

Opportunity for hands-on MBA intern for a growing socially minded venture

The Sarah Dodds Enterprise Accelerator (SDEA) is now soliciting applications from high-potential social ventures in need of capacity-building support. For 2010 we are seeking organisations based in London only.

We are seeking source initiatives that would have inspired Sarah Dodds, in whose memory the fund was set up, and that have initial 'proof of concept'. Projects will have potential to go to scale yet face challenges in capacity building and finance to do so.

Support from SDEA takes the form of placement of a supported intern (MBA, recently graduated MBA, or non-MBA but stellar business thinker) supported by a professional case manager and network of *pro bono* support and mentoring.

Augmenting this human investment is the potential for modest financial investments (up to and perhaps exceeding £10,000) that will be repaid with a level of return pegged to performance of the organisation.

SDEA is seeking organisations who will actively reciprocate should the engagements lead to success. In practice this will mean contributing ongoing financing and human resources to support more of engagements with early stage high potential social enterprises. This approach represents the piloting of a new form of Social Venture Capital, where successful investees, over time, contribute to the continuing success of the VC facility both financially and through the gift economy.

Basic criteria:

- Focused on social/environmental impact (this can be paired with profit-motivation)
- Have early "proof of concept" through sales, customers, social impact, and similar metrics
- Entrepreneurial and innovative in nature
- Strong, entrepreneurial leadership
- Require business-minded input and support in any of the following areas: operations, finances, capital-raising, strategy and implementation, marketing, expansion
- Committed to contributing back, both human and financial resources, to SDEA in the fullness of time, and
- (For financial investments) Have a business model that has the potential to generate income and service any loans made.

Application materials and deadline:

Applicants should submit materials to Ben Metz at mail@benmetz.org by May 1, 2010

Please include the following:

1. Business plan summary (no more than 5 pages)
2. Financials – historical and forward-looking, audited if available
3. Management biographies
4. Statement describing social impact of the venture (1 page maximum)
5. Cover letter describing the venture's future plans and needs for support from SDEA (2 pages maximum)

SDEA Background:

The social entrepreneurship world lost a very bright light in 2008 with the untimely death of Sarah Dodds, who died as the result of a cycling accident. Sarah was the outgoing director of Ventures at UnLtd, the London-based foundation for social entrepreneurs. But job titles do little to describe what a dynamic, joyful, and changemaking person Sarah was. Her passion for life was equaled by her passion for finding and supporting high-potential social entrepreneurs.

Sarah was always looking for ways to provide those essential but hard-to-get inputs of experience, expertise, and extra (hu)manpower into social enterprises - she realized it wasn't just about funding. In that spirit, a fund set up in Sarah's name has been dedicated to catalyzing targeted work with social enterprises that reflect the qualities Sarah looked for in high-potential ventures.

You can read more about Sarah, and see the dozens of tributes that have been left by friends and colleagues, at www.sarahtribute.wordpress.com.