**Felsman Fellowship Application**

Peru and Brazil

2014-2015

**Background:**

The flagship initiative of the new J. Kirk Felsman Program on Children in Adversity at Duke University are the Felsman Fellowships, a post-graduate professional opportunity in social entrepreneurship offered to recent outstanding graduates of the Sanford School graduate programs (PhD, MIDP and MPP), the Duke Master of Fine Arts in Experimental and Documentary Arts (MFAEDA) Programs. In cases of exceptional talent, circumstances or skills necessary for the Fellowship’s success, the Program will consider applicants from other Duke graduate programs and the larger alumni body who have completed a post-graduate degree.

The Felsman Fellowships are named in honor of Dr. Kirk Felsman. Dr. Felsman was a clinical psychologist, a Duke Professor, a Fulbright Research Scholar, a Lyndhurst Prize recipient and a Global Health Fellow at USAID. For over 30 years he worked tirelessly with street children, child soldiers, refugees, immigrants, and children affected by HIV-AIDS, wars and natural disasters. Kirk’s expertise was so valued by USAID he was placed in Southern Africa to lead efforts on the care of children affected by HIV/AIDS until his sudden death in May 2011. Throughout his career, Kirk was a devoted mentor to many young people and passionate about inspiring the next generation of leaders committed to vulnerable children and youth.

**The Fellowship Experience:**

Fellows will spend up to ten months in the field working with a humanitarian organization in Peru or Brazil followed by a short period in residence at Duke University where they will leverage their field experience to produce their final research and documentary projects. More information about these organizations will be forthcoming. The Fellowship will culminate in an opportunity to showcase their research and documentary work in public events in Washington D.C., and beyond. The Program will also create a strong social media presence around the Fellows work to raise awareness and advocate for innovative global policy on issues affecting vulnerable children and youth.

Felsman Fellows will be matched with organizations committed to the care and protection of vulnerable children and youth.

The purpose of this unique approach to outreach and advocacy is to:

* **Inspire** the next generation of innovative leaders, social entrepreneurs, and documentarians in the field of child protection and provide much needed and low-cost technical support to field based programming for vulnerable children and youth;
* **Empower** children and youth to tell their own stories and therefore meaningfully participate and influence the policies and programming affecting their lives;
* **Advocate** for innovative global public policy making for vulnerable children and youth by raising public awareness on issues affecting children and youth living in adverse conditions.

Recipients must:

1) demonstrate a willingness to explore and develop new and dynamic approaches to caring for vulnerable children and youth through both direct programming, community-based participatory research (CBPR), and documentary methodologies;

2) be patient, proactive and resilient in the face of unexpected challenges;

3) possess the ability to take initiative and work independently, but also must work well in cooperation with others;

4) posses strong writing, communication, research and critical thinking skills;

\*\*Sanford School PhD, MPP, and MIDP applicants, or those from disciplines other than MFAEDA, do not need specific documentary skills or training to apply, however, MFAEDA applicants will be asked to demonstrate their documentary skills;

\*\*Language proficiency in Spanish and/or Portuguese is preferred.

**Current Fellowship Positions:**

The Bernard Van Leer Foundation has generously funded 4 Fellowships in Peru and Brazil to focus on the care and protection of vulnerable children. The Fellowship period is expected to commence in September 2014. The Fellowship will pay a $20,000 stipend per Fellow intended to cover all housing and living expenses for the year. The Program will provide health and emergency medical evacuation insurance in addition to one round-trip plane ticket. If you become a Felsman Fellow, our program faculty and staff will work with you to finalize placement details.

Following the completion of the Fellowship, Fellows will present their work at a reception hosted by Duke in Washington D.C. to showcase their work and raise awareness regarding the situation of vulnerable children, with the aim of influencing policy development.

Throughout the Fellowship, Fellows will be required to:

1) complete the Fellowship from September 2014 – September 2015 and meet all programmatic deadlines;

2) be of service to their community organization as detailed in their mutually agreed upon MOU;

3) conduct a comprehensive research and/or documentary project in collaboration with their host organization;

4) write monthly reflection pieces and research updates for the Felsman website;

5) submit a final report to the Felsman Fellows Program and their host organization;

6) create and participate in an advocacy awareness raising event on their project topic at the completion of the Fellowship.

**Application Materials (found below):**

To apply, applicants must submit:

1) completed General Information Form;

2) a statement of interest explaining your motivations for pursuing a Felsman Fellowship and how your academic, professional, documentary, and personal experiences have prepared you to meet the challenges of this Fellowship;

3) resume;

4) transcripts (if you have graduated within 5 years);

5) one letter of recommendation from a professor or supervisor who knows you well and can speak to the qualities you possess that will allow you to be a successful Felsman Fellow;

\*\*Documentary applicants are also asked to submit examples of their work.

**Please submit all materials by May 15, 2014 to:**

**Kelsey Dalrymple**

**Program Coordinator**

**J. Kirk Felsman Program on Children in Adversity**

**dalrymple@gwu.edu**

**I. General Information Form**

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Undergraduate Degree \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Major/Minor or Certificate\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Month and Year\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Degree \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thesis or Capstone Project\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Month and Year\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Languages (please indicate level of writing and speaking ability):

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**II. Statement of Purpose**

Please address the following questions in one concise, well-organized statement of purpose (max 500 words).

1. Why do you wish to become a Felsman Fellow? What do you hope to gain and learn at this stage in your life and career through this Fellowship?
2. How would this Fellowship experience transform or enhance your professional career in working with children in adversity?
3. What skills, innovative programming and leadership experience do you bring to this Fellowship?
4. How have your academic, professional, and/or documentary experiences prepared you to complete this Fellowship successfully and enriched your understanding of the issues you anticipate facing? Do you have a specific interest or training in the documentary, programming and/or policy fields as it relates to vulnerable populations?
5. What do you anticipate to be the most significant challenges to your work as a Fellow?

**IV. Resume**

Please attach a resume to this application.

**V. Transcripts**

If you have completed your graduate degree in the last 5 years, please attach official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions you have attended.

**VI. Letter of Recommendation**

Please send the program a letter of recommendation from a faculty member, supervisor or individual that can speak credibly about the skills and interests you bring to this Fellowship. We prefer that this letter be sent directly to the program at this address kdalrymple@savechildren.org with the understanding that you agree not to view the contents of the letter.

**VII. Examples of Documentary Work**

MFAEDA or other documentary applicants are asked to indicate the documentary methodologies they are most comfortable working in and to submit examples of documentary work that indicate your ability to work creatively and independently on topics related to social welfare of individuals or communities. A total of twenty minutes of video or multi media, or audio on one or more projects, forty photographs on one or more projects is requested. Please include links to this documentary work or jpegs of images the selection committee can view.