

Yearning Aches Foundation advocates for food safety and sustainable development



www.youthop.com

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

The Young SDG Innovators Programme 2020

The Young SDG Innovators Programme is an opportunity for participating companies of the UN Global Compact to identify young talent within their organizations to collaborate and accelerate business innovation towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

DEADLINE: November 30, 2020 | Workshops



WGH/Novartis Foundation #BuildBackBetter Digital Innovation and AI Challenge 2020

Applications are open for the WGH/Novartis Foundation #BuildBackBetter Digital Innovation and AI Challenge 2020. As the world learns to live with the Coronavirus, the #BuildBackBetter Digital Innovation and AI Challenge will offer a platform for women-led start-ups to advance both gender equity in health security and systems, with a special focus on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

DEADLINE: October 23, 2020 | Competitions

Apply for World Bank Group Winter Internship Program 2021

The World Bank (WB) Internship Program offers highly motivated individuals an opportunity to be exposed to the mission and work of the World Bank. The internship allows individuals to bring new perspectives, innovative ideas, and research experience into the Bank's work while improving skills in a diverse environment. In addition, it is a great way to enhance CVs with practical work experience. Internships are available in both development operations and other business units (such as Human Resources, Communications, Accounting, etc.) however, availability during a given internship term is based on business needs.

DEADLINE: October 31, 2020 | Internships

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Founded by Mahmud Hossain Amin, a student of Dhaka Residential Model College, Yearning Aches Foundation is a youth organisation that works to build a better society, by eradicating social problems. The idea behind its inception was inspired by various social leaders and youth-based organisations determined to uplift the underprivileged communities.

"We started this journey with a hangout where I was casually discussing my plans of working for social welfare. Two years ago, with just BDT 50 in our pockets, we embarked on the path of transforming lives," shared Amin. In their initial days, the team neither had enough ideas nor adequate funds to run an organisation, but with enthusiasm and passion, they have conducted over 14 events and have successfully reached out to 27,000 people so far.

The organisation has arranged several programmes on food safety, where they distributed sanitation materials among roadside food hawkers and small food shops in the city. They further spread awareness among people by discussing food hygiene protocols and ideal



A volunteer distributing masks during their event, 'Safer Places'.

nutritional values.

The team continues its earnest efforts to tackle the city's pollution by providing free masks to pedestrians. They were also active during the road safety protests and conducted multiple awareness programmes to familiarise people with the use of zebra

crossing and over-bridges. Furthermore, the team also reached out to slum dwellers to propagate hygiene awareness. "Currently, we are organising online events to generate awareness about the spread of the virus," said Ayman Tahmid, a student of Rajuk Uttara Model College and the Vice

President of Yearning Aches Foundation.

The organisation is continuing its activities to combat the pandemic as their volunteers are delivering food packages among underprivileged communities for the past few weeks. "We have helped around 3,000 families across Dhaka, Barishal and Rangpur. These people had lost their sources of livelihood and were finding it difficult to make ends meet," added Alif Mahmud Akkhar, a student of Notre Dame College and the General Secretary of the organisation. They have also initiated a social media challenge chain called, '8 Kotir Jonno 8 Koti', during which the team members provided a food package to a nearby underprivileged family and tagged other people to do so. "Social media has played an important role in connecting us to the masses. We took on our social responsibility through an online challenge," shared Amin.

The future plans of the organisation include designing a sustainable development project to educate underprivileged students. They further intend to organise skill training programmes for the youth and support middle and lower middle-class families to survive, post the pandemic.



(L) Volunteers of Yearning Aches Foundation with kids, during their event, 'Warm Hearts 2018'. (R) At 'Taste with Health 2019', the volunteers distributed face masks, gloves and shower caps to street-food vendors.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF YEARNING ACES FOUNDATION

Committed to the service of others



Members and volunteers of We, Not I at their event, 'Bin of Hope.'

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF WE, NOT I

ZAREEN NAWAR

After completing his education from abroad, Rahmatuzzaman Rumon, the Founder of the non-profit organisation We, Not I, came back to his homeland with the goal to help the youth. To keep impressionable youths from succumbing to behavioural problems, drug addiction and depression, the NGO was formed at the start of 2018.

Graduating students volunteer at various events for We, Not I. The organisation's funds come from the registration fees of their volunteers. It also has several established clubs for volunteers so that those who are interested can sharpen their skills.

They have English Language, Science, Sports, Debate and Literature clubs. The volunteers are asked to attend meetings and seminars as per the requirements. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, the involvement of volunteers has been very restricted. 300 volunteers are currently involved with We, Not I.

The organisation intends to instill good habits in young kids. "We hope that the kids will learn to keep the community clean and will grow up to be respectful towards people from all walks of life," explains Rumon. "Much like the rest of the world, we had to delay our plans and events due to the pandemic. We did, however, try and help



At 'Bin of Hope', the volunteers cleaned up roads and set up 50 sustainable garbage bins around Mirpur.

people as much as we could by taking the necessary safety precautions while we were out and about." They provided PPE suits to those who were likely to require it and maintaining social distancing as strictly as possible.

Their latest event, 'Project Ekannobotti', is about supplying food for at least 15 days to families that are unable to afford their own food during the pandemic. So far, they have been able to feed around 1,500 people. During Ramadan this year, they sold iftar packages at BDT 10 to destitute communities. Through their project,

'Eduguard' they tried to help laid off teachers financially. To campaign for a clean environment, they arranged the event 'Bin of Hope' and setup 50 sustainable bins around Mirpur. They provided Eid gifts to around 50 families and they also provided iftar packages to the police to commend their hard work.

"In the future, we hope to expand our reach through workshops and engage the youth more and more towards the betterment of the country," said Rumon. We, Not I can be reached through their website and Facebook page.

