DECEMBER 2025 Newsletter

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY YOUTH NETWORK

THE FUTURE IS YOUNG

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A Year in Review

As we close out 2025, our work at GOYN has continued to grow and lead with purpose against a backdrop of shifting and unpredictable conditions. This year marked important milestones for GOYN, including the launch of our narrative change campaign to influence how Opportunity Youth are seen, valued, and supported. We took steps to expand our 17-community, nine-country footprint and conducted scoping trips in Brazil and Morocco for new communities.

Throughout 2025, GOYN has also reached a series of notable ‘firsts’ that expanded our learning and strengthened our collective impact. In August, GOYN India hosted the first-ever "Regional" Youth Convening in Ranchi, Jharkhand. Centered on the theme The Power of Us: Enhancing Collaboration to Foster Sustainable Youth Livelihoods, the convening was designed and led entirely by youth, from setting the theme and shaping the agenda to facilitating discussions.

In October the GOYN regional team in Latin America came together with our communities and young leaders from the Youth Advisory Groups (YAG) in Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil to publish GOYN’s first regional report. Lastly, GOYN launched the first cross-regional virtual ELP training with adult allies and young leaders from India, Africa, and Latin America. As a result, more young people will be equipped to discuss, understand, address, and advocate for equitable communities, policies, and opportunities across the globe.

We are grateful to everyone that has been a part of our journey this past year and we look forward to deepening our partnership with you in 2026.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Decola Cria “Um Rio de Oportunidades” Job Fair







On November 6th, Decola Cria held the first edition of the "Um Rio de Oportunidades" job fair in partnership with CIEE, the Youth Secretariat, Instituto Entre o Céu e a Favela, and VLT Carioca, the terminal manager. The event featured the participation of various companies and organizations offering more than 7,000 educational and work opportunities for young people in Rio de Janeiro, as well as public services offered to expand youth access to fundamental rights, and cultural activities.

Fondation Botnar OurCity Learning Gathering



From November 17th through the 21st, GOYN was honored to be part of the 2025 OurCity Gathering in Barranquilla, Colombia. Fondation Botnar's OurCity initiative brings together powerful insights from five cities across the world to transform them into places where young people's wellbeing and opportunity is secured. This week offered an incredible opportunity to learn, exchange, and dream alongside youth, local leaders, and global partners. Throughout the gathering, delegations from Tanzania, Romania, Ecuador, Ghana, and Colombia came together to explore how cities are strengthening authentic youth participation and advancing youth-centered approaches to local development.

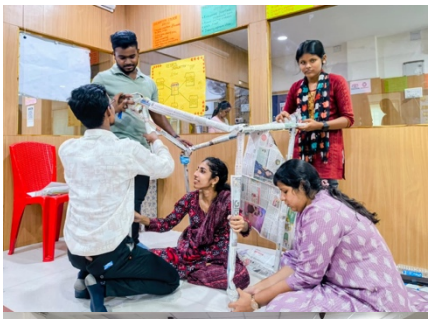
"Empresas con La Juventud" Awards in Mexico City



On November 13, GOYN Mexico City brought together close to 100 companies committed to expanding opportunities for young people and awarded about 60 for their outstanding youth inclusion practices. Through "Empresas con la Juventud", businesses and partners join forces to advance meaningful pathways for Opportunity Youth inclusion.

Bhubaneswar and Pune YAG Inductions







In early November, Sameer Shaikh, GDI's Youth Engagement Associate for India, visited GOYN's communities in Bhubaneswar and Pune for the induction of new Youth Advisory Group members. The event was part of a new initiative to organize a three-day induction for newly onboarded YAG members — covering guest speaker sessions, leadership workshops, and an overview of both GOYN and the Anchor Partner organizations.

India Youth Spotlights







We’re proud to share that Yash Karale, member of GOYN and Lighthouse Communities Foundation's Youth Advisory Group (YAG), represented India at the ASEAN Youth Conference 2025 held in Malaysia and was honoured with the Most Inspiring Youth Award 2025 among 120 delegates from 15 countries.

Another YAG member and youth innovator Satish now runs Kaida Mitra in Pune. His journey is incredibly inspiring — what began as a Facebook page for spreading legal awareness has now evolved into a youth-led startup supported by the Youth Innovation Fund. Kaida Mitra (which means Legal Friend in Marathi) continues to empower young people and citizens through legal education and active civic engagement — with a growing presence on YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook.

Lastly, we are happy to share that Lighthouse Communities Foundations' youth leader, Pragati Kopare, has been appointed as a Scientific Assistant under Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratory (DFSL), Government of Maharashtra, where she will serve as a Crime Scene Investigator. As a Youth Innovator, she co-founded Cyber Crime Alert, through which she has educated over 200 young people on cybercrime awareness and responsible internet use. Her YIF project included awareness campaigns and sessions by cybercrime specialists and cyber police officers who shared real-world insights with participants.

Three Years of Impact in Mombasa





Swahilipot Hub Foundation and GOYN Mombasa marked three years of partnership by hosting the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's Opportunity Youth team for a week of learning and collaboration in September. The visit highlighted new Tracer Study findings showing the partnership's transformational impact—strengthening youth confidence and agency, opening pathways to formal jobs, gig opportunities, and education re-entry, supporting the launch and growth of youth-led businesses, and increasing incomes and household assets. Beyond the data, the week offered an important moment to reflect on how to scale this work so that no young person is left behind.

RECENT EVENTS

6th Annual GOYN Global Convening 2025 – São Paulo, Brazil



In early October we brought together more than **380** youth leaders, partners, and changemakers from **16** countries around the world for the 6th Annual GOYN Global Convening, hosted in São Paulo, Brazil.

Over three days, participants explored the theme ***Connections That Transform Youth: The Power of a Global Community***, sharing solutions to expand economic opportunity for young people and tackle barriers related to education, the future of work, green jobs, mental health, and structural injustices.

This year's Convening embodied GOYN's commitment to Authentic Youth Partnership, with young leaders co-designing, co-facilitating, and leading key moments throughout the event. Over **65%** of presenters and nearly **70%** of attendees were youth, reflecting our belief that young people must be equal partners in shaping the systems that impact their lives.

We extend our deep thanks to our young partners, Juventudes Potentes, and United Way Brasil whose leadership and creativity continue to make GOYN a global movement grounded in authentic collaboration.

Decola Cria's One Year Learning Gathering



On October 9 and 10 Decola Cria, GOYN's Community in Rio de Janiero, celebrated its first anniversary with two vibrant days of exchange, learning, and global connection. Young people and partners from around the world—many arriving straight from the Global Convening São Paulo—joined a dynamic program of panels, cultural moments, and collaborative activities.

Across two days of events in Rio de Janeiro, Decola Cria showcased its progress, celebrated youth leadership, and deepened global and local connections. Day one featured presentations, panels on youth opportunities and movement-building, and a collaborative space where partner organizations shared their work. Day two focused on youth well-being and systemic challenges, with diverse panelists discussing barriers and community-driven solutions, concluding with a tour of Little Africa that grounded the conversations in local history. The gathering highlighted both the impact already made by Decola Cria and its growing momentum.

Aspen Ideas Economy





From October 20-21, we were thrilled to join the inaugural Aspen Ideas: Economy Event in Newark, New Jersey. Over two days we learned from leaders, scholars, and innovators shaping the economic future of Newark, the US, and the globe. Our Founding Director, Jamie McAuliffe, joined a panel moderated by Shané Harris, Vice President of Social Responsibilities and Partnerships and President of the Prudential Financial Foundation with Robert Clark from the Newark Opportunity Youth Network and Yaneliz Cabrera, a young advocate and Sensemaking Fellow from Newark to showcase the ways that deep, years long commitments to place—from Newark to Mexico City to Mombasa, Kenya—can lead to tangible, systems level changes to support Opportunity Youth to thrive.

You can watch the full panel discussion here.