering at the facility, Charlotte learned that many of the elderly residents felt disconnected from their families. Charlotte realized that the internet provided an ideal medium for the elderly to communicate with their loved ones, greatly improving their quality of life.

**Charlotte decided** to start a program to facilitate electronic communication between seniors and their families. Through Charlotte's program, SeniorConnect, teenage volunteers visit assisted living facilities with laptop computers and help residents set up email accounts. The volunteers help residents compose, send and receive e-mails, while a bond forms between the young and old. SeniorConnect is now an official program of the **American Red Cross**.



## **Johannesburg, South Africa**

Zamile runs "Township Glory,"  
an organization that teaches children drama,  
dance, poetry and public speaking.









### **Clorinda, Argentina**

Emanuel and his team started a venture to fight dengue fever by training the community in preventive measures against the virus.



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ASSISTANCE AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT  
TO YOUNG PEOPLE TO HAVE THE  
TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE OF  
CREATING INITIATIVES THAT  
IMPROVE THEIR COMMUNITIES."**

*- La Nacion*



**"THE CRITICAL FACTOR FOR  
SUCCESS OF ANY HUMAN GROUPING - BE IT A COMPANY  
OR A COUNTRY - WILL BE THE PROPORTION  
OF CHANGEMAKERS IT HAS TO  
DEVELOP NEW IDEAS, TAKE INITIATIVE  
AND LEAD."**

*-Bill Drayton*

Founder of Youth Venture





**New Delhi, India**

Pawan's organization "Steps for Change" uses street plays to educate the public about issues in the community.





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