



Introducing the Pitch to Ditch Poverty Challenge 2020 Finalists!

Last year, we challenged the community to develop creative approaches to address barriers to poverty at our first Pitch to Ditch Poverty Contest. Pitch to Ditch Poverty originated from realizing that our communities are full of groups and individuals with big ideas to address the challenges in their communities. This contest recognizes that groups and individuals impacted by our communities' challenges also have the knowledge and lived experiences that best equip them to visualize and implement community-based solutions to those challenges.

The Pitch to Ditch Poverty challenge provides funding, support, and recognition to individuals and community-led groups with big ideas and projects that address the racial and social injustices that disproportionately impact individuals in poverty. This year we wanted the contest to lift up and highlight those big ideas that help mitigate the racial and social inequities that are so evident today and those ideas that address the impact of the COVID-19 crisis in our communities. From a pool of over 15 applicants, the committee selected three finalists. During the Poverty Summit we'll watch a video from each group and then later in the program, we'll ask YOU to vote for the group that you believe should receive the award. First place receives \$5,000, second place \$3,000 and third place \$2,000. Below are the three finalists and more information about the projects.

DQ Evans 253-Camp

Since the COVID-19 crisis has started, sports activities for children and real social interactions have been interrupted while drug and alcohol use increasing due to pandemic-related anxiety and depression. This big idea addresses this issue by providing a safe space for kids to stay active by doing fun sporting events. Our goal is to provide mentors for troubled and low-income youth by providing an atmosphere that can give them relief from the real-life struggles they experience. We want to provide a positive environment with authentic and genuine coaching, build lasting relationships, and bring a sense of normality into the youth's schedules that will also benefit the parents.

G Street Collective

Due to COVID-19, capacity at shelters has decreased to maintain social distancing protocol. The street directly behind the shelter, G Street, has long been a gathering place for folks without shelter. For this community, the most apparent issues are: limited access to a steady, reliable running water source and the lack of resources to appropriately dispose of waste. The "G Street Collective," which included housed and unhoused people and includes people of color. They plan to purchase cleaning supplies for folks to care for their living space, install a permanent sharps container to dispose of needles safely, replace the current water pump with a more durable, sanitary, and sustainable automatic shutoff faucet and install a bike public work stand. This proposal aims to move beyond merely identifying or "hearing and seeing" the issues and towards direct action and concrete community-based solutions.

Your Health Matters COVID-19 Prevention Program for Communities of Color

Communities of color across the country are being hit hard by COVID-19. A significant contributing socioeconomic factor is that many people of color tend to work in low-paying jobs deemed Essential Workers. For communities of color, COVID-19 is extra lethal because it is a pandemic jumping on top of preexisting health disparities and socioeconomic factors. Your Health Matters COVID-19 Prevention Program for Communities of Color is designed to build partnerships and engage Hilltop neighborhood businesses, churches and residents to promote health, wellness and disease prevention during the Corona Virus epidemic. The Project provides a forum to teach youth about black history, particularly blacks' contributions to science, and develop entrepreneurial skills to confront poverty. The youth will also be taught how to make hand sanitizer and face masks to distribute throughout the community at barbershops, salons, churches, daycare centers, minority-owned businesses and dental/medical offices.