Young Entrepreneurs: Teenagers that are almost millionaires!!

As I was going through the newspaper the other day, I discovered that around 2018 almost 258 hundred teenager’s ideas will be put into the market. There was a contest back in 2013 where teenagers all over the world had to create innovative devices or services that could help the environment in several aspects such as bottles recycling and implementing actions for a better use of water. These kids won a considerable economic reward and many important enterprises all around the world offered to buy their ideas for thousands or millions of dollars, changing their lives dramatically and giving them new opportunities. Here I present two of the models that I think will be copied in several other cities in the world.

**#16 The Cookbook**

Nick Kossak, from Warsaw, Poland, enjoys cooking; but he enjoys more if it is with his grandma’s recipes. However, he discovered that many of her recipes included local herbs and spices that were hard to get, and it was just because the fields were becoming housing developments. Nick then, decided to talk with his parents and his teachers in high school. His proposal included to set up greenhouses where herbs and spices would be grown and taken care by the community. When the president Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz knew about Nick’s idea, she gave him a Development and Rescue of Nature Award along with 15 thousand Polish Zlotys (more than three
thousand Euros) and a land of around 4 hectares outside the city to continue with his project. To add success to his idea, Lisko, a food company in Poland, bought his rights of the idea for seven hundred thousand Polish Zloty and offered him a partnership in the business of 10% of the coming revenues. The company will have a special line of business with Nick’s last name that will be introduced next summer and in which the image of Nick will also be included. Nick, on the other hand has been working with his grandma in the recipes for The Cookbook, in which more than 200 recipes will be incorporated. Their book will be published by the Christmas season and I am sure it will be translated into several languages. Nick’s idea will not only be developed with an economical reason, it will also be developed because Poland cares about its roots and natural heritage.

#37 ECO-Parties

Claudia Schupp from Leipzig, Germany came across an incredible idea for a party. She was about to turn 15 and wanted a new kind of birthday party, she was bored with the usual cake and candles kind of parties. With some ideas from her father, Mr. Schupp, an accountant and eco-lover, she came up with an interesting list of changes to be done to the usual agenda. To start with, she let her guests know about her party with electronic invitations that she personalized herself and which also included an R.S.V.P.

To be ready with the dishes, glasses and cutlery, Claudia and her mom scoured flea markets to buy old dishes that still could be used, and more importantly, that will still be used in the future. Claudia decided to use candles inside drilled cans as lamps to light her party and save energy, as for table decoration she got potted alpine aster, easy-to-get flowers and that will be taken home by guests. For the catering, Claudia’s parents hired a local cafe to support local economy and reduce the carbon footprint. Claudia’s party was such a success that many of the guests spread the word or her party and she has been asked to organize such kind of parties. She decided to go for it and this year almost 25 parties will be organized with her new company ECO-Parties, reaching as far as Hannover, 265 km from Leipzig, where her first wedding, her major accomplishment, will be held. The amount of money she has earned and has been saved will be used to open offices in Frankfurt and Nuremberg. Her estimate of earnings will be kept in secret until she finishes university, but we can see that no bad business would be expanding so quickly if it didn’t have enough income. Claudia will attend HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management next term. Claudia hopes her business and her classes will be well combined and succeed.

I hope that the other contest winners continue succeeding as nicely as Nick and Claudia. Probably in the future, more ideas will be developed not only to favour small communities, but the world!