



A.H. Nickless Innovation Award

Phase One abstract

Team name	Make a Difference	Student team members	Jane Smith, Amy Jones, Jake Jacobs
School name	United Creative Academy	Team coach name	Polly Thomas
Select project genre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Energy and the Environment <input checked="" type="radio"/> Medicine and Health Services <input type="radio"/> Engineering <input type="radio"/> Science and Technology 		
Identify the real-world problem that your team is addressing	<p>Recent studies have shown that while millions of people worldwide suffer from food shortages – even in the United States – food production is not the problem. Farmers produce enough food to adequately feed everyone on Earth, but food distribution channels, politics and socioeconomic factors keep healthy, quality food out of the hands of those who most need it.</p> <p>We feel that improving access to quality food will help address not only hunger, but school performance, economic performance and crime. Proper health and nutrition are key factors in children’s development and growth, which translates into healthy adults. Also, if families have access to low-cost, quality food, they can invest the money they save on food costs into things like transportation, clothing and other necessities, rather than having to cut corners.</p>		
Offer 2-4 ideas for how you plan to address this problem	<p>We think that there are several ways to address equal access to healthy, quality food:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide means for individuals to produce food in small spaces with a minimal investment of resources. 2. Research which plants and seeds are most hardy and offer high nutritional values and cost-effectiveness, and research how to grow the most food in the most compact space to maximize food production. 3. Research alternative food-growing methods, such as hydroponics, to discover how to maximize food production. 4. Research and leverage items available through local recycling facilities (pallets, plastic containers, etc.) to create low-cost kits for compact container gardens. <p>We believe we can create low-cost kits that can be sold in urban markets – at a profit – to consumers with little access to quality food. We also</p>		

	<p>believe that these kits could be used in parks and public spaces to provide free access to food for homeless members of the community as well.</p> <p>If we integrate with local outreach programs, we can leverage existing networks to bring our product to the people who need it most. Also, by leveraging these existing networks, we can avoid costly research and investment in our own marketing channels.</p>
<p>Describe how your team will utilize the \$1,000 to develop your solution</p>	<p>We would use the \$1,000 to create and test a prototype kit, set up a garden/greenhouse to grow and research the best seed stocks and growing conditions for the plants, create an information packet on how to use the kit, and create marketing collateral to send to organizations that already help people with food access difficulties.</p>
<p>In under 20 words, describe your project (does not need to be a complete sentence)</p>	<p>Low-cost food-growing kits to improve access to quality food to reduce hunger and provide additional societal benefits</p>
<p>Other information to share with the committee</p>	<p>Once we have developed a food kit that is successful and effective in urban areas in the United States, we will focus on different geographies, which pose additional climate/environmental concerns to address.</p> <p>We believe that by bridging the food gap, society will benefit in many ways. People who have adequate access to food are able to be more productive members of society. The next great scientist might never live up to his or her full potential if s/he doesn't get the nutrition needed to grow, develop and flourish.</p>