



Outstanding Social Entrepreneurs participating in the Annual Meeting

Taffy Adler - Johannesburg Housing Company (JHC) - South Africa



Taffy Adler is changing the face of downtown Johannesburg and reversing the apartheid city while providing safe, affordable and comfortable housing. The Johannesburg Housing Company is refurbishing occupied buildings and constructing new ones in the inner city; its 24 buildings, offer a home to more than 8500 people. Focusing on long term maintenance and sustainability while working with the communities around the buildings and mobilizing commercial funding for social housing, JHC delivers housing with sensitivity to social and economic realities.

Vikram Akula – SKS Microfinance – India



Although microfinance is not new in India, Vikram Akula innovated the whole concept. By standardizing, using principles of McDonalds and Starbucks, he managed to overcome the problem of insufficient dissemination of microfinance especially in rural areas. Since its foundation in 1998, SKS Microfinance has lend over 3,2 billion rupees, has provided loans to nearly 350 000 poor woman and has approximately benefited 1,5 million individuals.

Rick Aubry – Rubicon Programs – USA



The first multi-service agency in the country linking decent jobs with decent housing and a support system to sustain its employees who work in three highly competitive enterprises but are recruited from among the poor, homeless and mentally disabled. These enterprises generate annually over US\$ 6 million.

José Ignacio Avalos – Gente Nueva – Mexico



Creator of the most successful transformational initiatives in the country, including *Compartamos*, the largest microfinance institution in Latin America with an S&P rating of A+, and *Un Kilo de Ayuda* that has revolutionized malnutrition programs and benefits 26,000 children in rural Mexico every 2 weeks.

Jeroo Billimoria – Child Savings International - The Netherlands



A “serial entrepreneur” who has launched and scaled numerous transformational enterprises, Jeroo has now embarked on a new effort to break the cycle of poverty by empowering children through teaching them about their rights and responsibilities and how to deal with money. This concept has been developed and tested in India over the past four years with more than 70,000 children. It will be rolled out in 2006 in 12-15 economically developing countries.

Peter Blom – Triodos Bank – Netherlands



Triodos Bank's customers are looking for more than monetary return on their investments. Triodos performs most traditional banking functions, but also rigorously practices socially conscious investing, lending only to "ethical" organizations and businesses. Over two decades the bank has built assets of almost \$5 billion, and grown by 25% per year, delivering a consistent year-on-year profit. It has almost 10,000 sustainable businesses and projects in its loan book and close to 200,000 customers. Founded in the Netherlands in 1980, it has offices in five European countries.

Ann Cotton - CAMFED - Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe



Camfed is an international organization dedicated to eradicating poverty in Africa through the education of girls and the empowerment of young women. Camfed has successfully challenged the conventional wisdom that cultural resistance is at the heart of girls' exclusion from education in rural Africa, proving instead that chronic poverty is the main barrier. Since 1993, Camfed has pioneered a holistic and grassroots approach to advancing opportunities for girls and young women in order to guarantee a model that is locally-inspired and owned.

Christopher Elias – PATH – USA



PATH currently works in more than 100 countries in the areas of reproductive health; vaccines and immunization; HIV, AIDS, and tuberculosis; and children's health and nutrition. It has developed and distributed innovative, practical and cost-effective technologies that have saved the lives of millions.

Nic Frances – cool nrg International – Australia



Cool nrg International (Cool nrg) designs, develops and delivers innovative energy efficiency action that reaches millions of consumers worldwide and results in large cuts in CO2 while reducing the cost of energy bills.

David Green — USA



Makes healthcare products and services available to all. Utilizes production capacity and surplus revenue to serve rich and poor alike in a way that is both financially self-sustaining and affordable to all members of society, setting prices according to the paying capacity of the local population. This model capitalizes on income differences within national markets to make medical services available to the poor at an affordable price or at no charge. To date, David has applied this model to eye care and to hearing aids, and the economic and social impact is astounding.

Harish Hande – SELCO Solar Light (P) Limited – India



SELCO's approach to the lack of working electricity through much of rural India relies on the beliefs that the poor can afford and maintain sustainable technologies. The main activity of SELCO is the sale of PhotoVoltaic (PV) solar-home-systems that provide lighting and also energy that is suitable for radios and fans. Targeting low income and poor rural families, SELCO works with banks and MFIs to create financing mechanisms that suit the budget of clients. Lastly, SELCO further spreads the sustainable technology and creates livelihoods by creating 'business associates' that lease solar powered lights to street vendors in the evening.

Tim Hanstad - Rural Development Institute – USA



Based in Seattle, with offices in China, India, and Indonesia, RDI has worked with the governments of 40 developing nations, foreign aid agencies, and other partners to design and implement fundamental legal, policy and programmatic reforms to help the world's rural poor. Through a comprehensive understanding of rural land issues and the interaction among financial, land, and labor markets, the work of Hanstad and RDI has resulted in more than 400 million people gaining ownership or ownership-like rights to more than 90 million acres of land.

Andreas Heinecke – Dialogue in the Dark - Germany



A unique exhibition concept which breaks down mental prejudices around handicapped and fosters dialogue. Dialogue in the Dark is currently running more than 20 temporary and permanent exhibitions around the world in which visitors are being led by blind guides through an exhibition in the total dark. As a result, they experience a role reversal which alters the perception of the "differently abled". The concept has been taken a step further into the realm of the hearing impaired. Scenes de Silence allows visitors to explore different forms of non-verbal communication.

Laila Iskandar – Community and Institutional Development (CID) – Egypt



Works with the Zabbaleen – or garbage people – that gather one-third of Cairo's daily 10,000 tons of garbage. Introduced innovative social and environmental initiatives, including recycling as much as 80% of the inorganic waste into raw materials and manufactured goods. CID highlights how the reality of mega-cities, particularly in emerging markets, must place people at the center of waste management planning.

Ashok Khosla – Development Alternatives – India



For the last 20 years, DA has turned out one new technology or method after another, always combining two goals: creating income for the poor and regenerating the environment. Its products are used throughout India and the organization has carried out direct field projects in every state in the country. Consequently, DA has created more than half a million sustainable livelihoods across India.

Bruce McNamer - TechnoServe – Africa, Asia and Latin America



35 years of experience helping entrepreneurial men and women in poor rural areas of Latin America, Asia and Africa build businesses that create income opportunity and economic growth for their families, communities and countries. It provides strategic management and marketing services, including market research, market linkages, business plan development, financial and commercial linkages, supply-chain management and operational consulting.

Fernando Nilo – Recycla – Chile



The first company in Latin America to recycle electronic waste properly. Today, more than 85% of Chileans have a mobile phone, for example, with an average life span of less than two years, what happens when their owners dispose of them? Social and environmental transformation have been at the forefront of this social business. To achieve the former, it has established a system whereby electronic appliances are dismantled and consolidated for export for environmentally-sound disposal. To achieve the former, the personnel are former inmates who seek re-incorporation into the workplace and society.

Reed Paget – Belu Water – UK



Belu has introduced the UK's first biodegradable and compostable plastic bottle made from corn. These look like ordinary plastic bottles and can be recycled with plastics or commercially composted back to soil in just 8 weeks. Belu has also reduced their carbon footprint by using clean electricity and locally sourced water. By investing 100% of all its profits, Belu funds projects through WaterAid, a clean water charity, in Tamil Nadu and Mali, installing wells and fixing hand-pumps, which provide water for 20,000 people.

Thulasiraj Ravilla – Aravind Eye Hospital – India



Avoids preventable blindness in millions by treating over 1.4 million patients a year, two-thirds of them for free. Yet Aravind is able to turn a profit because of its high quality services, high volume and a cross-subsidization model where the more well off support the treatment costs of the poor.

Paul Rice – TransfairUSA – USA



TransfairUSA is the only independent certifier of Fair Trade products in the US. It audits the global supply chain for products such as coffee, tea, cocoa, fresh fruit, sugar, and rice. It licenses over 500 US companies to display its trademarked Fair Trade Certified label in almost 40,000 US retail locations. Fair Trade delivers benefits to more than 1.1 million farmers in 50 of the poorest countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Since 1999, TransFair USA has channeled nearly US \$70 million in additional income to farmers and farm workers.

Amitabha Sadangi – International Development Enterprises - India



IDEI has identified micro irrigation solutions as a strategic entry point to poverty alleviation. IDEI's two main products are the treadle pump and the drip irrigation system. A treadle pump is a foot operated pump that can irrigate small plots of land in regions that have a higher water table than 25 feet. The drip irrigation system has been adapted by IDEI for farm families living in arid and/or water scarce regions where groundwater pumping is not environmentally appropriate. The technology saves up to 50-70% water and increases crop yield by 30-40%. In order to make these technologies available to farmers, IDEI builds the supply chains and credit mechanisms that gives farmers the loans to enter into the local markets.

Ramazan Salman – Ethno-Medizinisches Zentrum (Ethno-Medical Centre) – Germany



The Ethno-Medizinisches Zentrum (EMZ) is an advocate for health care for migrants. It performs prevention work and supports migrants in navigating the German health system. The multi-language offers on health topics range from pamphlets to trainings. In order to directly address as many beneficiaries as possible, EMZ has built up a network of mediators to overcome language and cultural barriers to effectively promote good health. This concept, which is known as MiMi ("with migrants for migrants"), and is the EMZ's core product, has been adopted in ten states. So far, about 1000 migrants from 44 countries have been trained as transcultural mediators, and about 15,000 migrants have received training on health issues and prevention measures.

J.B. Schramm – College Summit – USA



College Summit works to increase university enrolment rates of low-income students in the United States by building school districts' capacity to guide their students through the college preparation and application process. Through teacher training, post-secondary planning curriculum, peer leadership and data management, low income school districts have been helped in graduating more students into universities. College Summit currently works with 150 secondary school partners and has benefited more than 20,000 students to date.

Arbind Singh – Nidan – India



Nidan works in the most politically difficult areas of India to help build livelihoods for marginalized informal workers. The Nidan approach gathers informal workers around a particular industry (e.g. waste collection), helps incubate their business, builds a collective voice, and leverages economies of scale to make them economically competitive for industrial-level contracts. Thus far, Nidan has helped 360,000 unorganized workers and positioned them as legitimate competitors in markets opening up in globalizing cities of India.

Maria A. Villalba – Unlad Kabayan Migrant Services Foundation - Philippines



Unlad Kabayan is a not-for-profit organization that links the savings of migrant workers to community development in their places of origin. With savings and insurance packages negotiated with Filipino banks, migrant workers form savings groups which become pools of funds for investing into various forms of small businesses. Unlad Kabayan operates the Social Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development Services (SEEDS) and Business Incubation (BI) programs which provides business management and social responsibility courses and serves as a resource centre for fledgling entrepreneurs to start their respective enterprises.

Bart Weetjans – HeroRat – Belgium



By training the indigenous African Giant Pouched rat in vapor detection of landmines, APOPO has developed a faster, replicable, cost-effective model for de-mining unexploded ordinances in Africa. Landmines emit a vapour from the explosives within them and the rats are able to use their keen sense of smell to detect these mines. Relying on local populations to form the human resource base – including 130 employees - the technology not only provides jobs for an economically disadvantaged group, it also reduces the risk of death and the costs of de-mining. The technology is being used to also detect pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Mel Young – The Homeless World Cup – Scotland



A “serial” entrepreneur, Young’s work with homelessness over the last 20 years has led him to a new endeavor, an annual street soccer tournament uniting teams of homeless people from around the world. Research following the 2004 Homeless World Cup found 74% of players made significant changes to their lives as a direct result.

Muhammad Yunus – Grameen Bank - Bangladesh

(Schwab Foundation Board Member)



Yunus developed the concept of Microcredit and is the founder of the Grameen Bank for which he received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2006. Grameen Bank retains its emphasis on lending specifically to women (94% of loans) and has stimulated an entire global industry in a hundred countries throughout the developing world and even in industrialized nations, including the USA. Yunus now promotes the social business model and joint ventures with business to solve pressing problems such as global warming, unemployment, poverty and healthcare. He also has led the creation a suite of service providers to the people of Bangladesh with a mobile telephone, internet service provider, healthcare delivery, agriculture and textile production companies.

Roshaneh Zafar – Kashf – Pakistan



The fastest growing microfinance institution in Pakistan and one of the fastest growing in the world, Kashf has achieved a 100% recovery rate after only 8 years of operation. It is the first in Pakistan to promote a financial services approach to microfinance, offering savings and insurance next to loans, and it is the only institution in the country offering insurance to the urban poor. Currently at 70,000 clients, Kashf’s ambitions five-year vision is to reach half a million.