

The Summit Series Community And Social Entrepreneurs Raise More Than \$200,000 in 24 Hours

The world's top young entrepreneurs organize spontaneous philanthropy drive, which included an auction of a private meeting with UN Foundation Chairman Mr. Ted Turner, and dinner with UN Foundation board members, including Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

Washington, DC ([PRWEB](#)) April 6, 2009 -- [Summit Series](#), a community of young entrepreneurs who are the world's most influential innovators under the age of 35, together with four social entrepreneurs led by Elizabeth Gore and the UN Foundation, raised more than \$200,000 in a 24-hour period during a spontaneous philanthropy drive during [Aspen '09](#), an entrepreneurial retreat for 115 leaders. The drive included an auction for a private meeting with UN Foundation Chairman Mr. Ted Turner and dinner with UN Foundation board members, including former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Queen Rania of Jordan, and Nobel Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank.

The Summit Series community announced three initiatives for contributions on Saturday, April 4, 2009, after hearing from the following social entrepreneurs who presented their non-profit organizations the previous evening:

- -Elizabeth Gore from the UN Foundation's [Nothing But Nets](#) campaign: an organization that aims to protect children from malaria through the distribution of mosquito nets. A child dies every 30 seconds from malaria.
- Lauren Bush from the [FEED Foundation](#) organization whose products such as its trademark "FEED Bag" will raise money to feed impoverished school children.
- Ethan Zohn from [Grassroot Soccer](#), who took his \$1M from winning Survivor Africa to set up soccer leagues in Africa enabling children to get tested for HIV/AIDS.
- Bobby Bailey from [Invisible Children](#), an organization that works to address the challenge of child soldiers in Uganda.

"The demonstration of commitment and real-time organization around a great cause is a testament to the energy behind this young group of entrepreneurs," stated Elizabeth Gore, executive director of global alliances for the UN Foundation and Nothing But Nets. "The entrepreneurs at the Summit Series Aspen '09 retreat have given to these great causes in an unprecedented way." The three campaigns were announced at a pre-dinner conference session on Saturday, April 4, 2009. The effort was led by Ryan Allis, 24, CEO of the 170-employee North Carolina software company iContact and supported by a steering committee of Elizabeth Gore and Elliott Bisnow, 23, founder of Summit Series.

The programs included:

Summit Series Spontaneous Auction: The auction for a private meeting with UN Foundation Chairman Mr. Ted Turner had an opening bid of \$25,000. After a healthy bidding process that included multiples raises, a price of \$150,000 was awarded to a bidder who wishes to remain anonymous. After losing to the final bid, Nolan Paquette, CEO of Just THINK Media spontaneously donated an incremental \$25,000 for the Nothing But Nets cause.

Summit Series \$50K Matching Campaign: Within four hours of hearing the panel of social entrepreneurs, the Summit Series community pulled together individual contributions totaling \$26,000 to provide as matching funds for donations secured by the four charities. The matching pool will continue to increase for five days as the group strives to reach a goal of \$50,000 to be donated equally to the four charities.

Summit Series Social Giving Competition for Contributions: Leveraging the competitive nature of the Summit Series community, the social giving drive will benefit the Malaria Net Campaign for Nothing But Nets & The UN Foundation. The Summit Series attendee who drives the largest number of contributors (as opposed to the greatest dollar figure) during a week-long period utilizing only social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter, will receive an all-expense paid trip with Elizabeth Gore and the UN Foundation to Africa to distribute nets this summer.

"The Aspen '09 retreat for the Summit Series community was unlike any experience I've had," stated Ryan Allis. "The intellectual capital and commitment to the future within this powerful group of leaders is tremendous. The generosity represented here demonstrates the power of giving back."

About Summit Series:

Summit Series is the only organization focused on building a community of young entrepreneurs that are changing the world. Summit Series was founded on the premise of bringing together CEOs, philanthropists, and entrepreneurs to affect positive change in the world. Through its invite-only retreats, Summit Series is the voice for the community of young leaders concerned about innovation for business, philanthropy and leadership. For more information, visit www.thesummitseries.com.

About Nothing But Nets:

Nothing But Nets is a global, grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. Inspired by sports columnist Rick Reilly, tens of thousands of people have joined the campaign that was created by the United Nations Foundation in 2006. Founding campaign partners include the National Basketball Association's NBA Cares, the people of The United Methodist Church, and Sports Illustrated. It costs just \$10 to provide a long-lasting insecticide-treated bed net to prevent this deadly disease. Visit www.NothingButNets.net to send a net and save a life. To date, Nothing But Nets has raised more than \$25 million and distributed over 2.5 million nets to children and families in Africa. One bed net can protect a family of four for up to five years. For more information, visit www.nothingbutnets.net.

About Invisible Children:

Invisible Children Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to exposing the tragedies of the children of Northern Uganda that are abducted to become child soldiers. Invisible Children documents true, untold stories in a creative and relevant way, resulting in positive change. More information is available at www.invisiblechildren.org.

About Grassroots Soccer:

Grassroot Soccer provides African youth with the knowledge, life skills, and support to live HIV-free. We continuously improve our innovative HIV/AIDS life-skills curriculum, share our program and concept effectively, and utilize the popularity of soccer to increase our impact. More information is available at www.grassrootsoccer.org.

About FEED Foundation:

School feeding is one of the most effective solutions to stopping hunger and breaking the poverty cycle. FEED Projects goal is to reach hungry children in the world through the sales of our FEED bags. FEED bags raise much-needed funds for school-feeding operations and awareness of the problem of child hunger. For more information, visit www.feedproject.org.

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