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# Meet The Winners Of The Millennial Impact Challenge

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Over the past few months, more than 200 emerging leaders from around the country competed for a shot at one of 15 Millennial Impact Grants, totaling \$110,000. These community-focused entrepreneurs were part of the first-ever Millennial Impact Challenge, run by IGNITEgood and supported by the Heartfelt Foundation and The Huffington Post. It was a nationwide search for the best public service projects launched and developed by innovators under the age of 33.

Five winners were be selected by a team of Generation Y expert judges—more on the selection committee here. Another five winners were chosen by public vote on The Huffington Post Impact—more than 24,000 votes were cast for the 10 Readers' Choice Award finalists. And finally, the Directors of IGNITEgood chose 5 additional recipients for the Director's Choice Award.

And now, without further ado, it's time to meet your winners.

## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARD WINNERS

Random Farms Kids' Theater, Anya Wallach, age 33, New York, NY

Random Farms Kids' Theater (RFKT) produces the anti-bullying musical, "The New Kid," written for children in grades 2-8. The theater company tours elementary and middle schools in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, casting troupes of young people as actors. To date, RFKT has performed for about 20,000 students at approximately 80 schools—it's free to cast members and affordable for participating schools. This upcoming year, which marks the beginning of its fifth season, they already have another 24 performances booked at 17 schools, which will bring RFKT's anti-bullying awareness programming and theater performance training to more than 25,000 additional community members.

Website: [www.randomfarms.com](http://www.randomfarms.com)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Random-Farms-Kids-Theater/328483591809?ref=ts&fref=ts>



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Margaret Wheeler Johnson

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# Ignition 2013: These Women Prove Millennials Aren't Lazy Narcissists

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NEW YORK -- Time magazine's May 20 cover story "[The Me Me Me Generation](#)," describing millennials as entitled, lazy and narcissistic, left some members of the generation in question understandably [perturbed](#). It's not a flattering portrait. Though a lot of the data could be read differently, it's just the latest in a decade of [books](#) and [magazine cover stories](#) about these [crazy kids](#) who, Time's Joel Stein wrote, crave only fame and lack work ethic, creativity and a basic sense of empathy.

A counterpoint to this image of millennials was in evidence last week at an event called [Ignition 2013](#), four days of social change seminars hosted by The Huffington Post and Ignite Good, part of the [Heartfelt Foundation](#) working to give young people tools to enact social change. Ignition brought together 20 representatives from 15 millennial-led organizations that won grants from Ignite Good's [Millennial Impact Challenge](#) for work to solve monumental problems in the U.S. and abroad, from unemployment to limited access to electricity in East Africa.

Interviews with some of the female igniters -- 10 men and 10 women attended -- revealed a very different picture of millennials than the complacent, attention-seeking do-nothings described in Time.

At 34, [Anya Wallach](#), is not technically a millennial "I think of myself as one of the senior citizen igniters," she quipped. But she's close, and she exhibits none of the scattered focus attributed to people roughly her age. She started [Random Farms Kids' Theater](#), a nonprofit children's theater, when she was 16 and has never had another job. Eighteen years later, she's still at it, but she has made it the organization's mission to combat bullying through its anti-bullying musical, "The New Kid." The show tours schools in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut and, according to Wallach, has been performed for 20,000 students in 80 schools. So much for a lack of empathy.

The dearth of creativity cited in the Time article also wasn't in evidence at Ignition, especially with organizations working internationally.



# 'Ignition 2013' Millennial 'Bootcamp' Highlights Future Of Social Impact, Features Ashoka, Acumen, Huffington Post (LIVE BLOG)

The Huffington Post | By Jessica Prois 🐦👍  
Posted: 06/11/2013 10:45 am EDT | Updated: 06/17/2013 11:33 am EDT 🖨️

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Millennials, like every generation, have their own jargon to communicate a message. But for many young people today, words such as "solutionaries" have more meaning than "yolo."

These very Gen-Yers are meeting in New York this week for **Ignition 2013**, a four-day event featuring social change seminars.

The event will feature talks from changemakers ranging from the novice to the accomplished, including Arianna Huffington, President and Editor-in-Chief of the Huffington Post Media Group; Jacqueline Novogratz, Founder and CEO of the **Acumen Fund** and Bill Drayton, Founder and CEO of **Ashoka** at a Tuesday panel called "The Future Of Social Impact."

The special session will highlight research and open the discussion to young people who won the the Millennial Impact Challenge, a partnership initiative between the Huffington Post and **Ignite Good**, a branch of the Heartfelt Foundation that works to empower young people to create social change.

Ignition 2013 will honor 15 millennial-led organizations that have been awarded grants to carry out projects that create solutions that solve critical global and domestic issues. The group is in various stages of launching initiatives such as empowering Detroit students to become entrepreneurs or a pay-as-you-go system for solar energy to help off-grid families.

The four-day Ignition 2013 workshop includes, storytelling seminars, best practice strategies and talks from leaders in the space including Donors Choose CEO Charles Best, DoSomething COO Aria Finger and David Allen, the author of "Getting Things Done," among many others.

*Check out our liveblog below for updates from the "Future Of Social Impact" panel, which runs from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 11:*