

Global Change Agents, Inc.

Ever dream about combating Third World suffering? GCA is a nonprofit consulting firm that provides technical assistance to Third World NGOs. We draw on two decades of experience in the creation, growth and sustainability of poor peoples' institutions to alleviate human suffering. The list below conveys the range of services we have successfully provided around the world—Latin America, Africa, Asia and the former USSR. The most powerful force for global change is a new idea in the hands of a social entrepreneur.

- Inspiring young global change agents to transform the world through H.E.L.P. International
- Building participatory systems for self-determination
- Integrating theory with action: praxis
- Encouraging new forms of compassionate capitalism such as Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream that are based on the highest human values
- Combating oppressive trends in globalization
- Fostering humane, grassroots indigenous development
- Drafting advocacy papers for conferences and symposia such as the OD Network, OD Institute, and SHRM
- Strengthening poor, marginalized families around the globe by building a new social sector or third way for solving global problems
- Expanding service learning opportunities for college age students through H.E.L.P. International as we grow to 500 summer change agents in Latin America
- Integrating the spiritual with the temporal in international development so that practices are holistic
- Moving people from dependency to dignity through Enterprise Mentors International
- Promoting socially-responsible business practices such as Guru's Restaurants & Tom's of Maine
- Becoming peacemakers through grassroots organizing that reduces social conflicts and violence
- Providing tools for building capacity among the poor like the Microcredit Summit
- Conducting action research on NGO best practices that ensure self-sufficiency such as Grameen Bank in Bangladesh and ACCION in Latin America
- Advocating and radicalizing in behalf of the world's have-nots like the World Social Forum is doing in Brazil and India
- Networking between progressive individuals, donors, and NGOs as carried out by CEO entrepreneurs like Anita Roddick of The Body Shop
- Ensuring NGO transparency and integrity that guide ethical social change
- Carrying out relevant, hands-on practitioner research that leads beyond mere publication to a better world
- Becoming a catalyst for microcredit acceleration through Unitus
- Calling to action humanitarian volunteers who have real passion and fire in the belly to make a difference in the world such as the Ouelessebougou Alliance in Mali, West Africa
- Facilitating the rise of new social purpose ventures with values of stewardship and service to humanity

- Developing NGO paradigms that ensure long-term sustainability like Engage Now in Ethiopia
- Fostering new economic and business models like Semco in Brazil that engender cooperation rather than competition, and servant leadership rather than authoritarian management
- Empowering impoverished people in their struggle for equality and socio-economic justice
- Accelerating the rise of the emerging NGO movement around the world
- Fostering microcredit strategies and conducting studies on the impacts of village banking in the informal economy with nonprofit enterprises like FINCA and Katalysis
- Mobilizing potential social entrepreneurs in living out their dreams to improve life on this planet by becoming Ashoka Fellows
- Creating partnerships like Cause For Hope between First World middle-class haves, and the Third/Fourth World impoverished have-nots who suffer
- Building innovative systems and frameworks for fighting poverty and moving toward human fulfillment like the Academy For Creating Enterprise in the Philippines

Want to have a more meaningful experience in your professional career? Consider the words of Peter Drucker, Stephen Covey, Warner Woodworth, and others:

Peter Drucker in 1999 wrote a classic article, “Managing Oneself,” about consultants “knowing how and when to change the work we do.” He talks of the many professionals who “after 20 years of doing very much the same kind of work... are not learning or contributing or deriving challenge and satisfaction from the job. And yet they are still likely to face another 20 if not 25 years of work. (This) increasingly leads one to begin a second career... as a social entrepreneur.... Such people have substantial skills and they know how to work. They need a community.... These social entrepreneurs are society’s true change agents. But above all they need challenge.” Drucker points out that “If one does not begin to volunteer before one is 40 or so, one will not volunteer once past 60.... All the social entrepreneurs I know began to work in their chosen second enterprise long before they reached their peak in their original business.” Finally Drucker concludes with the insight that “This need to manage oneself is therefore creating a revolution in human affairs.”

-Peter F. Drucker, *Harvard Business Review*, March/April 1999, pp. 65-74.

Stephen Covey, former OB professor at BYU and author of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, recently met Dr. Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, an institution that is owned by the “poorest of the poor,” having loaned out over \$4 billion in microcredit to 2.4 million microentrepreneurs. Steve was astounded at Yunus’ vision, leadership and great mission to eliminate global poverty. He now sees the new social entrepreneurship work carried out by OB consultants and other change agents as a wonderful way to use our craft in behalf of the world’s have-nots. In the process, declares Covey, the poor become empowered, and the ripple-effects of change expand.

-Stephen Covey, BYU speech, March 20, 2003.

Warner Woodworth argues that “To radically change the world by identifying social problems and inventing new solutions requires determination and a committed vision of

transformation. In the past two decades there has been an explosion of social entrepreneurship and the rise of a new Third Way, neither private enterprise nor government agencies. For example, today there are over a million social sector organizations in the U.S., 70 percent of which did not exist in the 1960s.

Global Change Agents, Inc. finds problems that are not being solved and develops new strategies by changing the overall system, disseminating new solutions and convincing entire societies to take new leaps. These change agents are not satisfied to just give a person a fish, or to teach how to fish. They move to a whole new level by revolutionizing the fishing industry itself.”

From Calcutta: “While a business entrepreneur may thrive on competition and profit, a social entrepreneur has a different motivation: a commitment to leading through inclusiveness of all actions in society and a dedication to changing the systems and patterns of society.”

Social Entrepreneurs of India, April 2000

Check out the following websites to learn more about global change agents:

www.changemakers.net

See Warner Woodworth’s nomination for a Fast Fifty Award for having mobilized over 200 students to serve the poor in Latin America at www.fastcompany.com/fast50_02search.html

www.help-international.org

See Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi who is a global peacemaker:

www.gandhiinstitute.org

www.ashoka.org

www.socialfunds.com

See the work of Rodrigo Baggio who developed the Committee to Democratize Information Technology, creating a network of 200 self-managed computer centers in the slums of 17 Brazilian states: www.cdi.org.br

www.citizenbase.org

See Virginia Mupanduki’s winning of the 2002 Desmond Tutu Footprints of Legends Leadership Award on www.btribune.co.zw/2003

www.youthventure.org

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