Social entrepreneurs address social challenges by creating enterprises that combine a strong social mission with strong business skills.

They produce innovative social solutions, create jobs, strengthen existing community-based organizations, and generate optimism about economic opportunity and progress. Faculty members and students at the Brown School at Washington University are advancing the field of social entrepreneurship by developing transformative, scalable, and sustainable solutions to enhance quality of life. Support for this initiative will strengthen our faculty, enhance our research, bolster our training, and seed student enterprises. St. Louis and the Brown School are poised to become leaders in the field of social entrepreneurship in the United States.

HOW THE BROWN SCHOOL IS Making a Difference

The Social Entrepreneurship specialization focuses on building students’ business skills in planning, budgeting, written and verbal communication, performance management, and impact measurement.

Field work is a critical component of the program. Our students work with outstanding St. Louis and national partners, including:

- City Greens at Midtown Catholic Charities – Promoting healthy living by providing access to fresh and affordable produce
- The Blessing Basket Project – Fighting poverty worldwide through the sale of fair-trade handicrafts
- Meds & Food for Kids – Saving lives in Haiti by developing, producing, and distributing ready-to-use therapeutic food
- Angel Baked Cookies at North Grand Neighborhood Services – Empowering youth through employment, training, and personal development

“The Brown School taught me to address social problems and solve them in fundable and sustainable ways.”

PAUL SORENSON, MSW ’12
Founder of GoodMap, a tool that helps nonprofits connect clients to resources. The startup won a $30,000 award from the Skandalaris Center’s Youthbridge Social Enterprise and Innovation Competition.
HOW THE BROWN SCHOOL IS Implementing Change

Social entrepreneurship efforts at the Brown School encourage:

- The creation of new social ventures with nonprofit, for profit, or hybrid structures
- The diversification of revenue streams within existing organizations
- The evaluation of an enterprise’s social impact
- Research to find new ways to help entrepreneurship succeed

Our students work closely with Brown School faculty members experienced in launching and sustaining social enterprises as well as faculty and staff members at Washington University’s Olin Business School and Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurial Studies.

Students are encouraged to enter the Skandalaris Center’s YouthBridge Social Enterprise and Innovation Competition, one of the nation’s premier social enterprise business plan contests. The competition promotes new ways to increase the capacity of mission-based organizations, helping to move them beyond dependence on philanthropy and government.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Investing in the Brown School

You can support social entrepreneurship efforts at the Brown School by providing:

- Endowed professorships to help recruit and retain faculty leaders in this field
- Stipends to ensure students gain practical training in the community
- A Social Venture Fund to enable graduates to implement their projects
- A Program Development Fund to help students put innovation into practice in existing organizations
- Funds to evaluate the performance and impact of new and existing social ventures

For more information, please contact:

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Visit the Brown School Campaign Website: growleadchange.wustl.edu