“Social entrepreneurs create social enterprises. ... They make fundamental changes in the way that things are done in the social sector. Their visions are bold. They seek out opportunities to improve society, and they take action. They attack the underlying causes of problems rather than simply treating symptoms. And, although they may act locally, their actions have the very real potential to stimulate global improvements in their chosen arena, whether that is education, health care, job training and development, the environment, the arts, or any other social endeavor.” Greg Dees, Enterprising Nonprofits, p. 5.

In this course you will learn the basics of social entrepreneurship, and most importantly, how successful programs and products must be both linguistically and culturally appropriate. We will examine a series of business practices and see how they apply to nonprofit settings. Through case studies, website analyses, community service learning hours, community-based team projects and more, you will put into practice the principles of social entrepreneurship while honing your Spanish skills and developing a more nuanced notion of US Latino communities, including the one right here in Champaign-Urbana.

Prerequisites: Any one of the SPAN 250s (250, 252 or 254). If you haven’t taken SPAN 232 “Spanish in the Community” but you studied abroad, grew up around Spanish and/or have volunteer extensively, you may enroll. For more information, contact Ann Abbott (arabbott@illinois.edu or @AnnAbbott).