



City Year Corp Members Teach One Hen Microfinance Lessons to Over 800 Inner City NYC Students

One Hen and City Year's Starfish program have partnered to introduce microfinance and entrepreneurship to over 800 elementary students in about 10 NYC public schools. These lessons are based on the story of Kojo, a young boy, about their age, who took a small loan and used it to grow a business that eventually supported himself, his family and his community. One Hen lesson plans will be part of the Needs and Wants program being taught to inner city New York youth.

One Hen's program in New York is sponsored by Morgan Stanley, a leader in the microfinance sector. "Morgan Stanley is deeply committed to furthering the growth and development of the microfinance industry through strategic transactions, research and thought leadership," said Audrey Choi, Managing Director and Head of Morgan Stanley's Environment, Social Finance & Community Reinvestment Group. "Educating children about the impact microloans can have on communities helps to foster a greater appreciation for microentrepreneurship in our society."

Starfish After School Program's name derives from one of City Year's "founding stories" in which a little girl makes a difference by throwing back just one starfish that has washed up on the shore. City Year's starfish are children in the 3rd through 5th grades who receive not only a safe space and extra homework help during critical after-school hours, but also a chance to engage in service at a young age.

Through various service-learning curricula, children learn to use their energy and excitement for community service. "In Starfish, I learned not to take things for granted because there are different people around the world that don't have what I have. I think I can help by donating my time, clothing, food, and water," said 6th grader, Treina. City Year's corps members plan and implement educational lessons on topics such as health living, government, environment, and diversity. This year, City Year's 1,500 young leaders, who are 17 to 24 years old, will complete more than 2.5 million hours of service in schools across US and abroad.

One Hen equips teachers with the resources to bring pertinent world issues, such as microfinance, food security and poverty alleviation in ways that inspire urban kids to personal initiative and financial responsibility. One Hen provides multiple curriculum formats that can be used with students. "One Hen's niche in the spectrum of educational offerings rests in combining the teaching of social issues with entrepreneurship and youth philanthropy to instill values of global citizenship," said Amma Sefa-Dedeh, One Hen Executive Director. "The Starfish program is a perfect example of bringing service learning full circle and helping children become global citizens who understand the value of giving back. We are excited about the City Year partnership and the impact it will make with the students".

About One Hen, Inc.

One Hen, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that grew out of the 2008 children's book on microfinance: One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference, and the educator movement it inspired. One Hen's mission is to help children become global citizens that succeed in school and beyond and marry that success to helping others. One Hen's family of enrichment books and web-based resources teaches elementary school children about world issues where they can make a difference. One Hen materials cultivate values of financial responsibility, personal initiative, global awareness and giving back. The website, www.onehen.org, offers students a chance to learn through participating in interactive activities that simulate real loans to real micro-entrepreneurs from One Hen, Inc. field partner Opportunity International.

About City Year

City Year unites young people of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service, giving them the skills and opportunities to change the world. As tutors, mentors and role models, these diverse young leaders help children stay in school and on track, and transform schools and communities across the United States, as well as through international affiliates in Johannesburg, South Africa and London, England.

About Morgan Stanley

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