

Social Enterprise Institute USA

Current Projects



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE USA

What is a Social Enterprise?

A social enterprise may look, feel, and sometimes operate like a traditional business, but its goal and driving force is social, cultural, economic, or environmental outcomes. A social enterprise applies commercial strategies to improve human and environmental well-being.

Frequently, a social enterprise is owned at least in part by another organization – non-profit, for-profit, or hybrid – which uses entrepreneurial methods to accomplish social goals and uses a portion of its profits to continue working towards these goals.

Some examples of organizations with social enterprises are Ten Thousand Villages, Tom's, Warby Parker, Newman's Own, Patagonia, and Habitat for Humanity.

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Act for Humanity (AFH) Foundation

The Act for Humanity (AFH) foundation is a nonprofit committed to education, community development, and economic empowerment for women entrepreneurs in Nepal and in Nepali-US refugee communities. AFH has partnered with the Social Enterprise Institute USA (SEI) to develop its vision and plan. Under its owned subsidiary, Nepali Spice Company, AFH will build growing and packaging systems owned and operated by Nepali women working under contract with the foundation. AFH will create and sell a unique spice blend to local chefs in the Lancaster and Harrisburg communities, reinvesting profits into additional living wage jobs for Nepali refugees.

Commercial Driver LifeNet (CDLN)

Elizabethtown College Master of Occupational Therapy students, in conjunction with Commercial Driver LifeNet (CDLN) and the Social Enterprise Institute USA (SEI), are running a pilot program for commercial truck drivers. Commercial truck drivers experience more stress and health conditions than other working populations; however, their irregular schedules and life on the road make access to health care difficult. Drivers must have good physical and mental health to maintain their commercial driver's license (CDL) and their job. Through the Occupational Coaching – done over the telephone in an office in the Occupational Therapy Department – and Care Management program, coaches work with the truck drivers to identify their occupational needs and set goals for health behavior change. The Research Assistants are working with truck drivers for eight weeks to test the effectiveness of the life coaching. Its success will be measured through qualitative feedback from the drivers, as well as quantitative data gathered from the assessments. The goal for the Occupational Coaching and Care Management program is to develop it into a larger, inter-professional health and wellness program for commercial truck drivers.

Community Place on Washington

The United Churches Elizabethtown Area (UCEA), a 501c(3) public charity, designed the Community Place on Washington (CPOW) program. The UCEA, representing 20 churches of various denominations, formed this social service co-location shared services hub in Elizabethtown, PA to serve as a national model for community services to end homelessness and provide low-cost healthcare, counseling, and support for low-income families. CPOW believes all families and individuals of Elizabethtown area deserve a self-sufficient and productive life. The Social Enterprise Institute USA (SEI) provided organizational development services and financial advisory services at no cost as part of our community engagement commitment. Currently, CPOW is working on expanding to Phase II to provide a clothing bank, counseling services, a dental clinic, job skills training, medical services, additional crisis housing apartments, expanded winter shelter, and an expanded ECHOS office.

HoodRISE Academy

HoodRISE Nation, a global leader for urban community development and transformation, founded and operated by Nashon Walker, strives for the establishment of cultures of success in the lives of inner-city youth. Through Walker's work, the organization's mission is to inspire and empower young people around the world to reach for something so great, so magnificent, and so beyond themselves in hopes that they achieve the impossible and change the world in which they live. The SEI Research Assistant, Paul Lecurieux-Lafayette, helps HoodRISE develop its business model and identify potential target markets for HoodRISE's products and services. Prior to developing the business model, an observation and documentation of the current process of mentoring middle school-aged youth will provide material to produce a concept paper as well as an impact statement.

Keystone Healthcare Development – Primary Health Network

The Social Enterprise Institute USA (SEI) was engaged by Keystone Healthcare Development on behalf of the Primary Health Network to assist in their organizational expansion. The Primary Health Network is an expanding network of federally qualified health centers, offering quality medical care to low-income individuals. Its mission is to serve its local communities through caring for people regardless of identity or ability to pay. In turn, this relieves overburdened hospitals by offering preventative care, as well as other care options for people waiting in emergency rooms for less urgent needs.

Currently, the SEI is supporting the Keystone Healthcare Development in their construction of a new \$10 million health center in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, and six additional expansions. The SEI is also developing a gap funding model and reporting program incorporating Impact Investors for the remainder of the Primary Health Network's expansion program.

MISSIO Theological Seminary

The Social Enterprise Institute USA (SEI) was engaged by MISSIO Theological Seminary to source and provide financial advisory services to address the need for low- and moderate-income housing for the vulnerable senior veteran population throughout the Indian Valley and North Penn Regions of Montgomery County, PA. The Hatfield Senior Living Development involves the construction of a new 75-unit senior development on a 4.7-acre site located in Hatfield, PA. The project will target seniors aged 62 and older earning at or below 60% Area Media Income (AMI). If not for the actions of MISSIO and its partners, these housing units would not be built. The elderly veteran population is particularly vulnerable to both housing and health issues due to the increased cost of living. The current elderly population is less financially secure than previous generations. Ensuring that the elderly population has access to the affordable housing they need to enjoy high-quality, independent, and financially secure lives has taken on new urgency.

Octoraro H₂O Native Plants

Octoraro H₂O Native Plants, a subsidiary to Octoraro Native Plants Nursery, is developing a hydroponic system that uses nitrates from waste to grow hard-to-obtain, long-root plants native to the diminishing wetlands. Currently, they are part of a large, native plant nursery expansion project. Octoraro Native Plants strives to follow sound environmental, horticultural, and business practices. The Social Enterprise Institute USA (SEI) provided corporate organizational and financial advisory, as well as other technical support.

Pinnacle Alliance League (PAL)

The Social Enterprise Institute USA (SEI) was engaged by Pinnacle Alliance League (PAL) to form a social enterprise with the purpose of utilizing a program of athletic competition in order to foster the prevention and alleviation of recognized social problems associated with urban youth athletics. PAL strives to improve the well-being of individuals (including underprivileged children), groups and communities. It works towards providing children with safe places to exercise. PAL will help underprivileged youths by providing scholarships and sponsoring teams to help them further their athletic and scholastic futures through sports.

Roughly half of children in the public-school system qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches and do not have disposable income to spend on travel teams or even school sports. Coming from poverty hurts a child's chances of getting an athletic scholarship or having a professional career. PAL is working to find ways to get kids who want to play able to play, regardless of their income.

Popped Culture

Local Harrisburg-based social enterprise Popped Culture donates a bag of popcorn to local children who are hungry for every bag of gourmet popcorn sold. Additionally, Popped Culture partners with organizations such as the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. A group of students from Elizabethtown College as Social Enterprise Institute USA (SEI) Research Assistants have been working with the founder since the Fall 2016 semester. SEI students helped the founder improve and expand his business outreach, brainstorm on how to bridge the gap between his goals and the community at-large, and even developed a special marketing campaign with incentives for the past holiday season. Local news agency ABC 27 picked up the story:

<http://abc27.com/2016/12/03/harrisburg-popcorn-company-helps-youth-programs/>.

RiverStewards Blend

A veteran owned and operated social enterprise, RiverStewards Blend Inc. is focused on establishing a sustainable funding stream that supports Pennsylvania veteran programs and the transitioning of homeless veterans back into communities. The company will bag and market a soil conditioner, ComposT™, produced from converted biosolid- and hardwood-based waste. Social Enterprise Institute USA (SEI) was engaged to provide corporate organizational services and financial services, as well as other technical advice.

RiverStewards, Inc.

The Social Enterprise Institute USA (SEI) was engaged by RiverStewards, Inc. to assist in the development of a social enterprise. RiverStewards has two different organizations that will work together to generate a collaboration and collective impact. The RiverStewards Benefit Corporation will work towards generating profit through product commercialization, investment funding advisory services, and collaborative process management. These profits will then fund the nonprofit branch, RiverStewards Collaborative, so it may become self-sustaining. The nonprofit will utilize this funding for river economic curation, research and education, and data repository. SEI will work with both sides of RiverStewards to manage their financial resources and identify future funding sources that could advance the organizations' work.

Shalom House

The Shalom House is a homeless services shelter for women with children in Harrisburg, PA. Their mission is to create a pathway to lasting independence for women and children through collaboration and community. The Shalom House provides basic needs for these women in the shelter: a bed, assistance with food resources, clothing, health and hygiene supplies, and a temporary address and telephone number. SEI was engaged to start a social enterprise services group with the goal of developing earned revenue funding and provide other workforce development where on the job training can lead to living wage jobs.

Significant Systems

The Social Enterprise Institute USA (SEI) was engaged by Significant Systems to provide financial advisory services. SEI Research Assistants from area colleges and universities provided bookkeeping assistance, updated the QuickBooks Online account and sent out monthly financials for the Board of Directors. SEI also worked with tax accountants to provide them with the information they needed to file the taxes. Significant Systems is a startup venture that supplied schools with online learning software.

YourChoice Foundation

Inspired by the life story of a former addict, this program primarily seeks to prevent substance abuse before it starts through its work with 6th and 9th grade students. The project includes integration with YourChoice Foundation (YFC) subsidiary Benefit Corporation – Best Choice Events. The Social Enterprise Institute USA (SEI) works with YFC in corporate organizational and financial advisory services.