

Social Enterprise Resources

Blogs, Magazines, and Online Communities

- [Stanford Social Innovation Review](#): A quarterly magazine that "shares substantive insights and practical experiences that will help those who do the important work of improving society do it even better." The journal "explores strategies, management tools, and ideas for nonprofits, foundations, and socially responsible businesses, providing a multi-stakeholder approach to social issues and brokers dialogue across sectors."
- [Social Edge](#): A "global online community where social entrepreneurs and other practitioners of the social benefit sector connect to network, learn, inspire and share resources." The Skoll Foundation manages it.
- [Nextbillion.net](#): A blog that explores the connection between development and enterprise. Nextbillion.net has a [career center](#) with job postings, and Acumen Fund and the World Resources Institute jointly manage it.
- [Acumen Blog](#): "The Acumen Fund blog highlights news and offers commentary on social investments, entrepreneurship, base of the pyramid (BoP) business strategies, and other organizations and projects related to Acumen Fund's mission to solve the problems of global poverty through entrepreneurial solutions."
- [Bottom Billion Blog](#): brings together the "latest news, opinions and case studies from across Africa and other countries of the Bottom Billion" and "covers topics ranging across economics, business and technology and showcases exciting and emerging African opportunities."
- [Social entrepreneur API](#) (Application Programming Interface): Scheduled to launch in July 2009 will provide the first open database of social entrepreneurs that have won fellowships and awards from social enterprise funders. "The tool will allow philanthropists, investors, press, and fellow entrepreneurs to find social entrepreneurs based on keyword, location, cause area, population served, and a variety of other factors."

Helpful Books/Reports

- *The Blue Sweater*
- *Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism*, Muhammad Yunus
- *How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas*, David Bornstein
- *The Power of Unreasonable People*, John Elkington and Pamela Hartigan
- *Tribes*, Seth Godin
- *In the River They Swim: Essays from Around the World on Enterprise Solutions to Poverty*, Michael Fairbanks, Malik Fal, Marcela Escobari-Rose, Elizabeth Hooper
- "The Next 4 Billion: Market Size and Business Strategy at the Base of the Pyramid," *World Resources Institute*, Allen Hammond, William J Kramer, Julia Tran, Rob Katz, Courtland Walker
- *Development As Freedom*
- *The White Man's Burden and The Elusive Quest for Growth*, William Easterly
- *End of Poverty*, Jeffrey Sachs
- *The Bottom Billion*, Paul Collier
- *Portfolios of the Poor*
- [Emerging Markets, Emerging Models](#) (Monitor)
- [Encountering Development](#)
- *The Microfinance Revolution: Sustainable Finance for the Poor*, Marguerite Robinson
- *The Shackled Continent: Power, Corruption, and African Lives*
- *The fate of Africa*

- *The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair*
- *On The Postcolony*, Achilles Mbembe
- *Leadership Without Easy Answers*
- *Mastering the Rockefeller Habits: What You Must Do to Increase the Value of Your Growing Firm*
- *To Save a Life*
- *From Good to Great*, Jim Collins
- *What Color is Your Parachute?* (job hunting)
- *King Leopold's Ghost*
- *The New Work*
- *Career Anchor*
- *The Price of a Dream: The Story of the Grameen Bank*, David Bornstein
- [Blended value publications](#) by Jed Emerson
- [Leading Boldly](#), Michael Porter and Mark Kramer: How philanthropy can have greater impact
- *Be Bold* (Echoing Green)
- *Flow*

Fellowships and supporting organizations

- [Acumen Fellows](#)
- [Echoing Green](#): "Each year, Echoing Green awards 20 two-year fellowships to social entrepreneurs. Fellows receive up to \$90,000 in seed funding and technical support to turn their innovative ideas into sustainable social change organizations."
- [Ashoka](#) supports social entrepreneurs as Ashoka Fellows. Ashoka has already supported "over 2,000 Fellows in over 60 countries on the world's five main continents."
- [Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship](#) fund social entrepreneurs with tested approaches to social change that they are ready to scale up. The awards are meant for programs with at least three-year track records, not for new or early-stage initiatives.
- The [Stanford Center on Social Innovation](#) publishes the [Stanford Social Innovation Review](#). The free [Social Innovations Conversations](#) podcast addresses topics such as social entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability, philanthropy, corporate social responsibility, and responsible investing.
- [PopTech Social Innovation Fellows Program](#) each year "selects 10-20 high potential change agents from around the world who are working on highly disruptive innovations... Fellows work in both the for-profit and not-for-profit worlds, have a minimum of 3-5 years experience, and are working in organizations that are well positioned for sustainable growth... Fellows participate in an all-expenses-paid, multi-day intensive program focused on insights and tools for accelerating and scaling "big bet" innovations, such as branding, media relations, social/Web2.0 media, finance, leadership, digital storytelling, design for impact and organizational development." Fellows then participate in and present briefly at the PopTech conference.

Conferences and networking opportunities

- The annual [Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship](#) brings together social entrepreneurs and other prominent figures from around the world.
- The [Social Capital Markets](#) conference in San Francisco brings together a community to build "the market at the intersection of money and meaning" (blog at <http://socialcapitalmarkets.net/blog/>)
- The [Global Engagement Summit](#) at Northwestern University "began in 2005 as an attempt to develop better training for students participating in on-the-ground international development and social entrepreneurship,

to put driven students in touch with one another and with innovative nonprofit leaders, and to develop a resource network to support student global change projects."

- [StartingBloc](#) is a national conference/network that "educates, empowers and connects emerging leaders to drive positive social change across sectors."
- [Harvard Social Enterprise Conference](#) "brings together the nonprofit, private, and public sectors - and puts best practices from across industries and around the globe to work toward the common good." It is attended by both students and professionals.
- Networking opportunities: Many cities have [Young Nonprofit Professionals Networks](#), and Acumen Fund now has a [Young Professionals for Acumen Fund](#) group.

Twitter

- socialentrprnr (Nathaniel Whittmore)
- yzaidman (Yasmina Zaidman)
- acumenfund
- jnovogratz (Jaqueline Novogratz)
- socialedge
- Social Enterprise Twibe: <http://www.twibes.com/group/Social-Enterprise>. A twibe is a group of Twitter users interested in a common topic and can be helpful in finding new Twitter followers or Twitter groups. This one is focused on social enterprise.

Resources on related subjects

Networks and social marketing

- [Here Comes Everybody: The Power of Organizing Without Organizations](#) by Clay Shirky is a book about what happens when people are given the tools to do things together, without needing traditional organizational structures. Shirky explores how social media enable sharing, collaboration, and collective action and identifies characteristics of strong organizations.
- [Spare Change](#) blog: “making a difference with social marketing.” The author is a consultant, author and speaker who uses social marketing to promote health and social issues for nonprofits and public agencies.
- [Seth Godin’s Blog](#)

Nonprofits and philanthropy

- *Uncharitable: How Restraints on Nonprofits Undermine Their Potential* by Dan Pallotta.
- *Philanthrocapitalism* by Bishop and Green. The authors also have a [blog](#).
- [Just Another Emperor: The Myths and Realities of Philanthrocapitalism](#) by Michael Edwards challenges some forms of blending business and civil society. It’s intentionally provocative and worth a read if your work deals with blended value. The book is short and available for free download as a pdf. If you find the book interesting you can also check out the lively online [debate](#) about similar ideas. [Michael Edwards’](#) work deals with philanthropy, civil society, international co-operation and social transformation.
- The [Tactical Philanthropy Blog](#) by Sean Stannard-Stockton is a major web hub for discussion of philanthropy. Sean is also on Twitter ([tactphil](#)).
- [Philanthropy 2173](#) Blog by Lucy Bernholz is updated less often than Tactical Philanthropy, but Lucy nearly always has something interesting to say about making social change. Lucy is the founder and President of Blueprint Research and Design, a strategy consulting firm for philanthropic institutions and individuals, and is a recognized thought leader in philanthropy.
- Venture philanthropy: [Social Venture Partners blog](#). Social Venture Partners is a network of engaged donors.

Business and entrepreneurship

- [Creative Capitalism](#) is a collection of essays and commentary on capitalism, philanthropy and global development provoked by a speech Bill Gates delivered this January at the World Economic Forum in Davos. In it, Gates said that many of the world’s problems are too big for philanthropy--even on the scale of the Gates Foundation, meaning that the free-market capitalist system itself would have to solve them.
- [Ideablob](#) provides a forum where "entrepreneurs and small business owners can share and grow their business ideas – and have a chance to win \$10,000 towards fulfilling them." Eligible individuals submit their ideas and the online community votes to determine which idea wins a monthly \$10,000.
- [Four Steps to the Epiphany](#): Step-by-step strategy for how to successfully organize sales, marketing and business development for a new product or company. Friends engaged in startups say it’s essential, but not fun at all to read.
- The annual [Pop!Tech conference](#) brings together an eclectic group for presentations and networking.
- [TED conference](#) and [TED Fellows](#)

Aid and sustainable development

- Jeffrey Sachs’ *The End of Poverty* and Bill Easterly’s *The White Man’s Burden*
- *The Bottom Billion*, Paul Collier
- *Reinventing Foreign Aid*, ed. By Bill Easterly. A series of essays on development aid with a lengthy introduction by Bill Easterly.
- *Dead Aid*, Dambisa Moyo (also an interesting [review](#) of it)