

# InnovateHealth **Yale** Impact Report 2024

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# InnovateHealth Yale

## Mission Statement

**InnovateHealth Yale**, housed at the Yale School of Public Health, supports the **creation of innovative solutions** to challenges in **global health** and **education** for **historically under-resourced communities** in the United States and around the world.

## Goals:

- **Launch** innovative startups in public health
- **Motivate** and mentor students in the principles of public health innovation and social entrepreneurship
- **Forge** meaningful partnerships with domestic and global health organizations
- **Create** a network of entrepreneurs and innovators beyond Yale
- **Curate** meaningful opportunities for learning and engaging with public health innovation experts



# InnovateHealth Impact to Date





**52** organizations launched  
in 30 countries



**200** students  
mentored

**\$400,000**

awarded to student  
led ventures



**6** impact grants  
awarded in  
2024 academic  
year

# Thorne Prize Winner 2024



Upkeep Care, a student-led venture that incorporates an artificial intelligence platform that connects older adults and caregivers to resources, is the 2024 winner of the \$25,000 Thorne Prize for Social Innovation in Health or Education.

The primary goal of Upkeep Care is to alleviate the burden on caregivers and older adults by providing immediate, personalized support and guidance to access available government and community resources through conversational AI.

Founder and CEO Blake Robertson says, “The truth is that there are a lot of resources out there, in the forms of social benefits and social resources. However, older adults and caregivers are disconnected from these resources, and Upkeep aims to bridge this gap.”

Upkeep Care is excited to share that they will be launching their pilot program with United Way of CT.



# Rita Wilson Grant Recipients 2024



De-Stress, a personalized mental healthcare and productivity app that guides students and professionals to manage daily stressors with the help of an AI buddy. It leverages AI for personalized stress management and productivity enhancement, targeting students and professionals seeking a balanced life.

It offers features including My Self-Care Kit, which provides non-generic mindfulness exercises and meditation guides specific to users' needs, and My Goals, enabling users to set and track SMART goals assisted by AI. The app synchronizes tasks across platforms and prioritizes them using AI algorithms. Currently, De-Stress is part of the Sustainable Health Initiative's Venture Development Program.



MakeDeathsCount, is a global health data company that develops mortality surveillance systems in Low-&Middle Income Countries through partnerships with Ministries of Health and NGOs. Recently, the founder, Dr. Ahmad R. Saleh,

participated in the 79th United Nations General Assembly Science Summit, where he discussed the transformative role of AI and advanced statistical methods in mortality surveillance. They have also partnered with Delta Institute to launch a Work Experience Program in Public Health for high school and college students to gain real-world public health experience remotely.



# Rita Wilson Grant Recipients 2024

Lucid.Care Labs is a mental health diagnostic and monitoring platform that brings longitudinal patient data to inform clinical decision making. They do this by building a comprehensive database of real-world evidence from self-reporting, digital biomarkers, online behavior, sociodemographic data, and biological tests. More recently, Lucid.Care Labs has joined Startup:NYC's first cohort. They are a part of a diverse cohort tackling issues from phone addiction, dental care, elderly care, physical therapy, and more. Prior to this, Lucid.Care Labs completed 6-months of mentorship from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. They were afforded this opportunity as a 2023 Stage-1 winner of the "\$100,000 Start an SUD [Substance Use Disorder] Startup" Challenge.



Protecta seeks to create an innovative pant for older adults that includes protection for the hip and coccyx. Protecta pants are unique as there is no product in the market that has hip protection with a comfortable and modern look for older adults.

Magenta Mind is a pending NGO that confronts the pervasive mental health crisis in Syria, a consequence of prolonged conflict in Syria marked by collective violence and displacement over a decade.



# IHY Summer Funding Recipient 2024

## Cathy Jian

Cathy served as a Health Policy Fellow with the Alliance for Health Policy in Washington, DC. In this role, she conducted in-depth analyses of healthcare advancements in AI, value-based care, digital health, and mental health by monitoring congressional bills and attending hearings on Capitol Hill. Through policy analysis, Cathy provided strategic insights that shaped programming efforts and helped policymakers understand the evolving healthcare landscape.



Her insights contributed to the annual Signature Series on AI in Healthcare, expanding knowledge for over 200 senior policy analysts, congressional members, and decision-makers on digital health innovations. Cathy also supported the development of a bipartisan working group for congressional engagement on mental health policy, conducting a landscape review of mental health policies and outcomes from the past decade and organizing focus groups with industry experts to inform policy recommendations.

“ My experience at the Alliance for Health Policy gave me a front-row seat to the impact of policy on healthcare innovation. It was inspiring to contribute directly to bipartisan legislative efforts and to see my work inform decision-making in public health.

”

# IHY Summer Funding Recipient 2024

## Brit Fleck

Brit Fleck served as the Community Deathcare Fellow for the powerful end-of-life documentary The Last Ecstatic Days and its lead impact partner, The Center for Conscious Living & Dying. The Last Ecstatic Days documentary illustrates the power of conscious choices around the end of life. It tells the story of a 36 year old man named Ethan Sisser, diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer and his determination to live every moment as fully as possible, and to die surrounded by love. This vision of embracing death with preparation and love leads the conscious dying movement, offering tools for those choosing how to live and die.



Brit helped build a first-of-its-kind death literacy platform, The Community Deathcare Network. She also led academic partnerships to integrate conscious dying education into palliative care curricula, hosted film screenings with leaders in the end-of-life field to deepen community engagement, and designed mixed-methods research on the impacts of community-centered dying and meaning-making in the wake of loss and grief.

“ I'm deeply grateful to the InnovateHealth Yale funding for supporting this impactful experience. The insights and skills I've gained will continue to guide my work throughout my entire career. ”



# IHY Summer Funding Recipient 2024

## Shannon Dhindsa

This summer, Shannon Dhindsa participated in a pilot research project at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, home to the largest diabetes clinic in the country. With diabetes cases rising and only 20% detected, many patients traveled far for care. Shannon collaborated with the endocrinology team to introduce a saliva-based glucose screening tool developed by Clemson University. It uses a low-cost,



sustainable colorimetric assay to detect glucose levels in real-time, producible for only a few cents.

Shannon's project emphasized community involvement to drive adoption, addressing local needs. In partnership with university engineering departments, it aims to scale the saliva-based glucose screening tool across Tanzania. Shannon conducted a comprehensive needs assessment to identify care barriers and piloted the strips to gauge patient satisfaction, refining the tool and paving the way for saliva as a diagnostic method in the country.

“ Partnering with local universities to scale this tool emphasizes the importance of investing in what patients and communities need, rather than defaulting to tools from the Global North, which often have minimal community involvement. ”

# IHY Summer Funding Recipient 2024

## Ross Armon

Ross Armon spent the summer working in Delhi, India for Social Alpha, a non-profit organization whose mission is to support deep-tech startups that are solving some of the world's most pressing issues across the areas of public health and climate change. Millions of Indian citizens live in rural areas that do not have access to consistent electricity and are relatively far from city centers. As such, it is incredibly difficult and expensive to ensure that vaccines and other temperature-sensitive medications are kept at an appropriate temperature both during and after transport to the village.



Ross primarily focused on cold chain logistics this summer, working directly with entrepreneurs who are striving to use technology to solve this key public health problem. Specifically, I worked closely with two incredible companies, Tan90 Thermal and DD Solar, that are striving to make the cold chain more efficient in order to facilitate the distribution of vaccines and other essential medicines in rural areas.

“This summer was the experience of a lifetime! I cannot express how grateful I am for the Yale School of Public Health and InnovateHealth Yale team – it would not have been possible without them!

”

# Alumni Updates



# NOIRUNITED INTERNATIONAL

NoirUnited International (NUI) is an international NGO focused on centering Black and other marginalized people in creating development solutions for their communities. NoirUnited provides community-based development interventions to address social, economic, and political challenges primarily in African descent communities across the globe. NoirUnited also provides life-saving humanitarian assistance in response to varying crises that affect vulnerable communities.



First Mile Health is a platform solution that enables on-demand scheduling of healthcare and medical-social services. First Mile Health is committed to building

the community health ecosystem via home visits, developing locally and culturally sensitive connections, and providing an alternative to inefficient labor markets.



## Balma Health

Balma Health champions the creation of innovative do-it-yourself public health educational tools to help communicate difficult health information to children in an empowering manner. They seek to transform the way children understand healthcare concepts and ultimately, improve patient satisfaction and healthcare outcomes. Balma Health's provides comprehensive kits to help communicate important information about an illness to children. Each kit is designed with advice from expert child psychologists and child education specialists.



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Eje Le Eje Ethiopia

Eje Le Eje Ethiopia is a nonprofit that helps underprivileged children from low income single-mother households in Ethiopia access basic education supports. They aim to break cycles of intergenerational poverty and uplift social determinants of health outcomes through active community participation and sponsorship. They currently sponsor two children to attend local private kindergartens. In the near future, they hope to increase the number of students they sponsor.



## EdSightful

is a small business that creates custom digital tools for K-12 schools and districts. These

tools include helping educators more effectively manage their instructional coaching, classroom observations, and teacher evaluations. District leaders have provided positive feedback, noting that the tools offer valuable insights into the impact of their instructional coaching initiatives. They are continuing to work with many of the same schools and districts as well as some new ones. EdSightful is working with an elementary school to pilot a dashboard that tracks their math screener assessments.



# Adiona

comprises a team of neurologists, social workers, caregivers, and computer science experts who have banded together with a mission to make dementia care better than it was for them. It is a home base for managing challenging, dementia-related behaviors, specifically agitation. In the mobile app, caregivers can keep a journal of agitation episodes, see and share reports of those agitation episodes, and get personalized tips about how to manage agitation. Their work has been supported by some of the biggest names in dementia care: The National Institute of Aging (a sub-division of the NIH), the Yale School of Public Health, and the University of Chicago Center for Comprehensive Care and Research on Memory Disorders.

## BridgeYear

seeks to accomplish the mission of connecting underserved students to high-demand, high-growth careers and educational opportunities by providing two key opportunities: the Career Test Drive® (CTD) experience and ongoing postsecondary advising. In the 2022-2023 school year, they reached over

13,900 students and implemented two new program offerings to help students discover the main pathways to success. To date, they have also reached over 650 educators to provide resources and training. Recently, BridgeYear has been named one of DEWALT's Grow the Trades Grant recipients, awarded to support our Certification Cohort Program. This grant will help them continue empowering Houston's young adults by providing access to certification training for high-growth, in-demand trade careers.





advances

mental health and wellbeing through design and collaboration with local leaders and organizations. Through partnership, training, and resource creation, Brio co-creates effective initiatives that center local communities and scale through local systems.



Over the past two years, Brio has partnered with Rajasthan's government, expanding a successful primary school mental health program statewide by 2025. They aim to impact 4 million children by 2028. With \$245,000 in funding, phase one will reach 340,000 students. This initiative marks a major advance in children's mental health across India.

Brio and Catalyst 2030 are publishing "Scaling Mental Health Access: Case Studies and Practices for Public Sector Integration," featuring global examples of partnerships expanding mental health access. Launching at Davos 2025, the report will spotlight strategies for integrating mental health into public systems worldwide.





Cocoa360 is an evidence-driven, sustainable model to end extreme poverty in our lifetime. They leverage effective

community farm revenues and resources to improve access to healthcare and education for rural cocoa farmers in Western Ghana. Cocoa360 has acquired a new 15-acre cocoa farm, six new water tanks, two new buses, and fully set up a library and computer room.



In addition, the team is currently implementing a campaign called Giving Tuesday, in order to provide essential educational materials for the new Junior High School students.



is a nonprofit organization founded in 2020 that provides personalized, holistic, and accessible online health and wellness coaching for educators, by educators. They have coached over 600 educators, and are partnered with 35 schools across the country.



Edwell provides personalized coaching for their educators and staff and currently have 50 trained Edwell coaches on the team. Most recently, Edwell has sponsored enrichED Pathways, a K-12 Teacher Registered Apprenticeship program that empowers future educators and K-12 employers.





MedPrep AI (formerly Elevation Gateway) is focused on making admissions consulting accessible to everyone. While starting as an equitable medical school admissions firm, they are now creating AI-enabled admissions consulting tools by harnessing the power of artificial intelligence. They have formalized a partnership with New Haven Public School students and have been selected as a client of Yale Law School's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Clinic. To date, MedPrep AI has helped 200 applicants along their journeys to medical school and gained over \$30k in funding from supporters.



continues to showcase demonstrated success in their mission to monitor and motivate community health, especially maternal and child health, at the last mile. Over the last 8 years they have grown into a 65-member team, now serving as the nodal Technical Support Partner to the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Rajasthan. Khushi Baby was recognized as one of the winners of Marico Innovation Foundation's Innovation for India Awards 2023.





KovaDx revolutionized blood cell analysis using Quantitative Phase Imaging and Machine Learning. In their work with Sickle Cell, they have developed an innovative Red Blood Cell Health Index. The device can be used to monitor drug candidates' therapeutic impacts in pre-clinical and clinical trials. They previously research efforts for a NSF STTR Phase 1 grant.

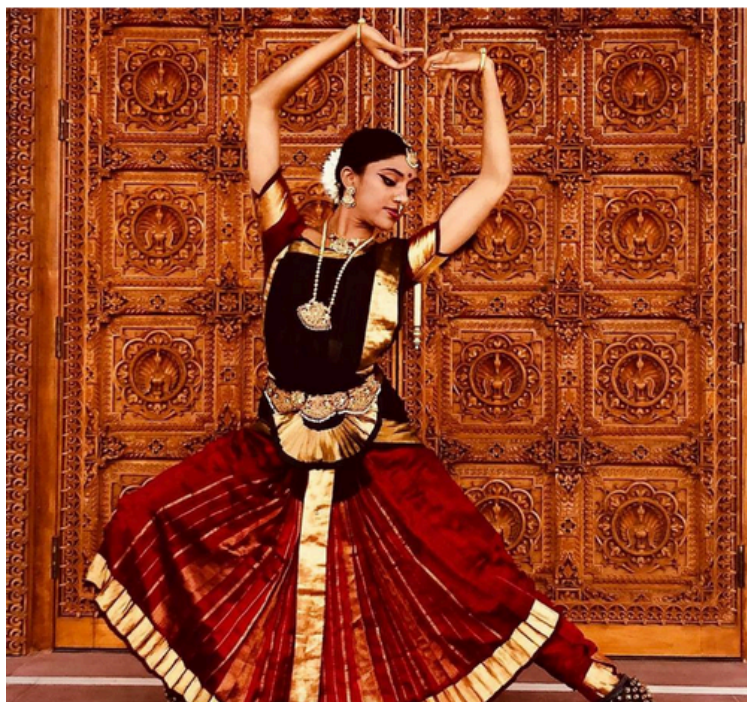
Although KovaDx has closed its doors, they leave behind a legacy of innovation and valuable contributions to the field of medical diagnostics.



## mindful kala

aims to empower students through easily-accessible intercultural education, support, and mind-body Bharatanatyam based mindfulness movement to be happier, healthier, and more resilient beings. They have been certified by WI Department of Public Instruction as an evidence-based social emotional learning tool, and have published an IRB-approved

randomized clinical study on 4-week digital Mindful Kala course for students at Yale University.



# MakeDeathsCount

MakeDeathsCount is a global health data company. They develop mortality surveillance systems in Low-&Middle Income Countries through partnerships with Ministries of Health and NGOs. They collect Cause of Death (CoD) data from the most remote regions globally using our proprietary methodology. They are also the first and only

organization in the world to do so. The organization trains people around the world in conducting “verbal autopsies.” The practice involves canvassing people in conflict-torn and low- and middle-income countries – from door to door or from tent to tent in some instances – following a set list of questions in order to find out from relatives, friends, and loved ones when and how a person died. MDC then collects the data and analyzes it.



*“We quickly realized that the **lack of death registration** was widespread globally. So we saw a role for an **organization to provide consultation work in developing verbal autopsy projects** with the goal of delivering actionable cause of **death data for local decision-makers** and not purely for the sake of research. **“No one was doing this work the way we envisioned it.”**”*

MakeDeathsCount co-founder Ahmad Saleh, MPH '22

# ORIGIN HEALTHCARE

Origin Healthcare combines their team's deep clinical expertise with advanced technology supported platform to provide personalized, acute medical care to patients in their home. In turn, outcomes are improved, medical costs are significantly lower, patients are empowered, and healthcare access



is expanded. Origin Healthcare is proud to be the recipient of a \$250K grant from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade to further develop the technology platform that enables patients to receive advanced medical care at home, instead of in the hospital.



is a pharmacist-founded pharmacy delivery service that picks up your prescriptions from any pharmacy and delivers to you in as little as 30 minutes. In addition to getting your prescriptions delivered, you can also shop over the counter pharmacy items and have them delivered in minutes through our app as well as chat with a live licensed pharmacist before placing



your order. Pills2Me joined the Techstars NYC Class of Spring 2022 and recently partnered with Google, receiving a \$150,000 non-dilutive cash award, up to \$100,000 Google Cloud Credits, and access to Google's resources to help take them to the next level.



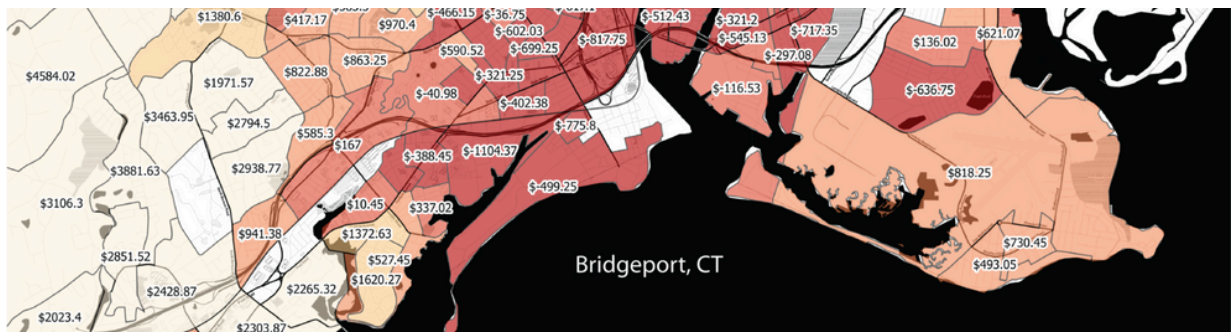
## Raise Green

Raise Green is a marketplace for impact investing in climate solutions. From solar farms on Maui, to water reuse systems in Phoenix, to geothermal power installations in Alaska, the solutions to climate change are taking shape all around us – powered by heroic entrepreneurs and innovators who are not content to wait for big energy and leaders in government to get their act together. For as little as 100 dollars they enable investors to supercharge the efforts of those building a better tomorrow – and give them a chance to earn a healthy return in the process.



Source Development Hub is designing a software platform they call the Widely-Integrated Social Services Platform, or WISSP, to provide and maintain stable housing for at-risk tenants throughout Connecticut and beyond. There is growing research to suggest that housing geography has significant impact on lifelong economic opportunity as well

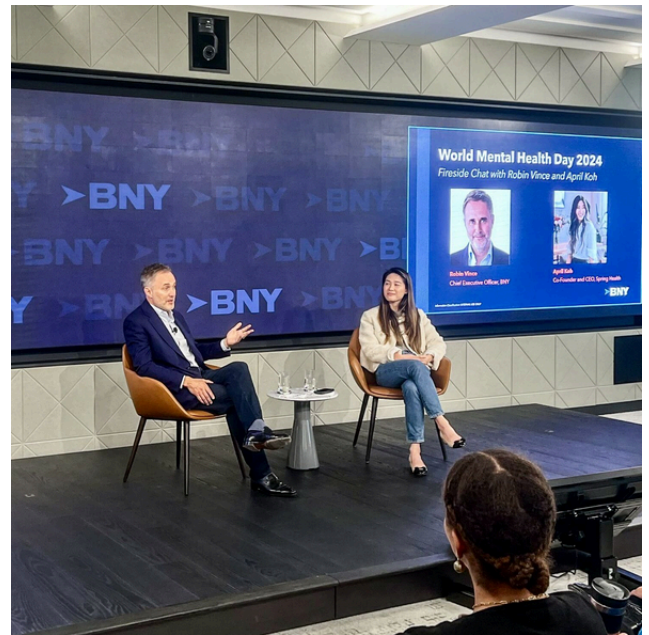
as a national affordable housing shortage and consequent homelessness epidemic. SDH works with partners that address various spectra of homelessness and are currently working to develop the WISSP platform in Fairfield County.



# Spring Health

aims to modernize behavioral health benefits with the most effective, comprehensive solution for employee mental wellbeing. They use a proprietary assessment and machine-learning technology to understand all of the conditions a person may be experiencing, and use those results to match them to a care plan personalized to their needs.

They have been named one of the “Next Big Things in Tech” by Fast Company—and are the only mental health company celebrated for leading the way in technology this year. They have also recently been named one of the world’s 50 top private venture-backed companies disrupting the status quo. In 2024, Spring Health announced a Series E funding round of \$100 million with a valuation of \$3.3 billion. Most recently, Wawa has selected Spring Health as its mental health provider and the newest benefit included in support resources offered to Wawa associates and their families



Sprng is an interdisciplinary team developing revolutionary menstrual products for menstruating people worldwide. They put menstruating people at

the center of the development process by creating products alongside users. They are dedicated to data driven menstrual research, education, and empowerment.

Their first product, the Ori disc, is a reusable menstrual disc that includes a non-chemical therapy for menstrual pain. They have been selected as 1 of 10 teams to join the inaugural cohort for MIT Solv[ed] youth innovators cohort.



# Meet the IHY Team



**Kaakpema Yelapaala MPH** Faculty Director

Kaakpema, who goes by “KP,” is a global entrepreneur and public health practitioner with experience working across the public and private sectors in the United States, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Caribbean.



**Fatema Basrai, MBA** Managing Director

Fatema works with students, faculty, staff and community members to support social ventures in health and education. She has presented nationally on panels including DreamWeek, The American Association for University Women, and Leadership for Educational Equity and was named Forbes 30 Under 30 in Education list for 2018.



**Ellie Meise-Munns, MS** Senior Admin. Assistant

Ellie is the Senior Administrative Assistant for the Office of Public Health Practice at the Yale School of Public Health. During their time as Community Impact Manager at United Way of Greater New Haven, they managed the Emergency Food and Shelter Program that expanded services for New Haven County.



**Christina Cabading** Student Fellow

Christina is a current MPH student who has a strong interest in health innovation, particularly in connecting healthcare resources through strategic communications. She has held positions in organizations such as the CDC, Yale Office of Communications, HAVEN Free Clinic, and ECRI.

# THANK YOU



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***Yale Entrepreneurship  
Collaborative***

***Student Innovators***



***InnovateHealth Yale Alumni***