

## THE SARAH EFFECT

Those of us fortunate to have known Sarah Dodds understood the powerful combination of ambition and selflessness. As determined as Sarah was to conquer each challenge life put before her, she was equally determined to raise the bar for those around her. An effortless connector of people from all walks of life and all corners of the globe, Sarah used the pubs, restaurants and flats of London as her own personal offices, where many a brilliant idea was hatched.



Sadly, one such idea was brought to life through the loss of this extraordinary woman on a cycling accident in June, 2008. Through the tireless effort and generous contributions of many people, the Sarah Dodds Enterprise Accelerator (SDEA) fund rapidly emerged from concept to reality. The fund, formed in London in 2008 by a group of Sarah's family and friends, has already achieved great results in less than a full year of operation.

# SARAH DODDS ENTERPRISE ACCELERATOR

JUNE 2009 UPDATE



# ABOUT THE FUND

The overarching aim of this fund is to contribute to the development of inspirational initiatives and individuals that Sarah would have committed time and resources to.

In the spirit of Sarah's own education, achievements and passion for social enterprise, SDEA matches early stage social initiatives with high-quality MBA graduate caliber individuals for internships that will focus on capacity-building and investment readiness. Internships and associated costs are financed from funds raised in Sarah's memory and supported in a wider context by pro bono commitments from her network.

The purpose of these matchings is two-fold:

- o To prepare the social initiative for scale – moving it towards sustainability, success and greatly increased impact, and
- o To inspire and educate MBAs, influencing their career choices and further 'mainstreaming' social and environmental change into the MBA process.

As of May, 2009, over £67,000 has been contributed to the fund. Many personal donations have been made through a website hosted at [www.justgiving.com/rememberingsarahdodds](http://www.justgiving.com/rememberingsarahdodds), and a handful of larger donations have been provided by institutions with ties to Sarah. An impressive list of academic institutions—including Insead, the London Business School and Oxford—are already supporting the initiative, with more opportunities under development.

The SDEA fund is managed entirely through volunteer efforts led by Sarah's sister, Rachel Dodds, and friends Ben Metz, Jessica Shortall and Paul Cheng. The organizers have been in discussion with Canadian institutions, as well as MBAs Without Borders, to expand SDEA's activities beyond the UK. A key goal for the fund is to enable MBAs the opportunity to work in developing countries on capacity building, women's issues or micro-enterprise projects. These projects would build directly on Sarah's personal experience working in Pakistan in 2000/2001, where she worked with micro-enterprise for women and also fundraised enough to build a local school.

# PROGRESS TO DATE



The results of the SDEA program are already being felt. During the fall of 2008, Mike Quinn, a graduate of Said Business School, Oxford, was placed for a 3 month internship at Mozzo Coffee in London.

Mike grew up in the same hometown as Sarah - Calgary, Alberta. The “little big city” on the Bow River in Western Canada, is famous for its rodeos and warm Chinook winds. Sarah took a little piece of Calgary with her everywhere she went, spreading the joy of two-step dancing from Europe to South America to Pakistan. No doubt Mike is carrying a bit of Calgary hospitality with him as he embarks on his next venture in Africa.

## THE MOZZO STORY

Mozzo coffee ([www.mozzocoffee.com](http://www.mozzocoffee.com)) is a social enterprise that resonated with Sarah Dodds. Mozzo was founded by Grant Lang, aka Mozzoman, in 2005 to bring people together through his two favourite things: coffee and art. Mozzoman set out to create the UK's first 100% Fairtrade, 100% organic, 100% Arabica espresso coffee, with a goal to blending coffee enjoyment with social, economic and environmental benefit for coffee growing communities around the world.

As the inaugural host for an SDEA intern, Mozzo received valuable input to its business while in turn providing feedback to the SDEA group about how to maximize the value of future internships. “Mike Quinn’s ability to facilitate discussions, while always posing the challenging questions to a driven and ambitious team... was evident from the start to the end of the 3 month internship,” says Lang. And he adds that for a single insight provided by Mike over wine one evening, “Mozzo will always value the work and support given to it by Mike and the Sarah Dodds Acceleration Fund, unlocking the door to the how behind the drive and ambition to build a world class business and transform a value chain (or two) along the way...”

Mike Quinn says that through the internship he “gained direct experience building a high-potential social enterprise start-up, and learned what social investors look for when assessing prospective investment opportunities.” Quinn adds, “The experiences and lessons I gained in this internship directly helped me launch a new social venture, called African Enterprise Partners ([www.africanenterprisepartners.com](http://www.africanenterprisepartners.com)), that makes social investment work in Africa.”

# THE NEXT WAVE...

Building on experience gained from the Mozzo internship, SDEA is working to place as many as three interns in 2009. The social enterprises which have been selected by the SDEA for internship are:

- o Unpackaged
- o Worn Again
- o Blue Ventures

## UNPACKAGED

[www.beunpackaged.com](http://www.beunpackaged.com)

Unpackaged provides a better way to buy organic wholefoods and environmentally friendly products for your home.

Founded in London in 2007, Unpackaged aims to change unsustainable consumption patterns by providing a unique refill service. Unpackaged is built on the vision of a world free from unnecessary packaging where it is easier to “reuse and refill” than it is to go to a mainstream supermarket.



# THE NEXT WAVE...

## WORN AGAIN

[www.wornagain.co.uk](http://www.wornagain.co.uk)

Worn Again upcycles pre and post consumer and corporate waste materials into stylish and relevant products for a consumer market as well as for companies, using their disused materials. Worn Again takes a transparent approach to communicating the real ingredients that go into their products, including materials, labour standards and energy use, while addressing the impacts of their activities on trade and climate change.



# THE NEXT WAVE...



## BLUE VENTURES

[www.blueventures.org](http://www.blueventures.org)

Blue Ventures believes that with the right knowledge, developing coastal communities can live in harmony with their marine environments. Blue Ventures is an award-winning marine conservation organisation dedicated to conservation, education and sustainable development in tropical coastal communities. Through marine expeditions, volunteers from around the world join Blue Ventures on career breaks, student gap years and internships, working closely with field research teams, in partnership with local communities.



# WHAT YOU CAN DO

The success of the SDEA fund is a direct outcome of the contributions made by people who are inspired by Sarah's story. By contributing to the fund, you are providing opportunities for driven individuals and social enterprises to bring worthy new ventures to market. So how can you help?

**Contribute funds to establish and maintain this memorial.** Consider setting up a monthly or annual payment. Contribute to the fund (through [www.justgiving.com/rememberingsarahdodds](http://www.justgiving.com/rememberingsarahdodds) or CIVA (Centre for Innovation in Voluntary Action), 9 Mansfield Place, London, UK NW3 1HS – with a note that cheques are for Sarah's fund).

**Commit to getting involved** – providing pro bono support, spreading the word and registering this on the online community as it gets established.

**Commit to being a case manager**, for the matching of initiatives and interns. Register this on the online community as it gets established.

**Commit to being a guardian or steward of this memorial.**

For more information, please email [mail@benmetz.org](mailto:mail@benmetz.org).



## CARRYING ON SARAH'S LEGACY...

*(Mark Cameron)*

As a long-time friend who passed through the UK frequently during Sarah's decade as a Londoner, I had the good fortune of meeting many of the people in her network, and of seeing first-hand what a gifted and altruistic individual she was. When the SDEA organizers requested a volunteer who was not involved with the fund to provide a summary of its progress to date, I felt that it was the least I could do. I quickly realized that this 'favour' was actually a gift, providing me with a personal glimpse of what a small band of dedicated individuals can achieve.

It is inspirational to see the collective energy that has made the Sarah Dodds Enterprise Accelerator fund a success in such a short period of time. The fund's organizers wish to acknowledge the contributions of time and financial support that have allowed them to carry forward Sarah's legacy in such an impactful way. On behalf of "the rest of us", I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has carried forward the important work that Sarah started.

For more information about the Sarah Dodds Enterprise Accelerator, please visit the SDEA website at [www.sarahdodds.org](http://www.sarahdodds.org).