

RENEW Nonprofit Seeks to Empower Youth At Home and Abroad

Written by Sara Goodwin



“Together we can bring change” is the motto of nonprofit RENEW and its co-founders Adam Rubin and Uswege Mwakapango. Together, they have launched an educational program to assist youth in positively impacting their community. While the organization has primarily focused on helping Tanzanians, RENEW will make its debut in the United States next month in Phoenix.



When Adam Rubin and Uswege Mwakapango met in September 2010 in Tanzania when they were working together as volunteer program coordinators for [Support for International Change](#), they connected over their shared passion for bringing change to positively impact communities.

A year after they met and several projects later, the duo launched a pilot program in Mwakapango's hometown, Mbeya, Tanzania. The completion of the program marked the end of Rubin's term in Tanzania for the time being, but he and Mwakapango both knew something bigger would be emerging.



In February 2013, Rubin returned to Tanzania, and a month later he and Mwakapango founded [RENEW](#) as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. RENEW is a two-week program that empowers youth to create their own solutions to local problems; it is a way for students not only to transform themselves, but to also transform their communities.

“RENEW is built by young people, and it's for young people,” Rubin says.

RENEW stands for the five principles of the nonprofit: **reflect**—students must be able to transform themselves before they can transform the world; **educate**—Rubin, Mwakapango and other RENEW partners teach students about their areas of expertise; **nurture**—RENEW fosters leadership and life skills of the students; **empower**—it gives students the power to be leaders in their community; and **wear**—building awareness, providing a fundraising tool, but most importantly giving students pride and ownership over their project.

RENEW Nonprofit Seeks to Empower Youth At Home and Abroad

Written by Sara Goodwin

"Who knows what you're capable of more than yourself?" Mwakapango asks. "No one. Nobody. It's just you ... You are the change that you want to see."

RENEW will be hosting a fundraising dinner tomorrow, Wednesday, June 17 at Karma Café in Sedona. The event will start at 6 p.m. and a \$30 ticket includes appetizers, dinner and the presentation. For more information, visit renewchange.org.