

2015 Social Entrepreneurs of the Year



Pierre Issa

Organization: arcenciel

Year founded: 1985

Country: Lebanon

Website: <http://www.arcenciel.org/>

arcenciel is enabling vulnerable and marginalized populations to become productive members of Lebanese society. Five hundred staff are working in its thirteen service centres spread throughout Lebanon. Its different areas of focus are: agriculture, rehabilitation, environment, employment, health, social services, tourism and youth. arcenciel realizes its mission through a mixed portfolio of income-generating services that help finance its non-revenue generating services.



Sylvain Couthier

Organization: ATF Gaia

Year founded: 2008

Country: France

Website: www.atf-gaia.fr

ATF Gaia is an adapted enterprise, employing over 80% of workers with disabilities in its workforce. It offers technical assistance and IT services to business, on top of buying used IT and telecom equipment for the purpose of reconditioning and reselling. It is also an authorized Microsoft refurbishing centre and, when the equipment cannot be resold, ATF Gaia recycles it through a network of approved partners.



Jen Hyatt

Organisation: Big White Wall

Year Founded: 2007

Country: United Kingdom

Website: <http://www.bigwhitewall.com/>

Big White Wall (BWW) is a digital behavioural health platform that leverages the power of peers to help those experiencing common mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression. As an anonymous service, Big White Wall breaks down the barriers of stigma that may prevent people from seeking help. BWW's solution provides the tools that encourage members to take a larger role in their own care by enabling them to take proactive steps and providing them with enhanced choice and personalized services.



Kamal Quadir

Organisation: bKash

Year Founded: 2010

Country: Bangladesh

Website: <http://www.bkash.com/>

bKash provides a mobile platform for financial transactions that are convenient, reliable and affordable. A joint venture between BRAC Bank and Money in Motion, bKash has 16 million registered users, making it the second largest mobile money company in the world in terms of individual accounts. The company offers an efficient system so that people who migrate to urban centers to earn a livelihood can send money home in easy, secure, fast and affordable ways.