



A Year End Media Update from Echoing Green

Record-breaking Number of Applicants Apply for 2008 Echoing Green Fellowship

As 2007 comes to a close, Echoing Green has 1465 reasons to celebrate the New Year. Up nearly 65 percent from last year, our newest applicant pool for the Echoing Green Fellowship breaks all previous records! The applications arrived from 48 states and 83 countries with the largest concentrations from New York, California, India, Nigeria, and Kenya. Although each application sheds light on a specific social need, the most common program area theme (31 percent) is community improvement. Other leading program areas addressed include education (18 percent), youth (10 percent), environment (9 percent) and health (8 percent).

With such strong competition, there will be a pleasurable but grueling process of selecting only a small percentage of these applicants for an Echoing Green Fellowship. Over the course of five months, they will be reviewed through a rigorous four-phase evaluation with the final decision made by the Finalist Selection Committee, a distinguished mix of academics, business leaders, foundation officers, and Echoing Green Fellows.

"As an angel investor considering ideas often still on paper, we have a unique window on what's next in social change," says Dr. Cheryl Dorsey, President of Echoing Green. The 2008 fellows will be announced next summer.

Echoing Green Moving Policy Forward

Echoing Green has joined with over sixty organizations as a partner in [America Forward](#). Launched on December 11, 2007, the America Forward coalition seeks to persuade presidential candidates to consider social entrepreneurship as a part of their campaign platforms.

The campaign has already met with some success. Recently, Democratic candidate Senator Barack Obama [announced](#) that he adopted a number of the coalition's policy recommendations.

Echoing Green's *Be Bold* Text Makes Further Campus Inroads



Just a year after being published, Echoing Green's *Be Bold: Create a Career with Impact* (www.BeBold.org) has reached over 50,000 readers. Penned by Echoing Green's President, [Dr. Cheryl Dorsey](#) and Vice President of Strategy, [Lara Galinsky](#), the book has not only sold well to readers, but has been used by professors at thirty institutions across the country, including NYU, Harvard, University of Chicago and UCLA. Early evidence that the book's message is resonating: more than 10 percent of the 2008 Echoing Green Fellowship applicants cited *Be Bold* as the tool that introduced them to Echoing Green.

Echoing Green Fellows represent 20 percent of Social Capitalist Awardees

What do 20 percent of the newly announced [Fast Company/Monitor Group Social Capitalist Award winners](#) have in common? Of the forty-five organizations chosen for the awards, nine got their start with an angel investment from Echoing Green--whom *Fast Company* describes as one of a few "funding sources that borrow the language and sensibility of for-profit markets." Former Echoing Green Fellow organizations receiving the prestigious designation include [BELL](#), [Citizens School](#), [City Year](#), [College Summit](#), [Jumpstart](#), [Public Allies](#), [SEED Foundation](#), [Teach For America](#), and [Working Today/Freelancers Union](#).

Be Bold Cocktails Event in November Highlights Leading Social Entrepreneurs



The Echoing Green Social Investment Council, a group of talented socially-conscious young leaders from the private sector, recently hosted its annual **Be Bold Cocktails** party honoring modern day social change agents in action. The 2007 honorees were Vikram Akula (Founder of SKS Microfinance and 1998 Echoing Green Fellow), Richard L. Chilton,

Jr., (Chairman and CEO of Chilton Investment Company), and Joel Klein (Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education). With nearly 400 young professionals in finance and social entrepreneurship packed into the Highline Ballroom in New York City, the event raised over \$170,000 for Echoing Green.

SKS Microfinance Epitomizes Impact Possible by Social Entrepreneurs



Few Echoing Green Fellows have had an impact comparable to **Be Bold** honoree Vikram Akula. A 1998 Echoing Green Fellow, and recently named one of *TIME Magazine's* 100 most influential people, Vikram Akula, Ph.D., created one of the leading financial institutions in the world. Since its inception in 1998 with the help of Echoing Green funding, [SKS Microfinance](#) has grown to reach over 20,000 villages in India, giving 1.3 million Indian women over \$400 million in micro-loans and life insurance.

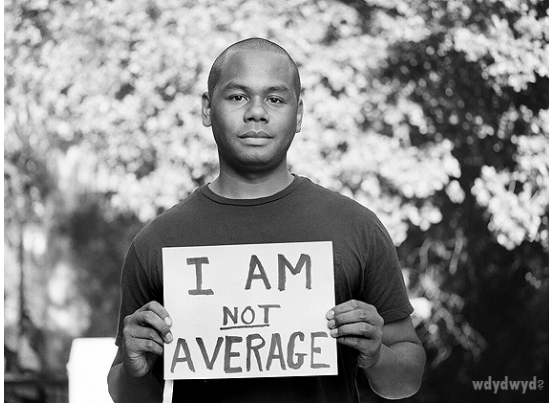
PBS to Air 2007 Fellow's Film on Khmer Rouge



PBS will broadcast a powerful visual history project undertaken by one of Echoing Green's newest fellows. Socheata Poeuv (2007 Echoing Green Fellow) created [Khmer Legacies](#), a venture that seeks to document over 10,000 interviews with Cambodian families about overcoming the atrocities from the Khmer Rouge. The feature documentary that she directed and produced, [New Year Baby](#), is slated for national broadcast on PBS' Independent Lens in May 2008. The documentary tells the stories of six Cambodians who escape the Khmer Rouge genocide and become American citizens. The film has won an array of awards including the "Movies That Matter" human rights cinema award (an Amnesty International Initiative).

Gulf Coast Improvement Aided By Echoing Green Fellows

Two years after Hurricane Katrina, communities in the Gulf Coast continue to struggle. New approaches are needed to help make recovery successful—and Echoing Green is helping mobilize local social entrepreneurs to bring creative solutions to the challenges at hand. Two 2007 Echoing Green Fellows represent the kind of visionary leaders who can accelerate the pace of social change in the Gulf Coast. In addition, Echoing Green is working with Louisiana Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu’s new [Office of Social Entrepreneurship](#) to encourage citizens to seek innovative solutions for the rebuilding effort.



Echoing Green Fellow, John Alford, founder of [NOLA180](#), is working to transform New Orleans’ failing public educational institutions into high-performing charter schools. Although temporarily housed in a FEMA building, John Alford opened his first NOLA180 charter school this fall and is eagerly awaiting the completion of its permanent home. Another 2007 fellow, John Thompson, founder of [Resurrection After Exoneration](#) (RAE), is helping wrongfully convicted exonerees and formally incarcerated individuals rebuild their lives and contribute to their communities.