

Creating Change

BY ANYA KROYTOR

Growing up in a family full of entrepreneurs, risk taking became second nature to me. Unlike many people who play it safe, I tend to look at problems, challenges and situations with an attitude of "what if?" The obvious extension of this attitude to my career after school was, of course "what if I were to start my own business?" What if I were to take a risk? Then I was given the chance not only to find the answers to that question but to actually experience it first hand. I was fortunate enough to be selected for an opportunity of a lifetime to participate in the "Young Entrepreneurs for Leadership and Change" summer program at the University of Florida.

As I expected, this program taught me a lot of the basics that I needed to know about entrepreneurship but I also gained some things beyond these basics. This program allowed me to unveil my passion, which lies in making a difference in the world through applied Social Entrepreneurship. It dawned on me that I could be an Entrepreneur and improve the planet at the same time. I was able to learn what it is like to do this by meeting different social entrepreneurs and listening to their stories. This program intertwined education and

leadership with service and fun. The classes I took not only opened my eyes to the numerous amounts of problems that currently are plaguing our society but also encouraged me to get out there and try to do something about it.

Since a young age, I have always been involved in an array of community service projects. When returning from the program, both my family and friends noticed my transformation. I was inspired to get involved even more and determined to create a change in my community. I am currently the president of Key Club as well as the Community Service Liaison for the National Honor Society. In this position I am able to provide the students in my school with a plethora of service projects and give them the opportunity to get involved and make a change. I am also part of an organization known as Spirituality for Kids, where I mentor children on how to make wiser choices and build stronger relationships with others. Because of my dedication to community service and my achievements in school I have been honored with a nomination as a Social Science Silver Knight.

The Young Entrepreneurs for Leadership and Change summer program proved to me that it's not the plans we make for the future, but the changes we make today that make a real difference. Some day I will be a social entrepreneur catering to the needs of others, but I don't have to wait until then to make a difference. Today I try to contribute and inspire others to make change using the traits of leadership, determination, and perseverance that this summer program has brought out in me. All it takes is one person to make a difference, and if I have anything to say about it, that person will be me!

Any Junior that is pondering their summer plans and would like to take part in a transformational experience that this program has to offer, please feel free to contact me with any questions. My name is Anya and my e-mail is anyakroytor@gmail.com. □



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For more information about the UF Young Entrepreneurs for Leadership & Change Summer Program 2008, see www.ufyoungentrepreneurs.org or email ufyoungentrepreneurs@gmail.com

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