

Young people improving their lives by improving their communities.

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YouthLaunch Named Finalist for Service Excellence Award

Greenlights to Announce Awards on September 24th

Greenlights for Nonprofit Success is honoring the outstanding achievements of Central Texas nonprofit organizations in the areas of Innovation, Service Excellence, Collaboration, and Learning in Action. The winners in each category will receive a \$1,500 grant and recognition from the Austin non-profit community.

One hundred and twenty nominations were submitted to Greenlights. YouthLaunch's Urban Roots program was chosen as a finalist for the Wortham Insurance Service Excellence Award. In just two years, Urban Roots has become a model of service excellence, empowering East Austin youth while feeding the community and increasing access of low-income communities to healthy, affordable food.

The winners will be announced September 24th at the Nonprofit Excellence Awards Luncheon during the Greenlights' Crossroads Conference.

To learn more about Urban Roots, click [HERE](#)

No Kidding News

New Year, New Peer Educators

The No Kidding program is heading into the new school year with 19 Peer Educators. Seven new parents are joining 12 returning Peer Educators. They are all excited to be in classrooms presenting before the end of the month.

A unique facet of No Kidding is the mentor program. Mentors are returning Peer Educators who have many hours of classroom experience and who continually go above and beyond the requirements of the program. Peer Educators who meet these criteria and are interested in the opportunity to further their growth and professional development by supporting incoming peer educators apply to be mentors. This year five mentors are assisting in training and supporting their peers as well as providing positive feedback to ensure that every No Kidding presentation meets high standards of excellence.



Mentor Spotlight

April Thompson-Hadnot is a new mentor this year. April joined No Kidding in December of last year and excelled in the program. In August she was promoted to mentor and is already supporting other peer educators.

"Every once in awhile we have a peer educator who exceeds our expectations in hard work, leadership, and strength of character." Jenifer DeAtley, Senior Program Coordinator, states that "April is just one of those people."

April is studying in the School of Social Work at the University of Texas and is active in extracurricular and community service activities. As a member of the Social Work Council and as a Social Work Representative on the Senate of College councils, she represents fellow students in academic affairs. Last semester she was part of a program called Longhorn Leaders, a

group of students who mentor at-risk youth, including those at the Gardner Betts Detention Center.

We are thrilled to have April help lead No Kidding into another successful year!

To learn more about No Kidding, click [HERE](#)

Youth Partnership for Change YPC Community Educator Attends Leadership Conference

Third year Youth Partnership for Change (YPC) Community Educator, Jaime Herrera and YPC Program Coordinator, Myra Constable attended the 11th Annual Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) National Leadership Conference "Beyond Boundaries: Timely Trends and Technology," held August 12th -14th in Dallas.

This conference is the preeminent Underage Drinking Conference in the nation. It offers the most innovative tools, resources and data for law enforcement officers, youth, parents, government officials, leaders and members of community-based organizations, legal professionals, health professionals and other individuals concerned with underage drinking.



Commenting on his experience at the conference, Jaime said, "I was so excited to attend the National Leadership Conference and was honored to represent YPC. Believe it or not, it was my first opportunity to ride on an airplane."

Jaime attended the "youth track" of the conference. This gave him the opportunity to network for two days with youth groups from all over the country.

The "youth track" participants were able to share their personal

experiences and resources as well as learn from each other. Jaime was able to learn more about effective prevention strategies, hear motivating speakers, engage in team-building activities with like-minded young people, and develop action plans to prevent underage drinking in his community.

To learn more about YPC, click [HERE](#)

Eat Local Week 2009

Edible Austin magazine's Eat Local Week (in its third year) is a week-long celebration of local food, in addition to being a fundraiser benefiting Urban Roots. During the first week in December, Central Texas restaurants feature locally sourced dishes and donate a portion of the proceeds to Urban Roots. Various events around town highlight the abundance of local food and beverage produced in our region.

If you attended any of the *Edible Austin* magazine Eat Local Week events last year, you know how much fun they are. This year promises to be even more exciting! Go to www.edibleaustin.com for the most up-to-date event information. The events so far:

- Friday, 12/4** -- Sustainable Food Book Fest at BookPeople
- Saturday, 12/5** -- Eat Local Week Kickoff at the Austin Farmers' Market
- Saturday 12/5** --Urban Farm Bicycle Tour presented by Bicycle Sport Shop
- Saturday, 12/5** -- Edible Austin Tea Festival at Zhi Tea
- Saturday, 12/5** -- Screening of the movie "Fresh" at the Paramount Theatre, with special guest appearance of the director and one of the film's stars
- Sunday, 12/6** --Drink Local Night at Annie's featuring the Tippy Texan Cocktail Contest
- Monday, 12/7** --Alamo Drafthouse Film and Feast
- Wednesday, 12/9** --Better Bites Edible Local Holiday Gift Bazaar
- Thursday, 12/10** -- Fine Food Art Gallery Night at Wally Workman Gallery
- Friday, 12/11** -- Meet Your Local Brewers Happy Hour at the Whip In Parlour Café and Market
- Saturday, 12/12** -- Local Food Celebrity Cook-Off at the Austin Farmers' Market

And remember to eat out that week and support local restaurants and markets that support local food. Restaurants like Eastside Cafe, Kerbey Lane, Leaning Pear Cafe & Eatery, Wheatsville Food Co-op, and Magnolia Cafe (all of whom participated in both the 2007 & 2008 Eat Local Weeks).

We are actively seeking restaurants, corporate sponsors, and volunteers for the week and the events. Restaurants should go

to *Edible Austin* magazine's [website](#) to sign-up. Interested businesses can contact Russell Smith (rsmith@youthlaunch.org) or Marla Camp (marla@edibleaustin.com).

To volunteer for an event please contact Jen Lester at jlester@youthlaunch.org.

New Partnerships & Opportunities

Investors

YouthLaunch is truly grateful for the support of the following foundations, companies, and institutions (support received in August 2009): Applied Materials, Central Insurance Company, the Austin Aztex, Pfizer, Petroleum Wholesalers, Austin Center for Spiritual Living, and Eco Series Austin.

New Board Members

YouthLaunch is delighted to welcome five new board members: Wendy Dittmer, Jay Ellwanger, Linda Medina, Ryan Rothrock & Eric Starkloff. All are very active YouthLaunch champions. They serve on committees, attend events, and assist with development. Welcome aboard!

A New Giving Option

Many of us wish we could donate more to our favorite non profit but just don't have the ability to write as large a check as we wish. Giving monthly is one way to make donating easier to manage. YouthLaunch has several options for making a monthly commitment. Click [HERE](#) to see the monthly giving options.

Join the Cause(s)!

YouthLaunch has developed Facebook Causes pages for Urban Roots, No Kidding, and YPC. Our program staff and youth participants keep these updated with information about the program and news relevant to the issue. Join at:

[No Kidding](#)

[Urban Roots](#)

[Youth Partnership for Change](#)

[FORWARD](#) this e-newsletter.

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