

Past International Nominees of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Program

Category	Business, Economic and/or Entrepreneurial Accomplishments
Year	2011
Name	Bongiwe Mlangeni
Country	SOUTH AFRICA
Biography	<p>Bongiwe Mlangeni is a social entrepreneur. Her innovative ideas and commitment to sustainable business practices have helped hundreds of artisans and crafters find employment, boosting their quality of life. She is a production coordinator at Africa! Ignite, a local nonprofit working with more than 600 crafters using fair trade practices to produce items for community campaigns and projects.</p> <p>Her latest endeavor is the Shake the World campaign. Mlangeni looks to sell one million fair trade beaded bracelets produced by local South African crafters to raise awareness of the UN Millennium Development Goals (UN MDGs). This campaign provides income for these impoverished crafters while the bracelets emphasize the importance of advancing the UN MDGs to create a better world.</p> <p>As a mentor and recruiter for the local craft groups, Mlangeni has changed the lives of many people, providing them with work to support themselves and their families. These artisans not only support the development of local economies, but they also share their culture with others across the world through their products. Mlangeni's bracelet campaign and dedication to helping those in need makes her a strong creator of positive change.</p>
Year	2011
Name	Dato Sri Edmund Santhara
Country	Business, Economic and/or Entrepreneurial Accomplishments
Biography	<p>Growing up from tough and humble beginnings, Santhara stands firm by these mottos: "To stand out, one needs to be tough" and "Failure is not an option." When first introduced to Masterskill School of Nursing & Health in 2004, he realized the worldwide shortage of healthcare personnel and accepted the challenge to turn the existing nursing school into a college.</p> <p>Through his hard work and visionary leadership, he quickly became the Chief Executive Officer and worked diligently to change Masterskill from a college to a university, offering Medical Studies and a wide range of programs from Foundation all the way to Doctorate in Healthcare.</p> <p>He also revolutionized the healthcare education system in Malaysia by negotiating arrangements for in-hospital training by signing a Memorandum of Agreement with the government of Malaysia to provide clinical placements and training for all of his students.</p> <p>With Santhara's dedication and energized corporate culture, Masterskill has been renamed the Masterskill University College of Health Sciences. The student population increased from 200 to more than 18,000 across six Masterskill campuses throughout Malaysia. For his work with Masterskill, he was awarded the 2008 JCI Creative Young Entrepreneur Award at the JCI World Congress in New Delhi, India. Santhara has also been a member of JCI Malaysia since 2008. His creative ideas and perseverance turned a mere vision into a prosperous reality for healthcare education.</p>
Year	2010
Name	Emily Cummins

Country	UNITED KINGDOM
Biography	<p>After learning from her grandfather how to use tools to make toys from scraps, Cummins began building an exciting future in sustainable product innovation. While attending technology classes at the South Craven School, Cummins set to work creating designs to ease traditional tasks, beginning with a toothpaste dispenser for arthritis sufferers.</p> <p>Cummins continued her passion for innovation and developed a talent for sustainable design by building a multi-bracket water carrier to ease transportation throughout southern Africa. Her experience led to the development of a sustainable refrigerator using a simple water evaporator design around a cylindrical storage container, which allows for the safe, uncontaminated transport of items like medicine, regardless of the local water quality.</p> <p>In 2009, Cummins was chosen as the Barclays Woman of the Year and was Cosmopolitan magazine's Ultimate Save-the-Planet Pioneer in 2008. After giving away her initial fridge design for duplication to help as many families in southern Africa as possible, Cummins is completing her final year as an Enterprise Scholar at Leeds University, studying Business Management. Her goal after school is to travel within the developing world and learn more about their resourceful and innovative ways of everyday life</p>
Year	2010
Name	Sabirul Islam
Country	UNITED KINGDOM
Biography	<p>At the young age of 14, Islam established his first venture, Veyron Technology, a web design company where he employed six other youths while attending school. His initial success empowered Islam to approach several high profile corporate clients, and earned him the Best Young Company in Inner East London award.</p> <p>After an educational trip to New York at age 16, supported by Merrill Lynch, who recognized Islam's unique talent and potential, he began trading part time on the London Stock Exchange. Islam followed up this experience with his first book, "The World at Your Feet – Turning Your Vision into Reality," to inspire young people to succeed through enterprise and entrepreneurship by harnessing each person's intensity, integrity and intelligence.</p> <p>Following the success of his first book, Islam developed the "Teen- Treprenuer" brand, featuring a further three books, audio CD and workbook aimed at helping teens develop the skills they need to start their own business ventures and succeed. Islam's work and inspirational attitude have earned him a world tour of speaking engagements and numerous awards including the Growing Up CEO Award and 2008 Mosaic Entrepreneur of the Year. He sets a positive example for the youth of today's world proving that individual success can be achieved at any age.</p>
Year	2009
Name	Guðjón Már Guðjónsson
Country	ICELAND
Biography	<p>For his innovative work in the field of entrepreneurship, Guðjón Már Guðjónsson of Reykjavík, Iceland was named a 2009 JCI Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World (JCI TOYP) recipient in the category of business, economic and/or entrepreneurial accomplishment.</p> <p>An entrepreneur since the age of 13, Guðjónsson has founded several enterprises from communications companies to international software ventures. As a dedicated social</p>

	<p>entrepreneur, he established a center for young entrepreneurs and an incubation center to provide the necessary support and resources in an environment where Icelandic innovators – and their ideas – can thrive.</p> <p>To address Iceland’s need for more advanced telecommunication infrastructure, Guðjónsson created Íslandssími, now Vodafone Iceland, the country’s first full-service competitor to the state-controlled telecom monopoly. This company went public on the Icelandic Stock Exchange only two years after Guðjónsson founded it.</p> <p>In 2009, Guðjónsson founded the Ministry of Ideas, a nonprofit grassroots movement that aims to share knowledge and support the creation of more diverse and flexible industries by harnessing human wealth, innovative thinking and creativity. The Ministry of Ideas has been involved in gathering Iceland’s future vision and helping thousands of students find work to address the unemployment rate.</p> <p>Guðjónsson’s international experience includes three years in Silicon Valley and three years in London and Dublin. He currently works in Reykjavík.</p>
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Category	Political, legal, and/or governmental affairs
Year	2010
Name	Maria Ingelsson
Country	SWEDEN
Biography	<p>After earning her Master of Laws from Uppsala University, Ingelsson held several prestigious positions at renowned law firms in Sweden and became a member of the Swedish Bar Association. Specializing in real estate law and litigation, Ingelsson is involved with several pro-bono projects in support of start-up companies, helping them develop the tools for a successful business venture. She is also a member of the Venture Cup competition, which rewards business plans with great potential.</p> <p>A member of the Uppsala Board member Network, Ingelsson was invited to join the Veckans Affärer/NOVARE’s Mentorship Program for young career women. She has since founded the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce’s Network for Young Advisors and Q-ics, a network for female leaders in Uppsala.</p> <p>In 2006, Ingelsson initiated a project with her law firm Advokatfirman Lindahl entitled Project Kvinnlig Styrelsekompetens. The program, designed for young female attorneys, helps increase competence and build a professional network for participants. Ingelsson also provides lectures on legal issues, entrepreneurship and maintaining a positive work-life balance.</p>
Year	2009
Name	Tugba Kalafatoglu
Country	TURKEY
Biography	<p>For her extraordinary work in the field of politics, Tugba Kalafatoglu of Istanbul, Turkey was named a 2009 JCI Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World (JCI TOYP) recipient in the category of political, legal and/or governmental affairs.</p> <p>With diverse experience ranging from international business and political consulting to campaign management and training for CEOs and CFOs, Kalafatoglu believes in using politics to build a better future for the next generation. She founded Vote Women in Politics, an NGO dedicated to helping women run for office and be elected around the</p>

	<p>world. The organization provides resources, trains young aspiring politicians and creates a network for politically active women around the world.</p> <p>In addition to her professional success, Kalafatoglu has received numerous awards, including Woman of the Year and Who's Who in the World, and is recognized for her community involvement.</p> <p>Kalafatoglu holds master's degrees in international affairs, law and business from Georgetown University. At age 29, Kalafatoglu was the youngest person ever to sit as Vice Chairman of a major Turkish party.</p> <p>Active in her community, Kalafatoglu has received awards for her hard work, dedication and outstanding service. Her recognitions include Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges 1997 and 1998; 2000 Young Politician of the Year; 2002 Woman of the Year; Who's Who in the World 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009; Who's Who in America 2009; and Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals 2008 and 2009</p>
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Category	Academic leadership and/or accomplishment
Year	2011
Name	Abra Tenu
Country	TOGO
Biography	<p>At the young age of 14, Abra Tenu realized many children in her town were unable to continue receiving education due to lack of funding and support from their families. She decided to find a solution for this problem and provide free education for these children from her home. Tenu founded the St. Therese de l'Enfant Jesus association to raise funding for school supplies and continue to support the children's education.</p> <p>With the help of community partners, her association constructed a small school and community center, allowing her to take on more students, who now have access to a library, a computer room and a safe place for games and social activities. She also worked with a Village Development Committee to start a project improving the water and sanitation conditions in her community.</p> <p>Tenu's compassion and concern for the local children make her a role model to youth everywhere. She dedicates her time and efforts to helping others succeed through education because she understands its importance for every child's future.</p>
Year	2007
Name	Professor Hilmi Volkan Demir
Country	TURKEY
Biography	<p>Hilmi Volkan Demir was born in the summer of 1976 in Turkey. He received his Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from Stanford University (CA, USA) in 2004.</p> <p>After completing his Ph.D. at Stanford, Demir accepted a job offer from Bilkent University (his alma mater) and returned 'home' to spread his passion for scientific research, to develop a strong research program and group, to conduct world-class research, and to serve his people and humanity with scientific achievements.</p> <p>In addition to teaching at the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department and the Physics Department of the University, Demir also joined various research labs at Bilkent including Advanced Research Labs. He is currently the Associate Director of Nanotechnology Research Center and one of the founding faculty members of Bilkent</p>

	<p>Space Center and was assigned as the NATO RTO Research and Technology Office National Technical Member of Turkey for nanotechnology and the European Union FP7 Information Communication Technology National Expert.</p> <p>Through the scientific achievements of the interdisciplinary research group led by Demir, the Demir Devices and Sensors Research Group, Demir seeks scientific solutions to critical problems for humanity, such as alternative efficient lighting, green energy, bio-implant sensing, and environmental decontamination.</p> <p>Demir has published over 40-refereed journal and conference papers, and presented more than 40 invited seminars. Additionally, he has eight patent applications at various stages of the process.</p> <p>In 2005, Demir received the European Union Marie Curie IRG Fellowship Award. In 2006, he was recognized with the Turkish National Academy of Sciences Distinguished Young Scientist Award. In 2007, he received the European Science Foundation European Young Investigator EURYI Award</p>
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Category	Cultural Achievement
<i>Year</i>	2011
Name	Marta Fidela Gladys Cruz Cerón
Country	BOLIVIA
Biography	<p>Born blind, Cruz Cerón has made it her mission to use her first-hand experience as a way to raise awareness for others who are disabled. Her ability to share this daily experience with them has made her an advocate for all who are handicapped. Cruz Cerón's goal is to show the world that those who are disabled have the capability to fully function and participate in mainstream society.</p> <p>Cruz Cerón also founded the Center for Counseling and Training in Special Education of the Blind and Integral. Through this center, she promotes the socialization of blindness, provides Braille and sign language instruction and offers resources for the prevention and treatment of blindness. She encourages special education as a way for the blind to integrate with the sighted.</p> <p>Her dedication to helping those with disabilities reached a new level when she fought for government support in Potosi, Bolivia. Cruz Cerón received enough support to have a square built to commemorate those who encourage special education. Through her campaigns, the city of Potosi was honored with the title of the Cradle of Special Education in America. Her hard work and faith in the people of society show that service to others has no boundaries.</p>
<i>Year</i>	2010
Name	Dr Mikko Wirén
Country	FINLAND
Biography	<p>After a career as an accomplished swimmer, Wirén began a career in medicine, studying at the University of Tampere. Upon graduation at age 29, Wirén began to establish himself as a strong player in community medicine, receiving a recommendation from the Tampere mayor to establish his own company through which health care services could be provided for the community more cost-efficiently than the existing facilities.</p> <p>Today, Wirén is the managing director of Pihlajalinna Oy, one of the fastest growing</p>

	<p>companies in Finland, employing nearly 300 people. The mission of the company is to create new, more efficient methods to provide quality health care services to patients as well as providing employees a rewarding work environment.</p> <p>Wirén has continued to expand Pihlajalinna, owning 51% of Jokilaakson Terveys Oy, which recently won the largest contract for health care services in the Jämsä area ever granted. Outside of his company, Wirén is also very active, acting as a member of the Finnish Medical Association and Tampere Chamber of Commerce. He has been a member of JCI Tampere since 2001.</p>
Year	2009
Name	Marko "Signmark" Vuoriheimo
Country	FINLAND
Biography	<p>For his extraordinary achievements, Marko "Signmark" Vuoriheimo of Helsinki, Finland, was named a 2009 JCI Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World (JCI TOYP) recipient in the category of cultural achievement.</p> <p>As the first deaf rapper in Finland, Signmark uses rap music as a channel for social commentary about living as a deaf person in society. As a teacher and through his music, Signmark seeks to fight prejudice and fear and raise awareness about deaf culture.</p> <p>Feeling the rhythm and bass in the music, Signmark crafts lyrics in Finnish sign language with rhyme and storyline in mind. He then works with friends to sync the sign language with spoken Finnish and the music. Onstage, Signmark signs and Heko Soini raps. Signmark, who can sign in American or international sign language as well as Finnish, has worked with Brandon Bauer, an English-speaking rapper, to translate his music to English onstage.</p> <p>The book "Signmark," by Nuppu Stenrosin came out in 2008. Signmark aspires to record another album in English to reach a wider audience, and he has also founded Nuppu Stenros, a company offering resources for people who use sign language.</p>

Category	Moral and/or environmental leadership
Year	2008
Name	Dr Pascal Saffache
Country	FRANCE
Biography	<p>Dr. Pascal Saffache is a Master of Conferences of Universities, Researcher for the French National Centre for Scientific Research and Doyen (Dean) of the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences at the University of Antilles and Guyana. He has been teaching the subject he is passionate about, the environment for 11 years. He considers his mission is to disseminate his environmental knowledge as much as possible, so that everyone becomes aware that the environment affects our future and economy.</p> <p>Dr. Saffache, who has authored approximately one hundred important publications, won prestigious awards, and achieved expert status in numerous administrations, institutions and societies, has awoken the public's conscience. His role as a scientist -- to work for the preservation and respect of the environment -- is reinforced by his will to achieve lasting development.</p>
Year	2003
Name	Sun Ho Yeow
Country	SINGAPORE

Biography	<p>The greatness of Ho Yeow Sun lies in her willingness to be a servant to all. Her ability to cut across racial and religious lines to care for thousands of people selflessly makes her outstanding. By devoting time every day to helping people, she indeed personifies the JCI Creed.</p> <p>The Outstanding Young Persons of the World (TOYP) Program serves to formally recognize young people who excel in their chosen fields and exemplify the best attributes of the world's young people. By recognizing these young people, JCI encourages them and others to seek excellence and serve others. Thus, JCI contributes to prepare better leaders, who will create better societies.</p> <p>Honorees selected in past years have represented the heights of progress in numerous human endeavors. Many have gone on to even greater achievements. All have continued to serve humanity in a great variety of ways.</p>
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Category	Contribution to children, world peace, and/or human rights
Year	2011
Name	Safak Pavey
Country	TURKEY
Biography	<p>Growing up in Istanbul, Pavey was surrounded by writing and the arts. Her early interests grew into a career in international communications, journalism and documentary production for a variety of media companies. However, a tragic train accident left Pavey with only one arm and one leg. Her time in the hospital and recovery efforts shaped her into a woman filled with strength and determination to look past her disability and continue with her education and career.</p> <p>Completing graduate and post-graduate studies while working to pay for her medical treatments and schooling, she began humanitarian relief work for the United Nations in the Middle East and Africa. While expanding her diplomacy skills, she began advocacy work for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Pavey is the founding member of the UN Interagency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the first appointed Secretary to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She has since departed the UN after being named the Deputy of Istanbul, becoming as the first disabled female member of the Turkish Parliament.</p> <p>She provides consultancy on many issues for people living with disabilities including education, goal setting and strategic planning. Her goal is to prove that these people carry a strong sense of personal dignity and pride as they overcome their physical obstacles each and every day.</p>
Year	2010
Name	Antti Pentikäinen
Country	FINLAND
Biography	<p>During his years studying at Helsinki University, Pentikäinen joined the European Student's Union to share his passion for activism and ending discrimination. Pentikäinen quickly climbed the ranks of the Union, becoming its president and presiding over more than 7 million university students across Europe. During his tenure, he used the organization to fight for democracy, particularly in Eastern Europe and supported student movements in Serbia, Kosovo and Bosnia.</p>

	<p>During the Kosovo war, Pentikäinen trained Serbian Resistance members on peaceful resistance and human rights. Not long after, Pentikäinen met former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, with whom he established the Crisis Management Initiative, which aided in peace mediation for international conflicts.</p> <p>In 2004, Pentikäinen became the Executive Director of Finn Church Aid (FCA), the largest development organization in Finland. Under his leadership, FCA has been active in advocating peace and performing human rights work through fundraising and humanitarian programs. Pentikäinen was honored in 2009 to be chosen as the Chairman of Aprodev, a European lobbying and coordination organization for ecumenical aid agencies. This year, Pentikäinen helped establish the ACT, an alliance of churches and church-related organizations dedicated to humanitarian assistance and development. Pentikäinen's efforts can be seen across the globe as he continues to create peaceful conflict resolution and help those suffering from oppression. Pentikäinen was just recently invited to become Director of Religions for Peace (RfP) Conflict Transformation Programs. RfP is working globally with religious leaders to advance peace.</p>
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Category	Humanitarian and/or voluntary leadership
Year	2011
Name	Dalilah Kalla
Country	MAURITIUS
Biography	<p>After being diagnosed with lupus at the young age of 13, Kalla embarked on an arduous journey of perseverance and survival. Lupus is a presently incurable autoimmune disease where the patient's immune system produces excess antibodies, which instead of protecting the body from bacteria viruses, attack the person's own body tissue. Her emotional and physical strength led her to an outstanding contribution to others living with lupus.</p> <p>In 2000, Kalla founded Lupus Alert, a nonprofit organization providing moral, emotional and financial support to people living with lupus as well as spreading awareness of the disease to the public. Kalla's goal is to provide lupus education to others including teachers, friends, family members and even health and government professionals who are not aware of its symptoms and complications. Lupus Alert also provides patient services and community awareness promotion to advance research initiatives.</p> <p>Thanks to Kalla's efforts, Lupus Alert, in partnership with other lupus groups around the world, is working to create worldwide recognition of the disease. Her leadership and passion make her a source of support for other lupus patients and their families</p>
Year	2010
Name	Melanie Hennessy
Country	IRELAND
Biography	<p>As a child, Hennessy grew a passion for helping less fortunate people, volunteering with the Red Cross and Enable Ireland in her hometown of Ennis. Seeking a career where she could continue helping her community, Hennessy entered National University Ireland Galway in 2007 where she began to study medicine.</p> <p>After a solo trip to Nepal when she was 18, Hennessy devoted her career to generating awareness of the plight of children in the impoverished country and began raising money to open an orphanage. Together with a local businessman and philanthropist, Hennessy established TEAM Nepal and embarked on an ambitious mission to raise €40,000 for the construction of a health center for Nepalese orphans.</p>

	<p>To meet the target, Hennessy has organized fundraisers including cake sales, charity CDs and a water relay race. The latter was a sponsored event from Ennis to Galway, Ireland where participants carried between five and 20 liters of water to highlight the challenges of people throughout the world in accessing clean drinking water. Hennessy is currently organizing the Ball4Nepal, which she hopes will help reach the €40,000 goal. Her efforts to create a global partnership of service between her community and youth in need in Nepal exemplify the unity selflessness brings to our world today.</p>
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Category	Scientific and/or technological development
Year	2008
Name	Dr Lisa E. Hensley
Country	USA
Biography	<p>Dr. Hensley has emerged as one of the pre-eminent scientists combating the most dangerous infectious diseases known to mankind.</p> <p>As a microbiologist, Dr. Hensley is working at the Virology Division of the United States Army Medical Research Institute for infectious diseases (USAMRIID), where she runs the Viral Therapeutics Branch. Over the last decade, she has spent countless hours working in containment laboratories studying viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHF) and orthopoxviruses such as Ebola, Marburg, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), monkeypox, and variola virus.</p> <p>Over the past nine years, her work has contributed to an astounding 45 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and multiple book chapters.</p> <p>There is no doubt that her findings have changed our understanding of the biology of VHF and her results will translate into vaccines that will save lives. Her dedication to researching the world's most lethal viruses will have impact far beyond the borders of a single country.</p>
Year	2007
Name	Dr Derek O'Keeffe
Country	IRELAND
Biography	<p>Derek O'Keeffe was born in the historic city of Limerick, Ireland. After graduating with First-Class Honors from Electronic Engineering in 1996, he received his Masters by Research and Thesis in 1998. He continued his research in biomedical engineering and the clinical refinement of his previously developed technologies (Drop Foot Stimulator) and was awarded his PhD in 2001.</p> <p>Actively involved in stimulating the minds of young people, O'Keeffe encourages them to think about the world in which they live, and how Science, Engineering and Medicine can make it better.</p> <p>In 2006, O'Keeffe set up Ireland's first Biomedical Electronic Engineering degree program at the University of Limerick to train future graduates in this exciting and emerging field. He has also set up research links with several renowned international laboratories, enabling his own students to travel to and work with these centers of excellence (e.g. Harvard, Ljubljana, Genoa, NASA).</p> <p>Also in 2006, O'Keeffe successfully supervised Ireland's first experiment in outer space, which involved liaising with three international space agencies. The results of the</p>

	<p>experiment will benefit patients on earth suffering from sleep disorders.</p> <p>O’Keeffe has published in the fields of rehabilitation engineering, software development, medicine and robotics. Under his mentorship, his own students have completed their studies, published themselves, and received prizes for research excellence. Since obtaining his doctorate, O’Keeffe has also studied and worked at Harvard University, Moscow University and the National University of Ireland Galway. He has conducted several projects that have won national and international awards and has presented this work at institutions such as Stanford University and MIT.</p> <p>O’Keeffe has received several notable honors for his work in medicine and engineering, including a Fulbright scholarship, a Wellcome Trust Scholarship, a Hutchinson Scholarship, an Irish-American Partnership Scholarship, a MWHB Scholarship, and the Stryker Howmedica Research Excellence Prize.</p> <p>To increase his knowledge of biomedical engineering, O’Keeffe is currently pursuing a full-time degree in medicine. Thus, he plans to continue making a significant contribution to humanity in the biomedical field.</p>
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Category	Personal improvement and/or accomplishment
Year	2011
Name	Meilleur Derek Murindabigwi
Country	RWANDA
Biography	<p>After witnessing genocide in his home country, Murindabigwi wanted to provide a fresh start for the youth of Rwanda. He observed the manipulation of the media and the thoughts of hatred and division still spread across the Internet, even after the turmoil. Murindabigwi wanted to create a newfound freedom for the people of Rwanda through easy access to timely, valuable news and information.</p> <p>Murindabigwi and 12 other student volunteers started igihe.com, which has become the most visited website in Rwanda. Igihe.com publishes Rwandan breaking news and other daily information in the form of articles and videos. It is now published in three languages and has a full-time employed staff. The website has also expanded into an entire IT company, Igihe Ltd.</p> <p>Through Igihe Ltd., Murindabigwi continues to provide the youth of Rwanda hope and unity after such a violent struggle in their country. His hard work and commitment to sharing the truth is an integral part of creating a new environment of positive change away from prejudice and hate.</p>
Year	2009
Name	Kitso Masi
Country	BOTSWANA
Biography	<p>For his extraordinary work to empower young people, Kitso Masi of Gaborone, Botswana was named a 2009 JCI Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World (JCI TOYP) recipient in the category of personal improvement and/or accomplishment.</p> <p>In his youth, Masi lost his parents and lived as a gang member. Through the intervention of his sister, Masi returned to school and now helps young people use their creative energy to fuel social change. A strong leader in the movement for an HIV-free generation in Botswana, Masi’s projects range from artistic exchange to character development to sports and reality TV.</p>

	<p>As Program Director of the South East District Youth Empowerment League (SEDYEL), a youth-led sports and community development program initiated as a result of the ongoing partnership between the City of Toronto, Canada, and the South East District Council in Botswana, Masi uses sports to channel young peoples' energy away from high-risk behaviors that lead to HIV/AIDS. Girls have traditionally been excluded from the Botswana national passion of football. In addition to playing football, the program creates a safe space for the girls and engages boys and girls alike in character-building activities.</p> <p>Masi has also worked with Project Phakama, an arts exchange program, and presented a paper through the Kicking AIDS Out Network on the power of sports to help fight HIV. Last year, Masi was selected to represent Botswana in the Imagine Afrika social adventure reality show that sets up pan-African challenges for the continent's young achievers to find solutions to the continents biggest problems and promote the vision of an HIV-free generation.</p> <p>In 2007, Masi won the early entry prize in the Nike and Ashoka's Sport for a Better World, which seeks initiatives around the world that use sports to promote social change.</p>
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Category	Medical innovation
Year	2011
Name	Dr. Miia Kivipelto
Country	FINLAND
Biography	<p>Valedictorian of her medical school class, Dr. Miia Kivipelto started as a research doctor investigating lifestyle-related and vascular risk factors associated with impairment, dementia and Alzheimer's disease. She was affected by Alzheimer's on a personal level as she watched her grandmother's health and memory slowly deteriorate. This motivated her to beat her own genetic odds and save other patients and their families from similar suffering.</p> <p>Dr. Kivipelto leads a variety of research teams in both Finland and Stockholm, Sweden studying the combined effect of the environment and genes on memory loss. She developed the Nordic Brain Network, which has increased the utilization of resources for and improved the exchange of information about aging and its associated medical challenges. Dr. Kivipelto's medical work has shown that an improvement in quality of life through exercise, healthy eating and mental and social activity can reduce one's risk of falling ill with age.</p> <p>Through seminars, speaking at universities and media interviews, she shares her research with her peers, the public and policy makers around the world. Dr. Kivipelto has dedicated her career to adding years to one's life while also adding life to those years. She empowers others to seize their opportunity to live a long, healthy life by protecting their mind and body.</p>
Year	2010
Name	Dr. Gifty Immanuel
Country	INDIA
Biography	<p>After volunteering to help manage an outbreak of the bubonic plague in India, Immanuel began a long career studying and treating infectious diseases and epidemics. After years of seeking support for his vision of an infectious diseases research and treatment center, Immanuel established the Center for AIDS & Antiviral Research in Tuticorin, India in 1996. Since that time, the center has treated nearly 30,000 HIV patients, as well as victims</p>

of other diseases including tuberculosis, leprosy, malaria and typhoid free of charge or at subsidized cost.

Immanuel has an extensive educational history, with a Master of Philosophy in Biotechnology from Bharathidasan University, a Doctor of Public Health from James Cook University in Australia, a Medical Doctor degree from Our Lady of Fatima University in the Philippines and a Diploma in Medical Law and Ethics from the National Law School in India, just to mention a few.

In 2010, Immanuel was elected a Fellow of Royal Society of Arts and Fellow Linnaean Society in the United Kingdom, both rare honors shared with the likes of Stephen Hawkins, Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin. In 2005, Immanuel was appointed to the World Academy of Science Engineering and Technology's International Advisory Panel on Medicine and Science for his outstanding achievements in the field of biotechnology and molecular diagnostics related to infectious disease. His academic achievements paired with his dedication to public health improvement will continue as he uses his innovative medical knowledge to serve global communities.