



TEEN ACCELERATE FINALISTS

February 22, 2024

4:15 – 8:30 pm

Cook & Create!

Presenter: Vee Johnson and Lachelle Cleary

Cleveland School of Architecture and Design, CMSD

Our initiative is to gather kids who enjoy cooking and creating, to help people in shelters and the homeless during the winter. Cook & Create will benefit kids who do not have the resources to express themselves to do so, and also help others around them who need the help.

Pause & Reflect Wellness Coaching

Presenter: Selah Gray

Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy

Pause & Reflect is a coaching program designed to help middle and high school students increase wellness in all aspects of their life from mindset to rest to confidence and more. With all of the demands in a student's life, wellness often gets overlooked. We all know that rest is important, but good intentions are lost in the daily hustle of life. Throughout the 12-week program, the workbook and bi-weekly sessions will help the client change their mindset, improve relationships, find rest, set goals, overcome obstacles, and gain confidence! Accountability and clarity of vision will channel efforts into a sustainable, easy to manage way to achieve the life that they want to live. When facing obstacles in life, it can sometimes feel like too big of a problem to manage on your own. Someone can feel trapped thinking that there is no way to be able to make a change. But when someone steps into the problem with them through coaching, the client is able to see things from a fresh perspective and start making a tangible change. The client will discover how to live a life they love and become the person they were created to be.

Project Pet

Presenters: Christopher Alvarez, Zoe Dilorenzo, Sarah Hall, Santiago Salvador

GlenOak High School, Plain Local Schools

Project Pet is a Junior Achievement company that makes pet beds out of upcycled clothing. We receive clothing donations, wash the clothes, cut them into small squares, and stuff an unstuffed dog bed (from Amazon) with it. We are committed to lowering the amount of clothing wasted each year. At Project Pet, we believe that every animal deserves a safe, comfortable bed to sleep on, so for every 5 beds we sell, we are donating 1 to the Stark County Humane Society.



Growing Hope

Presenters: Lilly Moran, Gabby Ransom

Hathaway Brown School

Our initiative seeks to provide gardening kits to children who are in foster care and eventually to those who are in long term hospitalizations. When our friend Chasey Scaravilli passed away, we helped create a garden at Beech Brook for children in foster care who received therapy there. As we were grieving, we found that creating a space for other kids who might be suffering gave us hope. It was therapeutic to help nurture a calm, safe, green space that provided both comfort to us and allow us and to the children receiving services there. We were able to raise money initially through a lemonade stand to purchase benches, a Little Free Lending Library, and plants. We tended to the garden for three years. This past year, the Beech Brook location was sold, and although we were able to take some items with us, we were saddened that both the children in foster care and we lost the physical space. In light of this, we came up with the idea of creating gardening kits that could be given to children in foster care (and possibly in hospitals) so that regardless of where they are placed, we could bring some of the joy of nature to them. The purpose of the kits is to give children and teens in foster care the opportunity to grow and care for plants in settings where children might feel hopeless, they can call their own. Kits will consist of a small pot, paints, soil pods, bean seed to be grown in plastic bag to allow for faster growth and visible results to be transferred to pot, inspirational poem, ruler to measure growth, small succulent (in case bean seed does not grow) and small garden sculpture than can be painted along with the pot. In addition, we would like to provide the children with a book (pending funding or donations) to better recreate the experience they might have had in Scout and Chasey's garden.

Mission Monarch

Presenters: Carter Black, Grady Miller, Jack Shaffer, Tess Bucher

North Canton Hoover High School

The monarch butterfly population has decreased by 99% since 1990. In 2021, they were placed on the endangered species list with less than two thousand left. The decrease in their population was due to the use of pesticides from common gardening products and through deforestation. Milkweed is critical for monarchs as it is a food source for them and it is where they lay their eggs. Monarch butterflies are an integral part of our ecosystem because they are pollinators that allow us to enjoy foods such as squash and blueberries. Mission Monarch is solving this problem with milkweed seed bombs and butterfly plush toys. Our seed bombs are self-produced using milkweed seeds we harvested, paper and water. We are also selling plush toys for fifteen dollars which are going to help raise awareness for the decline in the monarch butterfly's population with a percentage of proceeds being donated to a local butterfly garden. These will also help raise awareness to kids who might not understand the concept of our seed bombs. Compared to other companies, Mission Monarch sells higher quality seeds because they have already undergone cold stratification. This is a process where seeds sit in a cold space for 4 to 6 weeks to help the seed break its natural dormancy cycle, thus making it able to survive when planted. Furthermore, the seed bombs protect the seeds from potential environmental factors as well.



Food for Fuel

Presenter: Concetta Yormick

Laurel School

My initiative is to educate students ages 10-18 about eating disorders as well as educating teachers and other adults about symptoms of potential disordered eating thoughts. This education could cause individuals to seek help before their negative thoughts of food manifest into an eating disorder. This could save lives as anorexia nervosa, a type of eating disorder, is the leading death under mental illnesses.

For the Flow

Presenter: Natalia Navarro

Laurel School

For the Flow will work towards promoting accessibility to menstrual products and eliminating the issue of Period Poverty in Cleveland, OH. I will do this by connecting with organizations, including Women's shelters, Rehabilitation centers, Homeless shelters, and more to supply them with period products to distribute to women in need. My vision is to provide period products to those in need in a safe, effective, and streamlined manner. I will obtain the menstrual products through donations, grants, and funding.

Sciology

Presenter: Ayesha Faruki

Mentor High School

Sciology is a 501(c)(3) registered nonprofit organization that strives to provide equitable and accessible STEM education to students across the globe. The nonprofit hosts a weeklong online summer camp on a yearly basis, the first of which occurred this past summer, completely free of charge to the student. The camp strives to provide an enjoyable and informative learning experience for middle school students and through that bring more girls, people of color, and minorities into the world of STEM, taught by qualified and talented high school student volunteers. During the past year, the camp was able to host over 25 students from nine states across the country and only hopes to expand in the future. Students were taught topics like anatomy and physiology, biology, epidemiology, and cryptography through a blend of lecture and interactive activities.



Empower with AI

Presenter: Eashan Kosaraju
Solon High School

I will host a free-to-attend, inclusive, and equitable Youth AI Summit for students in the Northeast Ohio region. The proposed summit will be pivotal to increasing AI literacy in the Northeast Ohio region as the majority of people would simply describe AI as being “powerful”. However, with AI rapidly advancing every day, it isn’t just powerful, but rather something that will, in the future, influence everyday life. In fact, with AI likely having the capacity to replace 300 million jobs by just 2050, it is crucial that everyone understands the inner workings of AI. Many local industry professionals and academic leaders in the field of AI and technology will be invited to participate in the Youth AI summit. Five speaker and/or panel sessions will be planned to offer students insights into the latest advancements and trends in AI. A hybrid summit with both in person and virtual format is chosen to make the sessions accessible to a wider audience. Students will have the opportunity to listen to the talks by the experts in the field and engage with the industry and academic leaders during question and answer panel sessions. This interactive format will assure that AI is no longer a ‘vague’ topic in the minds of students, but rather one that everyone is excited to learn about. Students will also participate in workshops with AI tools such as ChatGPT and Google’s Bard AI, which will enhance their toolkits and help them apply AI in solving real world problems.

Clothing 4 Queers

Presenter: Aidan Krishnaney
University School

Clothing for queers is an initiative that connects trans and queer individuals with business clothing in affirming spaces. Specifically, we would create relationships with preexisting clothing donation agencies, and through them collect all types of "business casual" clothing. Subsequently, we would set up booths at queer job fairs with the collected clothing, opening a space for queer and trans folk to find business clothing that matches their identities in affirming spaces.