



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mobilize.org Acquires Sparkseed to Launch Innovative Millennial Fellowship Program

Merger leads to extensive growth in networking opportunities for Millennial social entrepreneurs

Washington, D.C. – Sparkseed, the leading incubator for Millennial social innovators, is joining forces with Mobilize.org to create a broader support network and investment vehicle for Millennial social entrepreneurs.

Mobilize.org, an organization that empowers and invests in Millennials to create and implement solutions to social problems, will integrate Sparkseed's social investment strategy and training into its programming. The fusion will enhance Mobilize.org and Sparkseed's efforts to launch successful Millennial-led civic ventures.

"For the last three years, the Sparkseed team worked hard to do everything we can to support the next generation of entrepreneurs by applying business principles to solve the world's toughest problems," Sparkseed founder Mike Del Ponte said. "This acquisition accelerates Sparkseed's ability to do just that."

As a result, the Mobilize.org Fellowship Program will consist of a 12-month virtual and in-person leadership development curriculum that equips Millennials with the skills and resources they need to become civic entrepreneurs. Through partnerships with civic leaders, organizations and community institutions, the Mobilize.org Fellowship Program trains and prepares winners from each Mobilize.org summit to successfully launch and implement civic entrepreneurial ventures in their communities and on their college campuses.

"We are ecstatic to include Sparkseed's stellar network of thought leaders and its program model as part of Mobilize.org's mission of investing in quality civic leadership," said Maya Enista, CEO of Mobilize.org. "Mike's valuable insight on our board of directors will be an incredible asset for guidance in our ability to support Millennial entrepreneurs."

After successfully completing the program, Mobilize.org Fellows will have a fully developed project plan, including a 12-month timeline and budget, a personal or team mentor with experience that corresponds to their project, and a financial investment to launch and support their civic venture.

Since its inception, Mobilize.org has funded and launched more than 34 Millennial-led projects that support initiatives to help overcome financial literacy for the Millennial Generation, environmental sustainability, and challenges young veterans face reintegrating into civilian life. Sparkseed has successfully supported more than 15 social ventures since the launch of its pilot program in 2007.

About Mobilize.org

Mobilize.org empowers and invests in Millennials to create and implement solutions to social problems. Utilizing technology and social networking to connect Millennials on and offline, Mobilize.org convenes Millennials from around the country to discuss issues impacting the Millennial Generation and to develop sustainable solutions to address them.

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Team Rubicon partners with Habitat for Humanity for Veterans Day Service Initiative

Washington, D.C. – Mobilize.org is proud to announce that past Democracy 2.0 Award winner Team Rubicon is partnering with Habitat for Humanity on Nov. 11 to rebuild and repair the homes of wounded military veterans across America.

“Service members who join the military do so out of an altruistic desire to commit themselves to a cause larger than their own,” Team Rubicon co-founder and vice president William McNulty said. “That desire does not end with their military service. As former soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines of Team Rubicon, we are proud to be partnering with Habitat this Veteran’s day to rebuild and repair the homes of our wounded warriors.”

Through these projects, Team Rubicon hopes to honor the strength and commitment to service that many veterans feel, with tools that are constructive instead of destructive. Projects will take place in five cities including Kansas City, Low Angeles, New York City, Washington, D.C. and Worcester, Mass.

“We’re showing the world that sometimes the law of unintended consequences pays off. There can be some good that comes out of ten years of war; a decade of service has given 2.2 million service members the talents and leadership to accomplish anything,” co-founder and president Jake Wood said of the project.

Wood was recently named the winner of GQ magazine’s fourth annual Better Men Better World Search. Each year, GQ accepts hundreds of nominations from across the country in its search for men who dedicate their time and energy for the betterment of society.

Wood and McNulty will deliver a TED style Millennial talk on leadership development and strategy during the Millennial Leadership Summit in New York City, Nov. 10 at The City University of New York’s Macaulay Honors College. They will also discuss how support from donors and organizations like Mobilize.org have helped them succeed in their work.

“Jake and Will exemplify the incredible impact that members of the Millennial Generation are capable of achieving to implement and solve critical social issues in our society,” Mobilize.org isCEO Maya Enista Smith said. “The work of Team Rubicon is a continuing inspiration in the field of civic entrepreneurship.

The organization won a Democracy 2.0 Award from Mobilize.org during the 2010 Beyond the Welcome one Summit, which helped them buy communications equipment and medical supplies that support Rubicon’s quick response ethos.

About Team Rubicon

Team Rubicon’s primary mission is providing disaster relief to those affected by natural disasters, be they domestic or international. By pairing the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders, medical professionals, and technology solutions, Team Rubicon aims to provide the greatest service and impact possible. The organization also provides veterans with three things they lose after leaving the military: a purpose, gained through disaster relief; community, built by serving with others; and self-worth, from recognizing the impact one individual can make.

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News Release

Nov. 10, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CEO Executive Director Addresses Local and National Millennial Civic Leaders on Social Innovation

New York, New York – On Nov. 11, The Center for Economic Opportunity Executive Director Veronica White will address Millennial civic entrepreneurs and leaders from across the country on the importance of innovation to solve social problems.

As the keynote speaker for Mobilize.org's Millennial Leadership Summit dinner at the Macaulay Honors College at CUNY, White will discuss the significance of supporting Millennial-led startups and the role of education in improving the national and global economy.

"Veronica's accomplishments and dedication to advancing civic engagement and reducing poverty makes her an unrivaled expert in the field," Mobilize.org CEO Maya Enista Smith said. "Participants will learn from her how to successfully navigate the intersection between public and private sector partnerships to improve peoples' lives."

Under White's direction, CEO launched more than 50 new and evidence-based programs, including Opportunity NYC, the nation's first conditional cash transfer program. CEO also developed an alternative to the federal poverty measure, which paved the way for the Census Bureau's recent release of a Supplemental Poverty Measure. Prior to her appointment as executive director, White was a consultant specializing in strategic business planning and management for nonprofits, real estate development and environmental issues, and public-private partnerships. She has served in various executive positions, including Chief Operating Officer of the New York City Partnership and President and CEO of the New York City Housing Partnership.

Participants in Mobilize.org's two-day Millennial Leadership Summit will engage in dialogue with local and national civic leaders in the social entrepreneurship and civic engagement fields, and discover leadership development and training opportunities on community organizing, communications/media, fundraising and strategic partnerships.

Sponsors for the Mobilize.org Millennial Leadership Summit include American Express, the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Lumina Foundation, Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund and The New Community College at CUNY.

For more information about the summit and a complete schedule of events, please visit www.mobilize.org/NYCSummit.

About The Center for Economic Opportunity

The Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) was established by Mayor Bloomberg in 2006 to implement innovative ways to reduce poverty in New York City. Supported by a combination of public and private funds, CEO works with City agencies to design and implement evidence-based initiatives aimed at poverty reduction. CEO is overseeing the implementation and evaluation of the City's new Young Men's Initiative programs and is now working to replicate five of its most promising programs in New York and cities across the country through the federal Social Innovation Fund. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/ceo.

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