

# LEAD4CHANGE®

Twice a year, Lead4Change hosts The Lead4Change Project – a small grants program that showcases the growth of students leaders and funds their ideas for community impact.

The Lead4Change Program takes students on a journey of learning leadership skills through community service. After completing the curriculum, students share their story of growth and impact by requesting additional funding to continue or complete their service project.

Each project addresses a community need and encourages students to develop a creative solution to support that need. We're amazed by the creativity and drive of our students as they use the leadership lessons they learned to create positive change in their communities. It's always difficult for our judges to choose winners as the projects are all meaningful and awe-inspiring.

**This year's winners are surely that. Congratulations to all of the February 2024 Projects that will receive funding!**

## **Maywood Public School**

**Middle School in Maywood, NE**

**Janice Arent, Educator**

**Project: Breakfast Club, 17 students**

The Need: Bring awareness and financial support to the needs of the local volunteer fire department

The Project: The students organized and executed a Pancake Breakfast Supper as well as a 50/50 raffle to raise money for the fire department so that they could purchase new headlamps and turnout gear for 10 of their volunteer fire fighters.

The Result: The students raised nearly \$1,400 on their own to meet the drastic needs of this volunteer firefighter unit. Then Lead4Change accepted their detailed proposal for an additional \$8,241 to fully fund the purchase of 10 new headlamps and 10 new turnout gear sets.

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## **Thomas Downey High School**

**Modesto, CA**

**Tera Coleman, Educator**

**Project: Downey Cares, 25 students**

The Need: Combat the mental health struggles that affect local elementary and middle school students who experience homelessness and extreme poverty.

The Project: The students worked with their Healthy Start Coordinator and Principals at local elementary and middle schools to learn what the needs of families and students were. Then they created an Amazon Wishlist of needs that was fulfilled by members of the community and local businesses through their marketing and outreach efforts.

The Result: The students emptied an Amazon Wishlist, replenished their Healthy Start's essentials closet, rallied 25 students together, served two new feeder schools, gained financial support from 15 new teachers and one local business, and most importantly — served 31 members of their community. Lead4Change accepted their proposal and granted \$10,000 to make a donation to a local non-profit that serves the homeless, replenish their school essential needs closet, and start those closets at other nearby schools.

## **Hughes STEM High School**

**Students with Disabilities in Cincinnati, OH**

**Kendra Sinkfield, Educator**

**Project: The Food Connection, 11 students**

The Need: Provide healthy food at no cost to people in need in their city.

The Project: The students partnered with a local non-profit that allows low-income residents to shop for nutritious food at no cost. Through that partnership, the students learned of "food deserts" in the Cincinnati area —pockets of the city where healthy and free food is unavailable to those in need. The students volunteered for 4 consecutive months with this local non-profit to help feed those in need in the city.

The Result: The students filled a great need and raised awareness to this need in Cincinnati and developed a strong relationship with the Liberty Street Market Freestore Foodbank. Lead4Change accepted their proposal of \$1,500 so that next year, they can use bus transportation to take more students to serve at more foodbanks in the city in order to serve more in need and create more awareness.

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## **Lakeview High School**

**Lakeview, NE**

**Tara Dlouhy, Educator**

**Project: Lakeview Smiles, 3 students**

The Need: Bring awareness to and support mental health in students at the local junior high school.

The Project: The high school students put on a dance for the junior high students, and charged admission and concessions to raise money to create mental health kits and resources for the junior high students. Additionally, with the support of the junior high counselor, they used academic recovery time to teach the students about the importance of mental health and the resources available to them.

The Result: The students raised \$600 to create mental health kits and resources to educate the younger students. Lead4Change accepted their proposal and matched their fundraising, granting \$600 to create more mental health kits and resources.

## **Alliance Academy for Innovation**

**High School in Forsyth, GA**

**Wendy Martin, Educator**

**Project: Green Guardians, 3 students**

The Need: They sought to bring awareness about sustainability to their school and community by reducing food waste in their school.

The Project: The students worked with their Principal, Food Manager, and a local non-profit to establish multiple ways to save food waste at the school and to create compost space to serve the school garden, reducing waste in their school, feeding more students in need, and supporting the growth of healthy food in the school garden.

The Result: The students rallied 25 student volunteers to monitor waste, sort and store food in a food pantry, and sort compostable food. Lead4Change accepted their proposal of \$1,100 to purchase two compost bins and a refrigerator to store perishable food to serve kids in need after school and on weekends.

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## **New Manchester High School**

**Douglasville, GA**

**Latoya Thomas, Educator**

**Project: NMHS FBLA Crew, 12 students**

The Need: Support over 40 international teachers who were newly hired to teach in their county.

The Project: They partnered with newly hired international teachers to understand their unique needs of support and adjustment to teaching in the United States in order to increase retention and support new members of their community. The students coordinated rides to and from school for the new teachers, held drives to collect coats and clothing to help them adjust to the climate change, and collected supplies for their classroom and for teaching.

The Result: The benefits of their project extended far beyond the individual level as it positively impacted the school and community as a whole. As they empowered teachers with the resources and support they needed to thrive, the students contributed to a healthier educational environment, increased teacher retention rates and ensured continuity and stability within the school district. Lead4Change accepted their \$10,000 proposal to extensively provide basic needs, rides, a special welcome event, clothing and more for next year's new teachers and beyond.

## **Joseph A. Gregori High School**

**Modesto, CA**

**Lamar Wallace, Educator**

**Project: Sole Mates, 6 students**

The Need: Collect 250 pairs of gently used shoes for people in need in their community and in developing countries around the world to enable others to safely engage in their surroundings.

The Project: The students worked in their school and partnered with a non-profit, Soles4Souls, to host several shoe drives to collect and donate gently used shoes in their community and beyond.

The Result: The students met their goal and excelled past it and are now pursuing starting similar shoe drives at other schools in the area. Lead4Change accepted their proposal of \$5,500 to help cover the cost of shipping the collected shoes internationally as well costs associated with starting shoe drives at other area schools — continuing the mission of these amazing students!

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## **Fife High School**

**Fife, WA**

**Laura Ramos, Educator**

**Project: Growing Strong, 3 students**

The Need: Serve Senior Citizens and families in the community by teaching technology to Seniors and providing times for families to connect in a meaningful way, all for free.

The Project: The students worked with their city, the local Senior Center and Library to host Friday Tech 101 — a free seminar teaching Senior Citizens how to safely use technology. They also spearheaded Family Story Time, to create a safe and free environment for families to connect. An additional focus of the project was to engage teenagers and foster further engagement with their families.

The Result: The students provided technology training to Senior Citizens and fostered family relationships through their Family Story Time, improving their community and helping others. Lead4Change accepted their proposal of \$2,500 to purchase a projector and microphones to better be able to teach technology to the Senior Citizens and to foster Family Craft Nights and events for teenagers and their families.

## **Montwood High School**

**El Paso, TX**

**Ana Player, Educator**

**Project: Montwood Mentors, 4 students**

The Need: Teach elementary students the value of friendship amidst mental health struggles.

The Project: The students worked with an elementary school in the area to teach the importance of mental health awareness and the impact that friendships and relationships can have on ones mental health. They did this through teaching and developing mentoring relationships with the students.

The Result: They impacted a local elementary school bringing joy, excitement, engagement, and important teaching about mental health to classrooms. Lead4Change accepted their proposal of \$3,000 so that they can assist in planning and taking the students on field trips to learn about the importance of friendship, camaraderie, and mental health awareness.

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## **Lakeview High School**

**Lakeview, NE**

**Tara Dlouhy, Educator**

**Project: Cleats for Change, 4 students**

The Need: Provide underprivileged youth who want to play sports with the proper equipment, particularly shoes.

The Project: The students hosted a donation-drive at their school's wrestling event where local families could donate gently used equipment. They also hosted a dodgeball tournament at their school to raise money for the local YMCA's Strong Kids Camps to cover the registration fees for underprivileged kids wanting to attend sports camps. Finally they partnered with a local non-profit to donate the equipment they collected.

The Result: Together, this team paid for a number of students registration fees and provided sports equipment so that more underserved youth could experience the benefit and power of being on a team. Lead4Change accepted their proposal of \$250 to contribute to the registration costs of more kids wanting to participate in the YMCA's Strong Kids Camps.

## **Randolph-Macon Academy**

**Middle School in Front Royal, VA**

**Daniel Malinconico, Educator**

**Project: Rodeo, 8 students**

The Need: An animal shelter in their community was overwhelmed and underfunded to care for a severely injured animal.

The Project: The animal loving students at RMA wanted to help but were too young to volunteer at the animal shelter. So they pivoted and hosted 3 fundraisers to raise money for the animal's care. They hosted a gaga-ball tournament, a 50/50 raffle at their school, and sold cookie dough online.

The Result: The students raised \$300 towards their \$500 goal to cover the medical expenses to care for this animal. Lead4Change accepted their proposal and funded the remaining \$200 dollars for the animal's care and to allow the students to reach the goal they set out to achieve.

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## **Our Lady Of Lourdes Academy**

**High School in Miami, FL**

**Michelle Minoso, Educator**

**Project: The Little Library, 3 students**

The Need: Help students attending low-income elementary and middle schools develop reading comprehension skills, a strong foundation of literacy, and healthy reading habits.

The Project: The students marketed a book drive to collect and donated 1,000 books and scheduled time with local elementary and middle schools to read and engage with students to create healthy reading habits and a strong foundation of literacy.

The Result: The students collected and donated books to a local elementary school and hosted reading time with the students at the school. Lead4Change accepted their proposal of \$1,500 in order to purchase resources to make classroom story time more engaging as well as to purchase new books and sets of books to be donated to the local elementary school.

## **Springfield High School**

**Springfield, PA**

**Eric Massimi, Educator**

**Project: Cash4Kids, 3 students**

The Need: Spread awareness locally to impact child poverty globally.

The Project: The students worked to identify 3 national and global organizations who assist with child poverty all over the world out of a desire for children to come out of poverty and grow up with ambition and aspirations for good. They hosted 9 bake sales and a Diversity Talent Show night at their school to raise funds to donate to such organizations.

The Result: Together, they raised nearly \$1,700, exceeding their goal of \$1,500 to donate towards the end of child poverty abroad. Lead4Change accepted their proposal of \$3,250 to contribute to their desire to decrease child poverty abroad.

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## **Lakeview High School**

**Lakeview, NE**

**Tara Dlouhy, Educator**

**Project: Save The Children, 4 students**

The Need: Raise awareness of child trafficking in their community and be a part of the change to stop it.

The Project: After realizing that their community is on the map for child trafficking, the students researched local organizations to support to help spread awareness and end child trafficking. They partnered with a local non-profit called Love146 and the students hosted basketball tournament that over 40 students and teachers participated in.

The Result: This team donated \$800 to Love146! Lead4Change accepted their proposal of an \$800 grant in order to help them reach their overall goal of donating \$1,500 to help end child trafficking in their community.

## **Trumbull Career and Technical Center**

**Students with Disabilities in Warren, OH**

**Jamie Stephens, Educator**

**Project: Job Training, 17 students**

The Need: Support disadvantaged women in the community struggling with hunger, poverty, support, and opportunity.

The Project: Students sought to collect purses and wallets to offer a sense of dignity and collected hygiene products to donate to individuals to cover their basic needs. This would also help them to prepare for job readiness, like the students at Trumbull Career and Technical Center, and give them the ability to show up for new jobs with proper hygiene.

The Result: More than 58 purses in total were collected and filled with hygiene products, makeup, notebooks, personal items and other goods for women. Another 32 women's wallets were collected as well as some nice clothing items. All given to women in need in the community through a local non-profit called The Beatitude House. Lead4Change accepted their proposal of \$3,000 to purchase and provide basic hygiene products, personal items, and clothing to 100 more women in their community.



# LEAD4CHANGE®

## **Lakeview High School**

**Lakeview, NE**

**Tara Dlouhy, Educator**

**Project: December to Remember, 4 students**

The Need: Provide gifts and encouragement over Christmas to underprivileged families in their community.

The Project: The students raised funds to purchase Christmas presents for underprivileged families by putting on a holiday festival, "A December to Remember." It included a vendor and craft fair with 37 vendors, Christmas games for children, and a bake sale. Then they partnered with a local non-profit to identify families in need that holiday season.

The Result: Not only did they purchase gifts for local families and the elderly community, they also donated gifts to their school's English as a Second Language and counseling programs. Lead4Change accepted their proposal of \$5,000 to purchase presents to accommodate the needs of the remaining underprivileged community members and donate to local non-profits or programs that assist low-income families.

## **Accompsett Middle School**

**Smithtown, NY**

**Michael Toth, Educator**

**Project: Cans from Kids, 7 students**

The Need: To provide canned food items for those in the community who are going hungry.

The Project: The students got the word out about the need and even went to the local elementary students, class to class, to tell them about the need and get their involvement. After collecting the cans, they partnered with a local food pantry to donate all the cans they had collected.

The Result: The students far exceeded their goal and collected 2,384 cans of food and donated them to the local food pantry and raised awareness about hunger and poverty in their community. Lead4Change accepted their proposal and donated \$2,500 to the local food pantry to help meet their needs as a community.

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## **Our Lady Of Lourdes Academy**

**High School in Miami, FL**

**Michelle Minoso, Educator**

**Project: Teens for Gree, 3 students**

The Need: Educate others about the need for recycling and keep their school and community clean and green through service.

The Project: The students educated other students about the impact of recycling, hosted a beach cleanup, and recycled at their school through "meetups". All of this to keep their school and community clean and healthy!

The Result: The students collected over 2,000 gallons of recyclables that would not have been recycled without their work. They are also helping to preserve Crandon Park Beach by keeping the beach clean and green. Lead4Change accepted their proposal for \$500 to purchase equipment and start a weekly recycling team at their school.