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Summaries presented come directly from the students as submitted.

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Community Problem Solving Summaries 2017 International Conference

Future Problem Solving Program International is proud to present the 2017 International Conference Community Problem Solving project summaries. Students competing in this component focus on real community problems. Teams and individual competitors explore local or global issues and select a CmPS project that relate to civic/cultural issues, education, environmental concerns, health concerns, or human services.

International Conference 2017 CmPS Competition Projects

- 🏆 21 Junior Division Teams
- 🏆 22 Middle Division Teams
- 🏆 23 Senior Division Teams
- 🏆 13 Individual Projects

Dear CmPS Participants,

Congratulations and Welcome to IC 2017!

Your projects are wonderful and the work you have completed is phenomenal. We are so excited to have the opportunity to share this wonderful experience with you. You will have a marvelous time and you will meet many new friends whom you will cherish for years to come.

As I have reviewed your projects, I am astounded by the dedication and hard work that each of you has exhibited in the completion of your various projects. This is the largest number of CmPS projects that we have ever had at an international competition. That certainly shows the dedication of today's young people throughout the world. You are to be congratulated for your part in making our world a better place, solving problems in your communities – one project at a time!

Remember each of you is a winner already, but the real winners are your communities that have benefited from your diligence and dedication. Regardless of the results on Sunday, you can be proud of your accomplishments, knowing that you have made a difference in the world.

I am here to serve you, so feel free to ask if you need anything.

Brenda Porter

Brenda Porter
CmPS Coordinator

CmPS Team Summaries

JUNIOR DIVISION

Australia

DREAM Team Being Mindful

Firbank Grammar School Sandringham Campus

Melbourne, Victoria

Georgina Robinson, Ava Jansen, Angelica Woodroffe, Anika Moller, and Hugo McNamara

Coaches: Karen Chandler and Leanne Williams

JT-6436

D.R.E.A.M : There are many students in our school community, who lead active and busy lives, with many extra-curricular engagements, both within and beyond school. Recognising stress and anxiety, the causes, as well as ways to reduce these is an important lifelong skill which needs to be taught explicitly. Through the introduction of mindful strategies in our school community, we developed a school wide awareness where students were encouraged to value and appreciate the present moment, whilst developing overall well-being knowledge and practices to impact on social, emotional and physical health, which were applied in daily routines in the present and beyond.

Australia

Parents as Partners – Care Package Service

Curran Public School

Sydney, New South Wales

Jaylyna Fa'afiu, Kirrinda Ballangarry, Salome Fifita, Hannah Sivas, Amer Kanawaty, Micah Cross, Nani Crichton, Aakash Dilip, Jonah Fa'afiu, Adalyah Swann, and Alishah Mohammad

Coach: Emma Stirling

JT-6435

Children starting Kindergarten (age 5) at our school are now receiving free educational resources to use in the home prior to starting school thanks to our 2015 project starting the “Care Package Service”. However, this was not enough unless parents and kids knew how to use the resources. We also learnt that parent and community engagement in the school was extremely low. This is why our evolving project has focused on engaging “Parents as Partners” where we have been running practical sessions for families to learn about, make and use each resource before taking them home.

Florida

A.C.T.E.D. – Adolescents Coping Through Effects of Divorce

Bunnell Elementary School

Bunnell, Florida

Jack Gilvary, Chloe Long, Grant McMillin, Josefine D’Elia, and Zachary Bennett

Coach: Jerri Berry

JT-6445

A.C.T.E.D (Adolescents Coping Through Effects of Divorce) is a peer support group assisting students whose families are coping through divorce or other family issues. The group provides strategies for coping with fear, anxiety, lack of focus, changes in behavior in a structured, safe and confidential environment. Children feel more comfortable and more open speaking to a peer than an adult and knowing they are not alone in the issues they face. A.C.T.E.D. also provides resources and information to the community for families to seek assistance in coping with changes accompanied by divorce or other family issues.

Community Problem Solving Summaries 2017 International Conference

Florida

The Hammock: A Makerspace for Young Minds

Rymfire Elementary

Palm Coast, Florida

Marisa Canizales, Anya Fox, Melissa Braflat, Bryce Willis, Roman Akmentins, Devynne Martz, Freddy Gimbel, and Caden Cavas

Coach: Amy Kopach
JT-6454

The Hammock is the name of our learning space at Rymfire Elementary. We have created a space within our media center that centers around giving K-2 students a space to be creative while learning about STEM. These students are able to learn through play and trial and error. They are learning engineering skills, robotics, as well as other important skills needed in the 21st century classroom. Kindergarten-2nd grade students use critical thinking skills, communication skills and collaboration skills while building and creating. This opportunity does not happen as often in the classroom as it once did.

Florida

T.H.I.N.K – To Help Include New Kids

Rymfire Elementary

Palm Coast, Florida

Ben Kopach, Jake Blumengarten, Jack Petocz, Cameron Driggers, Cadyn Herndon, Victoria Ganung, Madison Murphy, David Trujillo, and Maken Harding

Coach: Tim Ruddy
JT-6455

The T.H.I.N.K (To Help Include New Kids) strives to become mentors for all new students who enroll at Rymfire Elementary school after the 1st day of school. They want the students to feel welcome to the school and feel like they have someone they can talk to or ask questions through their first year at their new school. By doing this, they hope they will enjoy school and perform better both behaviorally and academically. Due to the success of the project at Rymfire, T.H.I.N.K is currently working on expanding to all the schools in Flagler County.

Georgia

Wading in the Watershed

Howard B. Stroud Elementary

Athens, Georgia

Laniya Faust, Joseph Perlera, Kameron Butler, Lakea Edgerton, Yahir Rivera-Gaona, Christian Fayerweather, Quentin Stephens, Jateria Hyman, Bryce Cooper, Jadin Fielteau, Daejah Dubose, Kimore Holliday, Kaleb Glenn, Devon Fisher, Javarius Moore, and Stori McCoy

Coaches: Meg Hines and Leslie Brown
JT-6443

Thriving watersheds keep communities healthy. Erosion and run off can affect the plant and animal life of the watershed. This CmPS team was concerned how the flow of water might take away some of the features of their school campus. With the support of school and community members, they designed and built a rain garden to help slow the water flow and prevent erosion. Along the way, they have shared what they have learned about watersheds and taken on several other tasks to improve the watershed area in which their school is located.

Community Problem Solving Summaries 2017 International Conference

Illinois

Project SMOG (Students Making Outdoors Greener)

Science & Arts Academy

Des Plaines, Illinois

Neil Behl, Jaden Welch-Jani, Jaina Kunwar, Daniel O'Connor, Clare O'Connor, Noah Apley, Jakub Mylers, Patrick O'Connell, Simran Agarwal, Wren Dudney, Rameses Mendoza, Evan Kessler, Elle Spear, Sajjan Shah, and Faisal Patel.

Coach: Michelle Gueguen
JT-6413

Project SMOG students identified air pollution as a key environmental issue in their community. O'Hare International Airport, the 4th largest airport in the world is only five miles away from their school, Science & Arts Academy, in Des Plaines, Illinois. As a result, they discovered that their community is directly exposed to the negative effects of air pollution. Project SMOG students addressed this issue by creating a holiday pollution reduction campaign around Thanksgiving. In addition, they planted trees in their community to help generate more oxygen in an effort to reduce air pollution.

Kentucky

Plugged-In

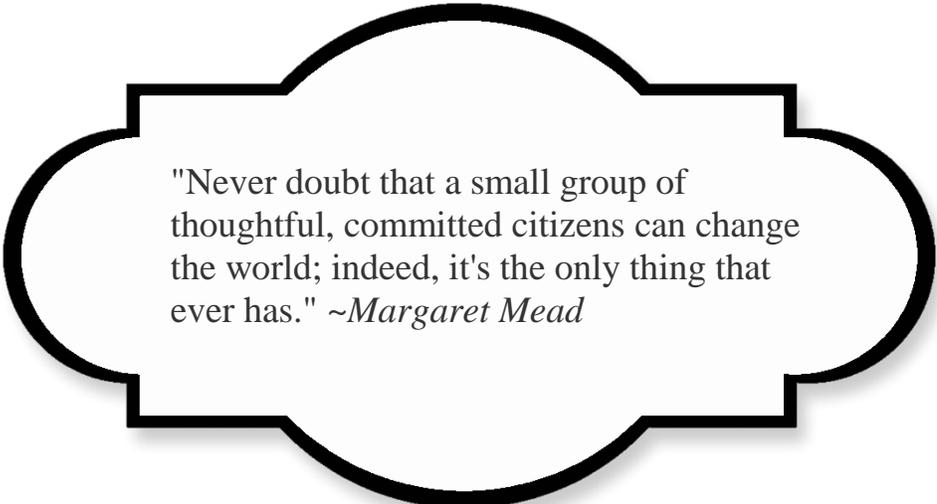
Central Elementary School

Paintsville, Kentucky

Waylon Bayes, Loren Blair, David Burchett, Chloe Dyer, Darren Fairchild, Nicholas Hardin, Trevon Johnson, Heather Lyons, Sara Perry, Jacob Rubado, Isaiah Rowland, Madison Rowland, Allie Thornsberry, Kara Ward, and Brenna Ward

Coach: Tonya Mullins
JT-6486

Project PLUGGED-IN is a project that has brought lights and power to an orphanage in a small village in rural Kenya, Africa. This mud and sticks hut has become home to roughly 49 children ages 3-15. Team PLUGGED-IN has placed solar panels that now provide the children with lights to see with after dark so they can read and study. These panels also provide a means to power devices so that one day they might be able to connect to the internet and the outside world which will in turn enable them to access information and promote better living. Our goal is to help the children of the Mount Zion Orphanage to get PLUGGED-IN to power and PLUGGED-IN to the future.



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." ~Margaret Mead

Community Problem Solving Summaries 2017 International Conference

Kentucky

Project P.O.O.F (Providing Options for Out-smarting Fires)

W.R. Castle Elementary School

Wittensville, Kentucky

Haley Anderson, Adyson Burchett, Hunter Burchett, Destiney Byrd, Brannan Campbell, Kaylee Gibbs, Alivia Hackworth, Constance Martin, Kaylyn McKenzie, and Blake Vanhooose

Coaches: Heather Campbell and Gaylena Burchett
JT-6492

The W.R. Castle CmPS team project P.O.O.F. (Providing options for outsmarting fires) has been working to provide information and resources to promote fire safety. Our focus was providing smoke detectors to families that did not have at least one working smoke detector in their home. We partnered with the American Red Cross and the W.R. Castle Fire Department to provide and install smoke detectors. Our partnership with the Red Cross also provided each classroom in our school a 60 minute lesson on quickly escaping during a fire. We hosted a Fire Safety Night where fire fighters and our team taught about fire safety.

Kentucky

Team TMNT- Train, Motivate, Nix Technology

Worthington Elementary School

Worthington, Kentucky

Cameron Bell, Alexis Boggs, Ross Burton, Amelia Clarke, Davanna Grubb, Mikenna Lacks, Jacob Lodwick, Reagan Mackie, Madison Mayo, Lexi McCoy, Matthew Meade, Kiera Meyer, Gracie Reed, MaKayla Stone, and Delaney Whitt.

Coaches: Lisa Farley and Jujuana Hieneman
JT-6481

Team TMNT - Train Motivate Nix Technology has focused on decreasing the amount of time children and adults spend on technology while increasing the amount of time of physical activity. Through research, we found that Kentucky has an obesity rate of 5th in the nation and there is also a direct connection between technology use and other types of inactivity to obesity. Our team focused on getting students and adults active by joining the "Worthington Walkers Club", participating in the monthly Fitness Challenge, attending Family Fitness Nights, and asking others to sign a pledge to "Put Down the Screen and Get Moving".

Massachusetts

Project AWARE – Animal Weight Awareness and Recreational Education

Dedham Public School

Dedham, Massachusetts

Connor Loughlin, Sydney Parke, Hannah Kane, Emily O'Neill, Allison Auger, Julia Friday, Lily Hyde, Fiona Finn, Lucy Auger, and Luke Wilkinson

Coach: Monika Wilkinson
JT-6447

Project AWARE works to increase awareness of pet obesity so that owners in the town of Dedham are better prepared to provide a healthier lifestyle for pets in 2016 and beyond.

Community Problem Solving Summaries 2017 International Conference

Minnesota

Choose Your Path

North Junior High School

St. Cloud, Minnesota

Bangaly Kaba, Sandy Pestana-Mata, Ivan Santiago-Contreras, and Nicole Warzecha

Coaches: Karlyn Doyle and Tom Warnemunde

JT-6461

Violent crime has been slowly rising in St. Cloud, Minnesota since 2010. In what ways might we, the North Junior High Junior CmPS team, inform the citizens of St. Cloud, Minnesota about the increase in the violent crime rate in our community, so that more citizens in St. Cloud will chose the non-violent route when faced with a potentially negative decision to make in 2017 and beyond? Choose Your Path created in interactive website, engaging presentation, and engraved pencils to give people to remind people that it's their choice! Personal connections and conversations are key to successful decisions.

New Jersey

Phearlessly Phighting Phragmites

Millstone Township Elementary School

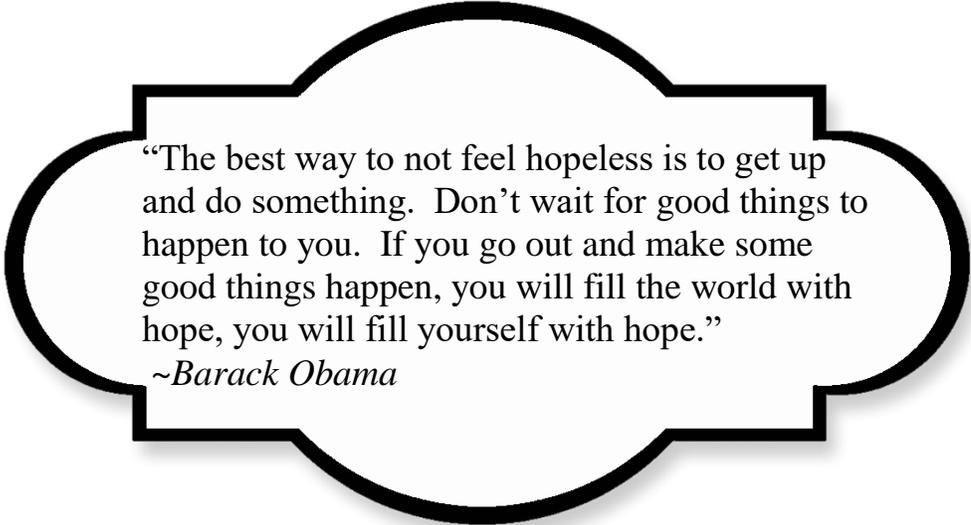
Millstone Township, New Jersey

Ethan Bailey, Ryan Bailey, Tia Bajaj, Rafferty Burden, Anna DePinho, Brendan DeRose, Mahi Desai, Charles Duffy, Rachel Glantzberg, Evangeline Huey, Gianna Iannaccone, Prisha Kupsad, Thomas Maltese, Gabriella Menar-Nohilly, Gavin Normand, Jai Patel, Dylan Quinn, Francesca Scibilia, and Joshua Sullivan.

Coaches: Beth Topinka and Jennifer Modula

JT-6430

Our Phearless Phragmites Phighters team tackled the challenge of raising public awareness about problems caused by an invasive plant, Phragmites australis. Phragmites is a concern because it harms biodiversity in our rural environment, and it also presents a fire hazard in a critical area near our First Aid station. We surveyed residents, researched and interviewed experts, then developed a two-part solution: collaborating with our town's Environmental Commission to plan elimination of the target patch, and informing all Millstone Scouts about invasive Phragmites, providing each troop with "Invase-Away" kits to prevent the spread of invasive seeds after outdoor activities.



“The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don’t wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope.”

~Barack Obama

Community Problem Solving Summaries 2017 International Conference

New York

Project Safe Streets

PS 176: The Cambria Heights School

New York, New York

Claudenski Souvenance, Aber Halder, Marzuk Rashid, Mushfiqur Rahman, Kaif Ridwan, Hasnaen Shior, Faryal Mamun, Aleesha Besaw, Jasmine Davis, Emmanuel Moreno, Saniya Wilson, Angela Agbi, Devon Reid, Aniya Campbell, and Logan Brown

Coach: Mark Coccarelli

JT-6482

In the neighborhood of PS 176 in Cambria Heights, Queens, New York City, the flow of traffic on 235th street has been a problem for over a decade. Residents' driveways are blocked and parents are double parking, blocking the busses so they cannot take the children home. The traffic situation has caused several altercations during morning arrival. After conducting their own informal traffic study, the team worked with local law enforcement to enforce a temporary one-way street. They have created PSAs and conducted a number of community meetings to work on resolving these traffic issues. They have also persuaded local politicians to conduct an official traffic study on their street. They have created a safer environment for students, staff and community members!

Singapore

Our Kampung Kindness

Chongzheng Primary School

Singapore

Emily Tan Si Ying, Grace Goh Si En, Gregory Chang, Karina Liswandy, Lam Hiu Thong, Mohamad Syafriy Ilham, Natasha Binte Mohammad Zain, Queenie Leo Zi Yu, Sabrina Lim Jia Qi, Selvaraj Madhan, Sriram Raghav, Sparsh Vashishth, Syabil Oh Bin Muhamed Yusri, Toh Yi Xi Corliss, and Wong Si Hui Bernice

Coaches: Ahamed Khan Amanullah Ameer and Ji Peifen

JT-6408

Our Kampung Kindness aims to encourage children aged 8 and below to practise empathy through perspective taking. We aim to do this by taking a step-up approach, beginning with the recognition of emotion followed by perspective taking and putting oneself in others' shoes and ultimately making thoughtful decisions. We believe starting at a young age would help instill empathy as a habit that they can ultimately apply when they are older, to create a more inclusive and empathetic community.

Singapore

The Effective Communicators Project

North View Primary School

Singapore

Ian Chui Jian Xuan, Jennifer Hu Jia Cheng, Jordan Chung Kai Yang, Lau Guan Jun, Tan Yi Sin, and Wong Yue Yi

Coaches: Darleana Daut and Lee Ke Hin

JT-6398

This project aim to reduce the misunderstanding of pupils in the classroom during group work and improve the communication skills amongst peers. Based on our team's research, many pupils in our school argue during group work as they misunderstood what their peers said. The team implemented three solutions, The Effective Communicators Kit, recess activities and Chill Out Zone (COZ), to strengthen the pupils' communication skills in order for them to be effective communicators in school and in the society.

Community Problem Solving Summaries 2017 International Conference

Texas

Green Revolution Solution

Davis Intermediate School

Wylie, Texas

Caitlyn Cantu, Karla Echeverria, Daniel Lopez, Allye Morton, Obosa Odia, Victory Omokaro, Joshua Pero, Abigail Raebel, Trinity Singer, Abby Spicer, Jackson Slaughter, Natalie Stephens, and Jack Winn

Coaches: Karen Jordan, Ann Darby, and Lawanna Cheshier
JT-6470

In today's world people are always on the go, and this creates more trash in our environment. How might we, the Green Revolution Solution team, reduce the amount of waste our school produces, so that we can positively impact the environment around us?

Texas

Project Home Alone

Crockett Intermediate School

Paris, Texas

Carter Benson, Makina Cass, Brody Holleman, Madison Jeffus, Anna Lehenbauer, Madison Meyer, and, Abby Perry

Coach: Debb Fleming
JT-6425

On August 17, 2016 in Paris, Texas the Paris Garden Apartments caught fire. Nine students from Crockett Intermediate School smelled smoke and walked outside to see their entire apartment roof engulfed in flames. Crockett students who lived there had no idea what to do and many of the kids happened to be home alone when the fire occurred. **Operation Home Alone** chose to increase emergency procedure information for students so that they will respond with confidence during a crisis. We are confident we will continue to *light a spark* inside our youth to be more prepared for emergencies.

Texas

Project SALUTE

Cross Timbers Middle School

Grapevine, Texas

Krish Bhayani, Ella Bradford, Thomas Buckman, Nithya Budda, Leah Carrothers, Peyton Collier, Gabriella Dunn, Savannah Ghormley, Ryan Halliburton, William Jackson, Will Jetton, Allison Koch, Cameron McCauley, Akshaya Mohan, Madison Mooney, Scott Noell, Emily O'Neill, Paul Russell, Natalie Poveda, Gabriella Sign, Hudson Spradley, Mouktika Sripati, David Udoh, Lauren Walsh, Emily Weaver, and Nathan Wilson

Coach: Karen Moxley
JT-6469

In 2016, news stories of US soldiers returning from deployment struggling to acclimate themselves back to society saddened us. Families of these military personnel are also affected in profound ways as their loved ones are deployed to places around the world putting their lives in danger so we can live in freedom. Somehow, just saying "thank you" seemed hollow. So our team asked ourselves How Might We improve the connection of the community with people affected by military deployment so that a more supportive community could be built?

Turkey

TEAM MISSIONSLIMPOSSIBLE

Nesibe Aydın Schools

Gölbaşı, Ankara

Ela Çandar, Hazel Aksöyek, Yağmur Gözütok, Şerife Özsoy, Mete Eken, Çinar Özkan, Ceylin Nisa Tahmaz, Sezen Ecevit, Berrak Atasoy, Zeynep Sena Akkpolat, Berfin Şen, Alin Nehir Özer, Kerem Behcet Kayra, Duru Avşar, Emir Akkangöl, and Tan Micozkadioğlu

Coach: Mehmet Ayhan Buyukbicer

JT-6472

In our world of day and age, obesity is not a problem but an epidemic. According to the most recent statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO) 30% of the world's population is obese or overweight, that is about 2.1 billion people from over 188 countries. The meaning of "obese" varies according to different countries. In this globalized world we have a very hard time keeping up with everything most importantly what we consume. CmPS taught us that if we worked hard and took responsibility, we could achieve our goals no matter what the challenges are.

Virginia

Safety Squad

Cople Elementary School

Hague, Virginia

Shailee Bevan, Gabby Griggs, Katelynn Lee, Chase Louk, Aven Clarke, Josh Headley, and Felipe Martinez

Coaches: Anne Evans and Andrew Woodrow

JT-6484

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that each year 12,000 children from the ages of 0 to 19 years of age die from unintentional injuries in the United States. With that in mind we formed the safety squad. Our mission is to keep the students of Cople Elementary safe through educating the youth, informing their parents, and promoting activities that are safe. We have taken on teaching our classmates about fire safety, radon safety, Christmas tree safety, and much more. Everyone at Cople will remain safe with the Safety Squad on the job.

MIDDLE DIVISION

Australia

Helping The Homeless

The Illawarra Grammar School

Figtree, New South Wales

Andrea Avenido, Cecilia Arsenovic, and Cailey Sharp

Coach: Jean Burton

MT-6439

Our project "Helping the Homeless" aims to spread awareness about homelessness in the community through education. Our team has worked with the likes of charities such as the Salvation Army and Wollongong Homeless Hub in order to provide assistance to homeless individuals as well as bringing light to the current situation and discussing strategic stances on how best to help. We have taken action within the community by organizing a food drive for the Salvation Army, hosting school presentations, distributing educational packages to students and distributing food packages to homeless individuals in Sydney.

Community Problem Solving Summaries 2017 International Conference

Australia

I'm Talking

Camberwell Girls Grammar School

Canterbury, Victoria

Rochelle Scheid, Sarah Chuang, Shohaag Sengupta, Ally Quan, Chloe Bennett, Nikki Chen, Hiruni Sirimanne, Natasha Ranasinghe, and Sharon Truong

Coach: Eleanor Macaro
MT-6437

The **I'm Talking** project aims to help EAL (English as Another Language) students to achieve their academic and social goals from their education at Camberwell Girls Grammar School. It is hoped that by providing opportunities which promote an understanding of the various cultures in our school community and providing strategies for EALs to develop their English skills, these students will achieve their desired educational outcomes. **I'm Talking** gives EAL students a voice and a forum to enable integration and understanding of all cultures within our school community.

Australia

Team H.E.A.L.T.H. (Helping Everyone Achieve LifeTime Health)

Fountain Gate Secondary College

Melbourne, Victoria

Mikayla Camilleri, Sibel Bozkurt, Ngoc Tran, Nikita I, Luke Attrill, and Mitchell Newman

Coach: Katie Byers
MT-6438

Our team's focus is on improving the health of adolescents after learning that 1 in 4 Australian children are overweight or obese. As a team, we decided that the students at our school need easy access to a source of healthy food, with students needing to be encouraged to participate in more physical activity and educated to make healthy food choices. Two local schools are following in our footsteps with the Health Promotion Week program. We have also written a proposal to build an exercise park within the City of Casey to get the broader community involved in physical activity.

California

Food, Fitness, and Fun

San Clemente High School

San Clemente, California

Sophia Mains, Chloe Kamp, Erika Effenberger, Gaby Perez, Natalie Cooke, Sophia Burick, Oyuky Bahena, Christiana Patton, Chanel Sud, Devin Norden, Byrony Hanks, Rachel Hanks, Rachel Wohl, Esther Mafouta, and Genavieve Koenigshofer

Coaches: Sophia Mains and Chloe Kamp
MT-6440

As Community Problem Solvers, we found that, in San Clemente, too many kids stayed inside playing on different electronic devices, and they were not getting enough exercise or healthy meals in their system. We realized that they truly just needed to be taught and shown that it is important they go outside and eat healthy foods. We reached our community through numerous school presentations, social media, newspaper, helpful handouts, and a fun fair for families with food, activities, and information. Our group touched the children by guiding them to live healthier lifestyles.

Community Problem Solving Summaries 2017 International Conference

Connecticut

B.E.E.S. (Behavior, Education, & Environmental Science)

Captain Nathan Hale Middle School

Coventry, Connecticut

Kendall Schenck, Rosemary McKerley, Jacob Shor, Samantha Boudreau, and Josephine Swinton

Coach: Laura Boates and Jeff Spivey
MT-6411

The main problem our project solves is the decline of the pollinator population, which contributes to the decrease in the amount of fresh food harvested in the local area. Consequently, the main focus of our project was implementing a beehive into the local community, and raising awareness about the need for pollinators. Over the duration of the project, our team built a beehive, obtained knowledge about beekeeping, and arranged for the necessary supplies to be acquired. We also met with the Coventry Director of Planning and Development, and decided on a location for the beehive to be installed.

Georgia

Gardens Grow Healthy Kids!

Clarke Middle School

Athens, Georgia

Clementine Acheson and Gretchen Hinger

Coach: Michelle Vecchio-Weinmeister
MT-6444

This CmPS team was concerned with malnutrition related to poverty, particularly in the public housing communities near their school. Recognizing that convenience stores instead of grocery stores are within walking distance of the communities and that many people have the false idea that junk food is cheaper than nutritious natural foods, the team knew they had to take action. They created a multi-faceted plan to support and promote an established community garden near the public housing areas, which included educating the children and families about healthy eating and getting double Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits at the garden's farmers market.

Illinois

Project STREAMS (Saving The River Environment And Maintaining Streams)

Science & Arts Academy

Des Plaines, Illinois

Maya Behl, Emily Che, Isabella Che, Mathew Feinberg, Mary Catherine Hanafée-LaPlante, Marie Manousselis, Elena Pauker, Ellie Welch-Jani, Berkeley Borkert, Suzann Donovan, Owen Dudley, Linnea Duffy, Nitya Nair, Thomas O'Connor, Ally Pines, Emily Schroeder, Lev Sheinfeld, Ryan Trudeau, and Elia Ton-That

Coach: Michelle Gueguen
MT-6414

Project Streams (Saving the Rivers, Environment, & Maintaining Streams) is dedicated to reducing pollution and its negative effects on aquatic life in the Des Plaines River using a Riparian Buffer Zone. Students worked with a naturalist to plant button bushes along the river and added protective caging around Oak trees. They removed invasive species from the forest area to continue the healthy growth of native plants and maintain the buffer zone. Students utilized a greenhouse on wheels to teach students about the importance of saving our environment and presented their project at the IAGLR Conference in May, 2017.

Community Problem Solving Summaries 2017 International Conference

India

Fight Against Groupism

The Shri Ram School Mousari

Gurgaon, Haryana

Adya Rajpal, Diya Roongta, Rehmat Arora, Siddhant Nigam Sinha, Sritejas Murugan, and Suhanee Giroti

Coaches: Ananya Subramanian and Lakshmi Subramanian
MT-6460

Our country, India and our school are made of diverse people with different religious, social, economical and cultural backgrounds. We noticed that a lot of people in our community were victims of Groupism. Groupism is the tendency to conform to the pattern of a group at the expense of individualism and cultural diversity. We, as members of the society felt that it was our duty to stand up and say no to Groupism and help its victims get back on their feet. Therefore we have started this project called 'Fight Against Groupism' to minimize or, if possible, eradicate unwanted groups in our school community and make it a place where diversity is valued. We also hope to spread it to the other parts of our community.

Kentucky

Operation Ordinary

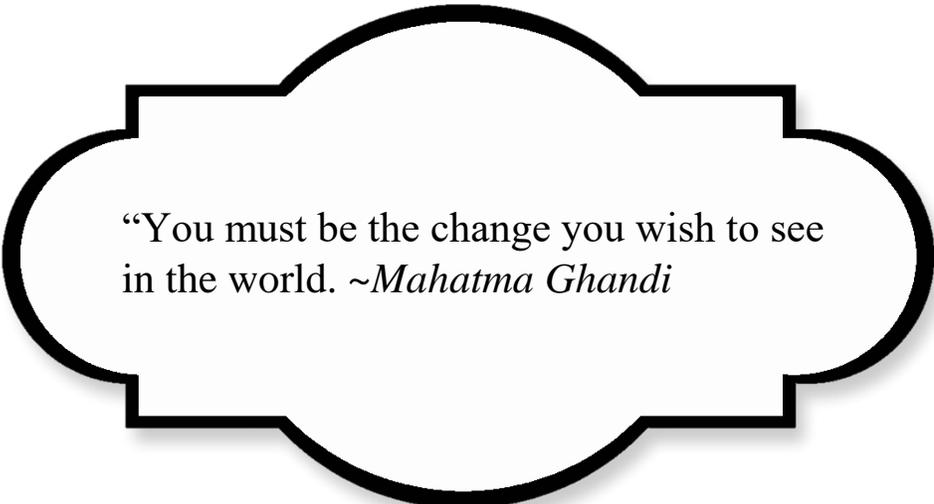
Johnson County Middle School

Paintsville, Kentucky

Ava Cochran, Lindsay Cochran, Julia Davis, Ryleh Mckenzie, Brayden Pickle, Meghan Ratliff, Savannah Reinthaler, Alyssa Willis, and Leslie Jeffiers

Coaches: Pam Burton and Brenda Dyer
MT-6479

Operation Ordinary is about improving the integration of students with special needs into the student body. These students are in a self-contained unit because they are extremely low functioning. Some of them cannot even talk, so we want to become their "buddies" and develop a model that other schools can integrate into their curriculum. We have created duplicatable activities and materials that any school can use to increase the amount of socialization students with special needs experience. Part of these materials aim to develop empathy among the student body, so others will be more accepting of these students.



“You must be the change you wish to see
in the world. ~*Mahatma Ghandi*

Community Problem Solving Summaries 2017 International Conference

Massachusetts

Project Science LABS – Science Learning Activities Beyond School

Dedham Public School

Dedham, Massachusetts

Eric Reilly, Macy Gorman, Bryan McDonough, John Wilkinson, Matthew Rotchford, and Ryan Roberts

Coach: Monika Wilkinson

MT-6449

Project Science LABS works to increase opportunities for hands on science for elementary-aged students in Dedham so they become actively involved in science in their life beyond school.

Michigan

Inner City Smiles – Team TEETH

Troy Schools

Troy, Michigan

Aishwarya Arvind, Apoorva Mirji, Arnav Shah, Gautam Bajaj, Julia Voyt, Parvathi Nagappala, Prajna Polamarasetti, Purvi Raj, and Sejal Patil

Coaches: Beena Nagappala and Shriya Shah

MT-6441

Research shows that there is a lack of oral health education and resources for children in the inner city areas of Metro Detroit. Our goal is to educate students about the importance of maintaining good oral health and to provide the resources necessary for them to maintain their health. Using our presentation and partnering with SmileConnect, a program that helps provide oral health resources to those who need it, we achieved our goal for our project. Overall, we have helped provide the resources and education necessary for almost 400 students to maintain good oral health for the years to come.

Minnesota

B-Present

Mound Westonka High School

Mound, Minnesota

Robert Brustad, Carson Meritt, and Michael Kurtz

Coach: Julie Taintor

MT-6462

B-Present's goal is to minimize the disproportionate reliance on technology to communicate so that students of GMS and MWHS are better prepared to communicate in person. Activities involved B-Present Week which encouraged students to be mindful of their technology use in their face to face relationships and involved students pledging to be without their phones during certain times of the day. Our team simulated what it feels like to be present by giving up our phones for an entire week. We talked to 7th graders at GMS about the effects of phone addiction; hung posters, created a brochure and announcements.

Minnesota

River Heroes

North Junior High School

St. Cloud, Minnesota

Grace Fisher, Caleb Dirckx, and Devon Dombrowski

Coaches: Karlyn Doyle, Tom Warnemunde, Christine Hermanson, and Jody Dirckx
MT-6463

Given that the Mississippi River contains 8.8 million tons of trash and 703,019 pounds of toxic chemicals annually, along with the realization that pop, oil, and other chemicals going down street drains right into the Mississippi River, called us to action. It's the only source of drinking water for us! Our goal is to reduce the amount of trash and toxic chemicals entering it by raising awareness of its current state and improving it through river clean up events, sharing shocking data, and gathering community volunteers to join our network of River Heroes to improve the river's health.

New Jersey

NüYü 2.0: Mindful Panther Pause

Community Middle School

Plainsboro, New Jersey

Shreya Joshi, Maya Mau, Phanisree Akshinthala, Marilyn Zhang, Rhythm Satav, Katherine Benjamin, Nikhil Vallakatla, Jonathon Solomon, Olivia Richardson, Hannah Goldschmidt, Diya Rai, Niyati Bantval, Sharanya Vutla, Raghava Vivekananda Panchagnula, Nikita Jain, Oliver Zhong, Disha Kholi, Cherie Fernandes, Danielle Tseng, Vaibhav Sanjay, and Palak Mehta

Coach: Rebecca McLelland-Crawley
MT-6432

NuYu 2.0 created an educational program to share mindful coping strategies with students, educators, and parents. The team hosted in school sessions for students during lunch and studyhall, led sessions at educational conferences, hosted a wellness fair, and coordinated with the school stakeholders team. NuYu 2.0 connected virtually with classrooms worldwide to teach mindfulness as a way to deal with stress. To reach the educational community, NuYu 2.0 created a website- nuyuchallenge.weebly.com, ran a student-created Google classroom for the Panther Pause Challenge, live-streamed Mindful Mondays, ran Twitter and YouTube accounts, and created digital badges for participants.

New Zealand

My Dog Journey

Kristin School

Auckland, New Zealand

Aden Fisher and Olivia Milsom

Coach: Helen Mansfield
MT-6467

My Dog Journey is a project designed to help the dog owner community, in Auckland, to find dog-friendly walking routes. Several mediums were explored, however, we chose to present our recommended walks in an interactive, community based website. This website includes a selection of different walking routes situated mainly on Auckland's North Shore. Each walk comes with a map, description, length, time, and directions. My Dog Journey aims to provide dog owners with a variety of picturesque and scenic routes to take their dogs, while still caring for the rich and beautiful environment.

North Carolina

Tutorage Lane

Waddell Language Academy

Charlotte, North Carolina

Lidie Ataoguz, Ruth Bott, Alexa Brozka, Willow Butler, Allesandro Dal Pra, Lorelei Lin, Josephine MacLean-Voltz, Sarah Pruitt, Emma Small, Josiah Smith, Joanna Yeh, Thomas Castain, Christopher Ellis, Clay Tobin, and Maxwell Zetina-Jimenez

Coaches: Heather Lynch and Justin Parmenter
MT-6423

Tutorage Lane focuses on helping all students become successful in acquiring a world language. Through small group work involving hands-on activities and student-designed lessons, 1st and 2nd graders are getting the help they need. Tutorage Lane brings the learning to you with a friendly and winning attitude. Students respond positively to new learning approaches and teachers are pleased with their progress. Ensuring the building blocks for language acquisition at the elementary years will support success throughout school.

Ohio

Simply Hygiene

Nordonia Middle School

Northfield, Ohio

Claire Kremyar, Caroline Orzechowski, Taniah Thomas, and Jenn Tomak

Coach: Laura Collins
MT-6488

Simply Hygiene is a project that is focused on helping our local Emergency Assistance Center (EAC) improve their hygiene selection. The EAC had an extreme lack of hygiene items, so to begin our project, we placed donation bins in the schools in our district, along with an announcement to be played in the morning. The schools loved participating in the collections! The second part of our project included a fun run. The run increased awareness throughout the community and raised money that helped expand the center's hygiene section. The EAC and their clients were directly benefitted by our project.

Singapore

Project Bluetick

Raffles Girls' School

Singapore

Lee Kyu Min, Nadine Lee Xin Jie, Natasha Ong Yi Teng, Regin Ow Chi Yin, Soong Rou Yi, Sun Ru, Thet Hnin Khin Khin, and Wong Chia Ying

Coaches: Norhuda Binte Mohamed Sadekan, and Marie Huang
MT-6403

Given the increase in information accessibility, especially that of social media and networking sites, more youth are vulnerable to falling prey to online sexual groomers. There is a 60% rise in sexual cases filed in Singapore States Courts from 2011 to 2015 which shows the increasingly urgent problem of sexual assault and grooming in Singapore. Project Bluetick focuses our efforts in raising awareness and equipping youths with skills to stay safe in their online interactions through the production of videos, print materials and outreach talks to members of the community to promote discussion in families to observe safer online practices.

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Texas

Project S.C.O.U.T.

Bridgeport Middle School

Bridgeport, Texas

Caleb Bartlett, Aaron Brichetto, Zach Eubanks, Ayla Foskey, Jade Hall, Camden Hand, Xander Harris, Seguin Hernandez, Grace Hiler, Ashley Ingram, Samuel Lara, Yadira Munoz, Connor Payton, Seth Phillips, Aubrey Powers, Jacob Richey, Blake Sutherland, Travis Van Hoose, Savannah Whisenant, and Zandon White

Coach: Paula Fippinger
MT-6424

Due to the amount of wrong-doings witnessed in our school, how might we, Team S.C.O.U.T. (School Campus Observers United Together), in the 2016-2017 school year, unite Bridgeport Middle School students in order to keep our school safe and enjoyable to anyone who walks the halls? Team S.C.O.U.T. is partnering with the Bridgeport Police Department in order to educate Bridgeport Middle School about the procedures of reporting crimes and receiving cash rewards from the local Crime Stoppers program. The team is informing students and staff through a variety of avenues with the intent of encouraging them to become active observers.

Texas

Project SIREN

Cross Timbers Middle School

Grapevine, Texas

Kole Bailey, Brady Bentson, Matthew Chalmers, Kyle Liang, Ethan Madden, Kiernan O'Brien, Brooke Rogachuk, Kevin Shahan, Riya Srinivasan, Diego Vaquera, Jose Vela, Addison Williams, and Dante Zapata

Coach: Karen Moxley
MT-6426

On July 7, 2016, Dallas Police Officers came under attack during a peaceful protest in downtown Dallas. Our community became aware of the pressures of the jobs of first responders who are trained to run towards the danger while we run away. Project SIREN team members wondered how they could improve the relations of the community with first responders so that obvious respect is demonstrated?

Thailand

Fun and Interesting English Learning and Development

Kasetsart University Laboratory School

Ladyao, Bangkok

Bhumeth Wannapok, Kittitaj Sangkool, Aisoon Rattanapong, Phuwanut Pataratawinun, Paphon Susikakosol, Noppawee Tritiprawin, Napasrapi Triemthana, Rin Indarodom, A-non Jitprasert, Paris Nilthalak, Ann Raksapatcharawong, and Saenabadee Sethachawalwong

Coaches: Natnicha Ruenboon, Krissana Pokpun, and Suradet Sritha
MT-6489

In 2016, we started the FIELD (Fun and Interesting English Learning and Development) project from the problem that some Thai children can't communicate in English. We set our target at the 7th grade students. Then, they were provided with activities inspiring them to learn and communicate in English, for example, the extra classes after school and the FIELD Fun English Camp for the 7th – 8th grade students to develop their vocabulary. The students said that the provided activities were beneficial to their English development and grades. We learned how to work in group and enjoyed this project.

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Virginia

Team C.O.P.

Montross Middle School

Montross, Virginia

Lucy Shryock, Jackson Sichel, Abby Kesling, and Jack Lahey

Coaches: Andrew Woodrow and Anne Evans
MT-6485

Recently there have been a number of highly publicized incidents involving police officers that have tarnished the image of the badge, but those incidents are not indicative of the vast majority of officers that put their community first. Team C.O.P. (Creating, Opportunities for elementary students to build Positive relationships with law enforcement) was formed to show police officers that the community they serve still respect and care about them. We urge everyone to make a connection with an officer. A personal connection can lead to a greater understanding of each other and mutual respect.

SENIOR DIVISION

Colorado

Open Doors Open Hearts

Coronado High School

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Jacqueline Dunn, Gabrielle Stenholm, Connie Sun, Diana Del Valle, Joshua Sun, and Avery Young

Coach: Ann Schulzki
ST-6422

FPS decided to join GSTA in forming an initiative to implement a gender-neutral bathroom at Coronado High School. We will also work to increase accessibility to an existing bathroom. Fundraising and grant proposals will take place during the winter season. We will hold a Respect Week in January or February in which we will have an optional awareness assemblies and other activities around our school pertaining to our topic of transgender respect/awareness.

Connecticut

Project ASSIST

RHAM High School

Hebron, Connecticut

Taylor Baran, Kathryn Beard, Grace Egazarian, Isabelle Goode, Kathryn Lucenko, Maya Paprocki, and Luke Slater

Coach: Sherri Pelletier
ST-6412

Project A.S.S.I.S.T. (Actively Seeking Support to Initiate a Successful Transition) is an initiative designed to aid victims of domestic violence. The project sought support from the local community in the form of donations, which included toys, shoes, winter coats and clothes for all ages. The donations were then given to local domestic violence shelters in the hope that they would both lessen the burden on victims and prevent the worst-case scenario of victims having to return to their abusive situation if the shelters, often underfunded, are unable to provide for their needs.

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Florida

Reaching For Relief

Flagler Palm Coast High School

Palm Coast, Florida

Ethan Bellinger, Sierra Bice, Kayla Colandrea, Rida Muneer, Nicole Perilli, and Mia Scarcella

Coaches: Diane Tomko, Sarah Reckenwald, and Caitlin Hutsell
ST-6452

When a loved one is admitted into an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), family members alongside them often overlook their own personal needs. Our team partnered with the Pediatric and Neonatal ICU's at a neighboring hospital. Through collaborations with NASCAR, local schools, dentists, spiritual leaders, hotels, and restaurants, we provide a variety of comfort resources to alleviate the stress of the families in these units. Our project, Reaching For Relief, has humbly affected the lives of over 400 families. From distributing surveys, to learning to embroider comfort bags, every item has a personal touch. We continue to strive by "Providing comfort through care."

Florida

Soldiers to Civilians

Manatee County FPS Club

Bradenton, Florida

Olivia Yaryura, Madelyn Kumar, Jonah Sinclair, Andrew Foege, Victoria Sinclair, Yoshua Torralva, Benjamin Varah, Alex Kumar, Cassandra Atzrodt, Ahmad Ibsais, Declan Traver, and Mikaela Boelkins

Coach: Deborah Yaryura
ST-6453

Soldiers to Civilians aims to assist our 78,000 veteran population. The reintegration process from honorable hero to everyday citizen is challenging, returning from multi-million dollar equipment and saving lives to struggling with PTSD and social isolation. Soldiers may be deployed for months but they serve the rest of their lives; they are not the same person they were when they left. By generating community support via a team-bonding picnic, veteran speakers, VA interactions, film festival-winning documentary, donation drives, and children's illustrations, we can strengthen the veteran-civilian connection. Soldiers have served their country, now it's time to serve our veterans

Florida

The Pandemic Project

Flagler Palm Coast High School

Palm Coast, Florida

Sarah Main, Michael Pierre, Janine Jao, Aaron Carll, Jayson Dwyer, and Zachary Verdi

Coaches: Diane Tomko, Sarah Reckenwald, and Caitlin Hutsell
ST-6450

The Pandemic Project aims to implement an environmentally safe way to deter vector-borne diseases so that Flagler County is more prepared for pandemics like Zika. Through partnerships with our school's construction class, the Parks & Recreation of the City of Palm Coast and Flagler County, the University of Florida, and the Organization of Bat Conservation, we have introduced bat houses into our community. Bats are a natural deterrent of the most dangerous vector, mosquitos. Through our efforts, we believe we have provided a solution to deter these infectious diseases that may have life-altering effects, or even take a life.

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Illinois

Roots of Diversity

Danville High School

Danville, Illinois

Kaleb Medina, Makayla Smith, Reese Marcott, Peyton Blodgett, and Elijah Davis

Coach: Lori Woods
ST-6415

Roots of Diversity – Leading the Way to Peace & Understanding Through Positive Collaboration. In July of 2016, a DHS classmate was killed in a gang-related drive by shooting while playing basketball at a local park. Social media exploded with people seeking to assign blame for this tragedy. Looking to stem further violence, city officials enacted a curfew for all minors which upset many residents who believed “good kids” shouldn’t be punished for gang crimes. Compounded by 2016’s national political crisis, Devon’s death exposed the divisions and prejudices of our diverse community. Since research shows that positive communities are the result of positive and effective leadership, Roots of Diversity goal is to promote an inclusive and understanding community through positive leadership.

Kentucky

Dollars and Sense

Pulaski County High School

Somerset, Kentucky

Kennedy Burdine, Sera Sergin, Gavin Spradlin, Emma Stevens, Sebastian Tingle, and Hannah Yardon

Coach: Scott Sexton
ST-6480

Dollars and Sense will bring financial literacy skills to the entire population of Pulaski County High School through displays, class presentations, interactive informational stations and various other activities promoting financial literacy, teaching various financial skills and encouraging wise use of financial resources.

Kentucky

Don’t Sugar Coat It

Johnson Central High School

Paintsville, Kentucky

Bethannie Fairchild, Cassandra Kestner, Makayla Moore, and Danyelle Niece

Coach: Jarred Gibson
ST-6487

This project is designed to spread awareness to the entire community about the dangers of diabetes. Our community suffers with limited knowledge of diabetes, healthier eating habits, and simple exercise habits. Hosting diabetes walks, informing members of our community about diabetes, and helping people make healthier lifestyle choices is just a few things we have done to help our community. Our primary goal is to raise functionality for people who suffer from the dangers of diabetes.

Kentucky

Exploring Your Roots

Harlan County High School

Baxter, Kentucky

Jordan Blevins, Chelsey Caldwell, Breanna Epperson, Jadyne Hughes, and Natalie Middleton

Coach: Virginia Rice
ST-6478

There have been times when Harlan County citizens took pride in where they come from. Today, unfortunately, is not among those times. Our project, "Exploring Your Roots" is changing that. We are encouraging our fellow citizens of Harlan County Kentucky to explore our Appalachian heritage and the beautiful mountains we call home in various ways, including Geocaching, an "Our Story Festival", and hiking.

Massachusetts

Project Rise – Refugee Integration into Society and Education

Canton High School

Canton, Massachusetts

Anvitha Addanki, Leianna Brune, Srimayi Chaturvedula, Eli Julier-Albert, Michael Mazzola, Ashna Patel, Sinead Qiu, Elizabeth Seto, and James Vo

Coach: Vijay Addanki
ST-6446

Project RISE is a community outreach to integrate refugees into our society and education. We have taken basic government support a step further by providing resources to enhance their lifestyle and fulfill their personal interests. We provided support to give them a social sense of understanding, along with opportunities to improve their education. We have achieved our goal by having personal interactions and activities including language and cultural exchanges, sports days, and arts and crafts events. Through emphasis that knowledge exchange is mutual and refugees aren't always on the receiving end, we have spread the message of equality and belongingness.

Michigan

Success Starts with Small Steps (4s)

Avondale High School

Auburn Hill, Michigan

Gloria Stach, Gabe Stach, Saanya Pherwani, Eve Washington, Rebecca Wong, Lingzi Liao, Arav Agarwal and Sahil Kapur

Coach: Laura Phou
ST-6448

Our project focused on helping students at International Technology Academy in Pontiac, MI. These students are bilingual in Spanish and English. 46.9% of the students are living in poverty. In national ratings, if a student belonged to a family whose income was in the bottom 20% then they were five times more likely to drop out of high school. We incorporated one on one tutoring with the students, kept a file on them, monitored their growth, and used interactive STEAM activities to allow them to reach their full potential because success starts with small steps.

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Minnesota

Robin Hood Project

North Junior High School

St. Cloud, Minnesota

Parker Kayser, Gabby Hermanson, Jocelyn Filiyaro, and Sadie Bartels

Coaches: Karlyn Doyle, Tom Warnemunde, and Christine Hermanson
ST-6464

Since 59% of students at Apollo High School in St. Cloud, Minnesota, are living below the poverty line, they may not be able to meet their own basic needs which may cause struggle in school. Families applying for the Free/Reduced Meal Program must be on the borderline or under the guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Health. The Robin Hood Project's goal is raise awareness to the citizens of St. Cloud, Minnesota, about poverty and how it's affecting our school district, while uplifting the 59% at Apollo by giving them items they need.

New Jersey

Planting Seeds

Mahwah High School

Mahwah, New Jersey

Brianna Stoohs, Abbas Chaundry, Justine Manne, Kristen Springer, June Woo, Meghan Loveman, Ally Damante, Ryan Straining, Daniel Donoth, Spencer Sandusky, Annabelle Springler, Sam Darrow, Jonathan Zhang, Rocco Migliaccio, Josh Sequeira, John Baldi, Michael Costantino, Andrew Heinz, and Samantha Schawe

Coach: Justin Saputski
ST-6466

Throughout the country, hands-on learning opportunities are decreasing. "Planting Seeds" aims at providing Mahwah High School students with sustainable authentic learning experiences through the revitalization of the school's environmental program. Stage One focused on research and fundraising, and included speakers, trips, the creation and sale of cookbooks and water bottles, and grant applications. Stage Two saw a physical revitalization of the garden, with students planting new crops, harvesting them for a CSA program, purchasing a greenhouse, and installing it on campus. Stage Three partners with the Environmental Club and increases its membership so the environmental program can remain sustainable.

Ohio

Book Buddies

Orange High School

Pepper Pike, Ohio

Jacob Cramer, Arianna Kaufmann, Kaitlyn Margolis, Julian Perry, Paige Sterling, Eric Ponsky, Hannah DeWolf, Sophia Bruno, Daniel Nwaozuzu, Zach Saxton, and Johnique Wilson

Coaches: Kathy Frazier and Joanna McNally
ST-6493

Once Upon a Time... There was a group of high school students concerned about the decline of reading for pleasure in their school system. **They thought...** In what ways might we encourage more reading for pleasure at Orange City Schools? **So...** they developed the "Book Buddies Program." Book Buddies has grown to include 85 high school mentors who share their love of reading with pre-school and middle school students. They designed, decorated, and stocked a library for the pre-school. A Book Buddies Intersession involved the students and mentors in reading and MakerSpace activities during the day's events. **Not the End!**

Singapore

Painting the Future

Hwa Chong Institution

Singapore

Foo Yock Haw, Gilford Lee Bing Han, Moo Jun Wei, and Tan Rui Zhi

Coach: Chia Hui Peng
ST-6407

Interactive learning resources were created to enhance the engagement of autistic children and to motivate them to learn. The resources help autistic children learn the steps of completing everyday tasks through the use of sequencing cards. They are designed to provide visual feedback to the child when he/she gets the sequence of the steps to complete a task correct. After rounds of testing and improvement, the team presented the resources to autism organisations and carried out activity sessions with the children under their care as an attempt to reach out to this special community.

Singapore

Project Edelstein

Hwa Chong Institution

Singapore

Ashton Yin Kai Sheng, Joel Wong Hong Kiat, Jonas Gng Rui Sheng, Kenneth Tan Zhe Kai, Kenneth Wu Rong Jie, Koh Heer Ee, Lui Kai Siang, Nicholas Lim Jing Wen, and Tan Jing Heng Kelvin

Coach: Vincent Tan
ST-6401

Project Edelstein is a CMPS project that works with the Bone Marrow Donor Programme (BMDP). BMDP is a non-profit organization responsible for building and managing Singapore's only register of potential bone marrow donors. Through raising awareness, increasing funds and recruiting donors, the project aims to alleviate the bone marrow crisis in Singapore and support bone marrow patients in need.

Texas

Project HELP U

Sinton High School

Sinton, Texas

Jackson Allen, Kendall Allen, Alexis Brown, Robin Castro, Rylee Kay, Alex Loya, Emma Nieto, Madeline Nieto, Dylan Summa, and Madison Schaefer

Coach: Maggie Gibson and Elizabeth Nieto
ST-6427

Project Help U's goal is to increase college readiness so that Sinton students are better prepared for college in 2017 and beyond. We established a scholarship fund and presented three \$500 scholarships to Sinton High School seniors. Through our Pizza Party and Coke Float Party, we tutored students preparing for college entrance exams and helped them apply for college. Our district-wide presentations detailed the importance of higher education to elementary and middle school students. We aided students from other school districts by hosting a booth at the college fair at our high school. Sinton's Whataburger is considering our proposal to install WiFi so students will have 24/7 internet access. We will continue to spread college preparedness so that nobody, regardless of socioeconomic status, feels college is beyond their reach.

Texas

Project We Remember

Lamesa High School

Lamesa, Texas

Micha Bankston, Jasmine Caudillo, Kaci Christy, Destiny Galindo, Shelby Garza, Yari Lopez, Joseph Lugo, Realynn Martinez, Reagan Martinez, Risa McIlwain, Josh Ray, Laura Ruvalcaba, Breeley Singleton, Lydia Trejo, and Seth Wallace.

Coach: Rachel Allday
ST-6428

Through research we have learned about Alzheimer's disease. One in nine people over the age of 65 struggle daily with this debilitating illness. Word cannot express the courage it takes for the families, caregivers, and more especially, the patients affected by this illness. Because of this we ask ourselves, "How might we, Team: 'We Remember,' provide support to those victimized by this life altering illness?" By finding a solution to this question, our ultimate goal is to provide some happiness and support to the caregivers, families, and individuals affected by this illness in 2017 and beyond.

Turkey

Don't Hesitate & Donate (Project Do&Do)

Ankara Sinav College

Ankara

Beray Coban, Emir Ekinci, Mina Calik, Selinsu Kamer, Ceyda Aydas, Ege Ozan Ozbek, Muhammad Nazim Coskun, Kaan Kaya, Zeynep Dagan, and Berke Dincer

Coaches: Banu Gurlek and Seda Sahin
ST-6473

The aim of our project is to raise "organ donation awareness" in our society for the ones who have cultural and religious misconceptions and prejudices including under 18. We would touch other people's lives and change their hopelessness into happiness and make them hold on to life. This project would be a chance for the patients providing them a second chance waiting on the list.

Turkey

Don't Let Your Guard Down Against Obesity!

Ankara Maya Schools

Ankara

Erin Yigit, Defne Budak, Selbi Zeynep Kok, Sena Ertugrul, Doga Canturk, Ada Akbarieh, Elif Topuz, Doga Tanriverdi, Ece Zeray, Efsun Ece Kantik, Zeynep Gulce Erol, Fatma Yolcu, and Melisa Aki

Coaches: Filiz Turanoguz and Gokhan Asan
ST-6475

We realized that we drink less water, we spend time with our friends in fast food restaurants and the more we get together the more weight we put on. According to studies, there are key elements against obesity; healthy diet, increased daily exercises and high water intake. We wanted to raise awareness for students in our school. When they are well aware of a healthy diet, they won't be needed to be convinced to quit bad eating habits. We planned our studies by taking the needs of students in terms of key elements and created an action plan.

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Virginia

Bridging RPS

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Richmond, Virginia

Elizabeth Benos, Davis Coffey, and Sarah Grace Lott

Coach: Celie Boswell
ST-6483

Bridging RPS is a project designed to connect two school communities within Richmond City in an impactful way. By connecting our school to an elementary school in Richmond City, we hoped to establish an opportunity for meaningful community service for high school students. At the elementary school, we implemented 5 programs, a tutoring program, a robotics team, a future problem solving team, a Christmas party, and a book carnival. These programs are meant to help the students understand the importance of academic success and provide the students with the opportunity to expand their education into enrichment activities.

Wisconsin

"Bee" Nice

Luxemburg-Casco High School

Luxemburg, Wisconsin

Dakota Bader, Nicole Haen, Alysha Ihlenfeld, Kirsten Massey, Ally Dart, Austin Gallenberger, Alexis Paye, Katherine Brand, Natalie Haen, Julia Ihlenfeld, and Grace LeGrave

Coaches: Sandy Ehren, Christy Vincent and Heidi Bader
ST-6410

Everyone knows that bullying is relentless and has a negative impact. Bullying can happen anywhere to anyone for any reason. Using a survey, we analyzed the bullying situation at our school and saw there was a need for change. Then we placed thank you notes on every locker, hung inspirational posters, had children pledge to "Bee Nice," delivered holiday cards to elders from students, and created an appreciation book authored by students to give to their parents. Our project inspires kindness so that community members of all ages create a continuing positive change in their behaviors concerning bullying.

Wisconsin

Madison Refugee Resettlement

Madison West High School

Madison, Wisconsin

Samantha Angelina, Nathaniel Johnson, Felix Belin, Spencer Harrison, Liam Tsao, Victoria Li, Jiu lee, Lillian Knetter, Christopher Waller, Melia Allan, Else Redeloff, Suchin Yang, Anna Arpaci-Dusseau, Moira Wilson, Isabel Rameker, Ella Gotzler, Haley James, Virginia Morgan, and Fangyi Zhao

Coach: Kris Bauer
ST-6409

We helped three families of refugees transition to the city of Madison by providing humanitarian assistance and collaborating with local social service agencies. We began by preparing homes and living situations for the refugees, which consisted of painting houses, collecting winter items and culturally appropriate foods, and raising funds by calling local businesses. We also contacted local and state politicians to ensure the arrival of the refugees and raise governmental awareness of the issue. When the refugees arrived in Madison we worked to provide childcare and ensure assimilation into the school system.

CmPS INDIVIDUAL SUMMARIES

Australia

Opening Minds

The Illawarra Grammar School
Lara Papadimitriou

Figtree, New South Wales
Middle

Coach: Jean Burton
MI-6433

The projects focus is on raising and changing awareness in the perception of refugees in our Community, enabling better relations and support for refugees. The refugee crisis in Australia continues to grow and dominate inflated debates. I want to raise awareness within the Illawarra, whilst educating young people to achieve a balanced view so that they are more willing to help refugees who come to Australia. My project is about educating and enabling young students to connect with refugees, educating them about who refugees are. Breaking down prejudice, my project goes to challenge the way people think about refugees.

Australia

SharkMate

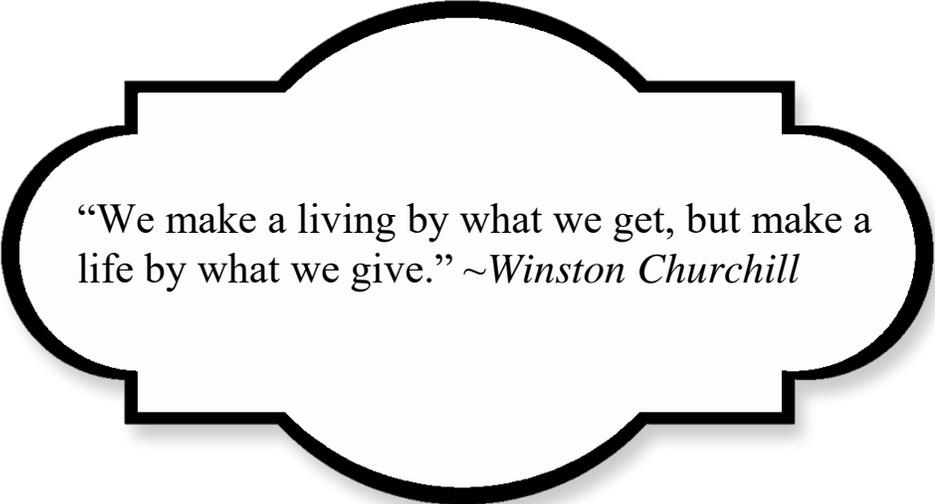
The Illawarra Grammar School
Samuel Aubin

Figtree, New South Wales
Middle

Coach: Jean Burton
MI-6434

As fear of sharks pervades the public psyche, the senseless culling and slaughter of sharks has a perverse level of acceptance in society today. With one hundred million sharks killed every year globally their future existence would seem to be precarious at best and the delicately balanced ecosystem of our oceans is ultimately at risk.

SharkMate can alleviate fear of attack by providing a likelihood factor of shark presence to users of our waterways. This app will allay fear and assist in preventing the needless destruction and slaughter of wildlife in the world's oceans and ultimately help protect our ecosystems.



“We make a living by what we get, but make a life by what we give.” ~*Winston Churchill*

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Florida

Cough It Up

Palm Bay Elementary

Palm Bay, Florida

Nicole Lee

Junior

Coach: Barbi Miller
JI-6457

I have chosen to tackle an important problem in my community, which is choking. One thing that inspired me to take on this huge problem was the fact that a younger student at my school was choking during lunch. The student could have stopped breathing, and unfortunately an adult was not nearby to help. Choking is a very serious matter that can cause damage to the human body. I helped educate students and adults about how to avoid and also how to handle a choking situation. Remember, if someone's choking, tell them to "Cough It Up!"

Florida

PYEA Put Your Electronics Away

Stone Magnet Middle School

Melbourne, Florida

Emily Ogborn

Middle

Coach: Dona Ogborn
MI-6458

Project PYEA is focused on educating the Palm Bay/ Melbourne, Florida area on the effects of using electronics in social settings. When using mobile devices in social engagements, you can develop poor social skills, so Project PYEA also teaches people how to communicate properly. Conversation starters, brochures, power points, table reminders and speeches on communication and putting electronics away all help at encouraging Project PYEA's community to put their mobile devices away.

Florida

Breaking Down Walls

Melbourne High School

Melbourne, Florida

Katherine Deffebach

Senior

Coaches: Pamela Bress, Kim Deffebach, and Diane Grover
SI-6456

Negative perceptions toward Muslims are increasing in the United States. Islamophobia - hatred and hostility towards Muslims - is at its highest level since September 11, 2001. Sixty-one percent of Americans view Muslims negatively, yet only 38% of Americans have personally spoken with a Muslim. The goal of Breaking Down Walls is to increase dialogue between Muslims and non-Muslims so they can relate as individuals and recognize commonalities among themselves. The project achieved this goal by holding meetings in an open and safe space where Muslims and non-Muslims can engage in open conversation about their beliefs and personal experiences.

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Iowa

Going Batty for Bats

Central Lee Middle School

Donnellson, Iowa

Hailey Alvis

Middle

Coach: Hollie Weber
MI-6499

Bats play a critical role in our local ecosystem. They not only pollinate many plants but they serve to control the pest population by eating over their body weight in bugs every day. Bat populations have been negatively impacted by habitat loss, the growth in wind turbine use, and White Nose Syndrome. This project focused on bringing greater awareness to the community about the important role bats play in our ecosystem and farming economies, developing bat friendly habitat at our school, and supporting research into solutions for white nose syndrome.

Kentucky

Project Friendly Companion

Johnson County Middle School

Paintsville, Kentucky

Brooklynne Arms

Middle

Coach: Pam Burton
MI-6490

Project stuffed is a way for me to collect stuffed animals for individuals in our community who are feeling depressed and lonely. I will collect stuffed animals from various organizations, using social media, and deliver these to both the elderly and young who need them.

Kentucky

And Justice for All

Presentation Academy

Louisville, Kentucky

Claire Curtis

Senior

Coach: Brian Curtis
SI-6477

Teen crime rates are on the rise as community leaders search for solutions. One innovative option is Teen Court - young defendants have a chance to be heard by their peers who form a court with teen lawyers and a teen jury. The program can be life changing but is often underutilized. In memory of my Uncle and the difficult path his life took as a teen, I am growing awareness of this nurturing program to boost participation by teens as both organizers and defendants, and in turn be part of a program that works and turns lives around.

Michigan

Project Bridge the Gap

Avondale Middle School

Rochester Hills, Michigan

Anjika Jain

Middle

Coach: Laura Phou
MI-6442

Project Bridge the Gap aims at coordinating events for ASD/CI kids at Avondale Middle School so that they have more socialization experiences in after-school social activities. As per data analysis from the National Longitudinal Transition Study 2, adolescents with ASD are significantly more likely never to see friends outside of school (43.3%), never to get called by friends (54.4%), and never to be invited to school activities (50.4%). This year I decided to change that with Project Bridge the Gap. I could positively affect the students' lives and help them gain social interaction skills.

Minnesota

"I'm Okay..."

North Junior High School

St. Cloud, Minnesota

Paige Christiansen

Middle

Coaches: Karlyn Doyle and Tom Warnemunde
MI-6465

I'm Okay...? is focused on educating teens on the subject of anxiety, as well as ways to cope with it. Many teenagers are struggling with anxiety and don't know how to cope with the mental illness. The goal of this project is to enlighten teens with the knowledge of anxiety and ways to cope with it in a simple, effective manner. Solution ideas include teaching lessons in Health classes, posting a bulletin board in a high traffic hallway, creating an interactive website, conducting an anonymous survey, launching a social media campaign, and hosting a Health & Happiness fair.

New Zealand

TOUCH TO READ

Kristin School

Auckland, New Zealand

Christina Min

Middle

Coach: Helen Mansfield
MI-6468

Touch to Read addresses the issue of a lack of textured books for low-vision children in New Zealand. Research indicates that not many people appreciate the difference between being completely blind and having low vision, thus there is a lack of awareness and resourcing of children's needs around this issue. In order to contribute positively to the low vision community, the Touch to Read project designed, published and created 60 specialized textured books for young, low-vision children and the author presented them to a wide variety of local organisations and kindergartens which work with and educate visually impaired children.

Community Problem Solving Summaries 2017 International Conference

Texas

Safe Heat

Prestonwood Christian Academy

Plano, Texas

James Jordan

Junior

Coach: Lisa Quintana
JI-6429

Project Safe Heat was chosen by a 6th grade Community Problem Solver after he witnessed the difficulty in which the homeless in South Dallas have staying warm during the winter. After researching, the student learned that many people use portable heating units improperly during the winter, resulting in many fires and some deaths in the Dallas area. In Texas, space heaters are the 2nd known cause of fires during the winter. The purpose of Project Safe Heat is to educate people in the Dallas and Collin County of the danger of misusing space heaters.

Texas

Money Doesn't Grow on Trees

McMillan Junior High

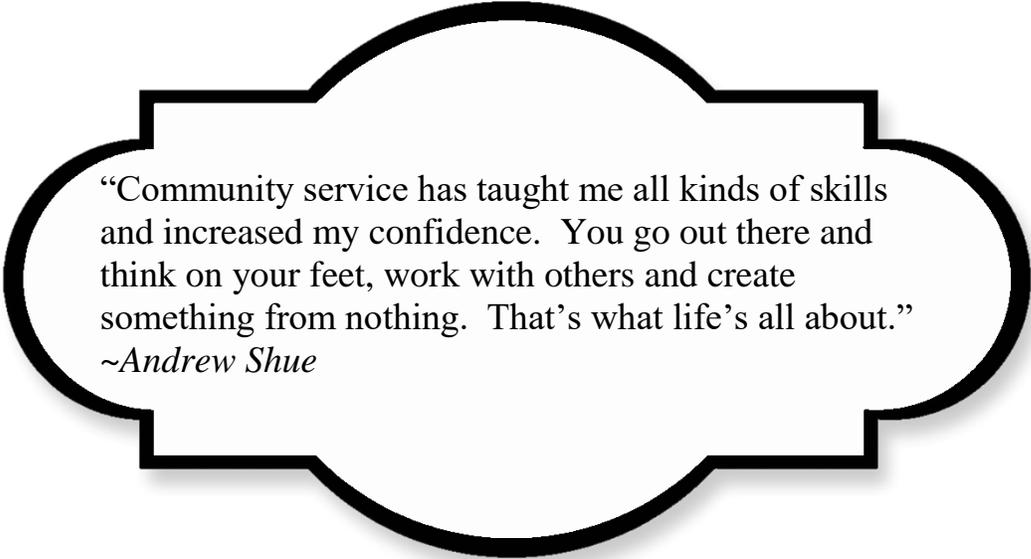
Wylie, Texas

Gretchen Tschetter

Middle

Coach: Ann Darby
MI-6497

What is the difference in a debit card or a credit card? How can I pay for college? These are just a few questions of teens today in regards to finance. How might I increase the financial literacy awareness of teens, so that they have a better financial future?



“Community service has taught me all kinds of skills and increased my confidence. You go out there and think on your feet, work with others and create something from nothing. That’s what life’s all about.”
~Andrew Shue



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