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## Entrepreneurship program seeks Rutherford students

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A Nashville-based entrepreneurship training program for youth is looking to recruit students in Rutherford County, said its president.

Youth About Business trains youth ages 10-18 in all components involved in successfully running a business, said Sam Kirk, president. Founded in 1992, the nonprofit corporation gives students hands-on training and the opportunity to learn from area business professionals.

Students learn experience by running a 30,000-square-foot training center in Murfreesboro — All Things Possible Bargain Center at 352 W. Northfield Blvd.

“The goal now is to build a youth membership base around that center so we can sponsor more students in Youth About Business,” Kirk said. He wants to create a Murfreesboro-based chapter that can support 41 students through revenues generated at All Things Possible.

Kason Southihack said she learned about all aspects of business through Youth About Business. She got involved with the organization three years ago through Blackman High School.

“It is much more than just a high school class,” she said. “It is much more than an after-school program.” Southihack said the skills she learned in Youth About Business are skills that don’t just relate to business, they relate to life.

About 70 percent of participants are from underserved areas, Kirk said.

In 2004 Youth About Business produced \$660,000 in program-service revenue from its training centers. This year, the program surpassed that amount within nine months. Youth About Business will announce record-breaking revenues and awards will be given out at its 13th annual banquet Nov. 11 at the Opryland Hotel, Tennessee ballroom from 6-9 p.m.

Besides running All Things Possible, Nashville-area students run a specialty company, which sells custom-made products like T-shirts and pens, and Youth About Business owns a real strip center where students learn about lease agreements and land investments.

“It is a phenomenal training ground,” Kirk said. “They get a chance to learn what real executives do.” He said Youth About Business enhances students’ education. They get a chance to learn why reading is important, he said, because they have to read companies’ annual reports and other complex documents. Students also learn why writing is important, Kirk said, because they get the chance to compose a variety of business reports.

Youth About Business is composed of either a summer business camp where campers learn about mergers and acquisitions, or a year-long business curriculum where students learn how to run and manage the day-to-day operations of various businesses. These areas include accounts payable, customer service and maintaining operating costs.

Students interested in learning more or registering for the program should visit [youthaboutbusiness.org](http://youthaboutbusiness.org) and fill out the registration form. Kirk said students and their parents will receive a phone call about the program.