



**January 14, 2025**  
**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**For Immediate Release**

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## ***Young Social Innovators Compete for \$145K in Unrestricted Funding January 25th in Silicon Valley***

### **Event**

*Sat., Jan. 25, 2025, 9:00-Noon*  
*Haas Center for Public Service*  
*562 Salvatierra Walk*  
*Stanford, Calif., 94305*

(MENLO PARK, CALIF.) - The Westly Foundation has announced eight finalists for the 2025 **Westly Prize for Young California Social Innovators**. Each will advance to compete for \$145,000 in unrestricted funding - including three top awards of \$40,000 each, on **Saturday, January 25, 2025** at Stanford University's Haas Center for Public Service.

Since 2012, the Westly Prize honors talent, creativity, and the daring humanitarian spirit of early-stage innovators combating persistent community and global challenges. The 2025 Westly Prize finalists and their corresponding innovations follow:

**Christina Miranda & Amanda Moreno:** [Body Empowerment Project](#), a nonprofit addressing eating disorder prevention among underserved adolescents through a culturally competent, near-peer mentorship model.

**Ashmita Kumar & Ericka Corral-Yanez:** U.C. Berkeley undergraduate Ashmita Kumar, Co-Founder and CEO of [Code Blue AI](#), is focused on reducing stroke damage through early detection and rapid response as a plugin for devices.

**Reetam Ganguli:** Bay Area based Reetam Ganguli founded [Elythea](#) to detect and intervene early in high-risk pregnancies, using machine learning language models and AI engagement to engage with patients 24/7 in a way that significantly reduces maternal mortality and complications.



**Paul Kramer:** [Institute for Youth in Policy](#) (YIP) is building America's largest network of young innovators for cross-sector civic change. This national nonprofit supports youth in formulating informed, unbiased, balanced policy perspectives, regardless of party affiliation.

**Denalene Tiu, Charis Turner, Shaista Afzhal, & Amritpal Singh:** [Prime Time](#), a near-peer program started by UCSF medical students, empowers and equips pre-medical students from Central California to become excellent physicians, and to help fill a staggering physician shortage in the Central Valley.

**Charlie McDonald & Alper Gel:** [RescueSight](#) employs advanced autonomous drone technology and AI to deliver a comprehensive view of disaster areas, improving situational awareness for first responders. Their all-in-one dashboard transforms chaotic scenes into organized data.

**Danielle Boyer:** In 2019, Ojibwe (Sault Tribe) teen Danielle Boyer created [The STEAM Connection](#), a youth-led charity that has reached 800,000+ children - including tribal youth - with technical education that emphasizes language revitalization, robotics, ethical artificial intelligence systems, and augmented reality.

**Rea Savla & Vishesh Mehta:** [Zor](#) addresses rural India's electricity challenges with a battery sharing network, allowing farmers to rent multi-functional batteries whenever and wherever they need it -- at a fraction of the cost of diesel, without the investment and reliability issues of solar.

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### **About the Westly Foundation**

Silicon Valley's Westly Foundation, founded in 2000 by Steve Westly and Anita Yu, operates from the premise that investment in our children and youth paves the way for success in the future. The foundation works to improve the lives of at-risk children and youth in California and beyond through traditional grantmaking and annual Westly Prize awards.