Session 1: What is Social Entrepreneurship?

Overview
This session acknowledges that social entrepreneurship comes in many forms and can be used to address a wide variety of societal problems, and looks at the many definitions of social entrepreneurship.

Key Points
- Social entrepreneurship has many definitions, but we align our definition with our definition of entrepreneurship as “the process of creating, delivering and capturing value from new ideas for the primary purpose of making a positive social impact.”
- Social entrepreneurs work as change agents through two distinct types of ventures: revenue-generating nonprofits and mission-driven, social benefit for-profit organizations.

Discussion Questions
1. What is the difference between an entrepreneur and a social entrepreneur?
2. What are some problems in the environment, community, or society that you’d like to see solved?

Additional Resources
10 Greatest Social Entrepreneurs of All Time

Possible Assignments
1. Pick a non-profit that most in the group have heard of and dig into their history and current activities to figure out who was the social entrepreneur behind the big idea.
2. Visit the B Corporation website and explore the list of B Corporations. Select one and research the founder. Are they a social entrepreneur? Why? Make a presentation on this.