

LEAD4CHANGE®

Twice a year, Lead4Change hosts the Lead4Change Challenge – a competition that showcases the growth of students as leaders. After completing the Lead4Change lessons, which take students on a journey of learning leadership skills through community service, students can share their story of growth and impact by submitting their project to the Challenge.

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 panel to choose winners as the projects are all meaningful and awe-inspiring.

This year's winners are surely that. Congratulations to all of our February Challenge Winners! We're excited to see your continued growth and impact!

\$10,000 Grand Prize Winner

Fife High School, FBLA Chapter (Fife, WA)

Laura Ramos, Advisor

Project: Trojan Heart

The Need: In our community (Fife, Milton, and Edgewood) there is a large number of low-income families who can't afford life's basic necessities. The students and members of these families are in need of items like food, toiletries, school supplies, and clothing on a daily basis.

The Project: At FHS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), we wanted to support Fife School District's households by making these items accessible to students in a safe environment. With the help of Fife High School's social worker, our project Trojan Heart, created a resource center in order to help students and their families get access to the everyday essentials they need to thrive.

The Result: Our team created weekend food packs, hosting food drives and fulfilling small goals every month, called our "Monthly Missions". Through the support of our community and school, we've been able to provide families with the items they need to feel safe and supported in their homes.

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\$10,000 Grand Prize Winner

Grassfield High School, FBLA Chapter (Chesapeake, VA)

David Thaw, Advisor

Project: Paws for a Cause

The Need: Food insecurity has increased drastically over the past few years. Our non-profit partners (Buffalow Family and Friends Food Pantry and the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia) provide community services to address food insecurity for families in our neighborhood.

The Project: We partnered with these nonprofits to serve the needs of our citizens, especially elders, providing food, toiletries and other essential services to those in need.

The Result: Along with our nonprofit partnerships, we took two field trips to volunteer and help prepare Thanksgiving meals for those in need in our community and created a loving environment where they felt valued and cared for

\$10,000 Grand Prize Winner

New Providence High School, DECA Chapter / NetLoveNJ.org (New Providence, NJ)

Walkter Kempner, Advisor

Jeff Liu, Parent Advisor

The Need: As avid tennis players, we also care deeply about our environment and want to do all we can to promote environmental sustainability in our community. Every year, 125 million used tennis balls are loaded into landfills in the US, generating 20,000 tons of methane-producing non-compostable waste. We learned from our science class that Methane has 84 times the warming power of carbon dioxide.

The Project: Our team name is "Net Love". In tennis, "Love" means "Zero". So "Net Love" means "Net Zero" or environmental sustainability. We recycle old tennis balls to save the earth from methane-producing non-compostable waste.

The Result: Net Love Team's mission is to promote environmental sustainability and recycle 2 million used tennis balls in the next few years, which will save the earth 320 tons of methane-producing waste from landfills.

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\$10,000 Grand Prize Winner

Mcneil High School, DECA Chapter (Austin, TX)

Ryan Norwood, Advisor

Project: Books of Hope

The Need: We chose to address the lack of accessibility and educational opportunities for students in developing communities.

The Project: We collected around 2000 books – about 1500 more books than we initially expected, making it a big accomplishment and highlight for our project. This came out to \$24561.20 worth of books, which is more than we ever could've expected. The biggest highlight was creating and implementing the library at Holy Family English Medium School. We were able to change the lives of the students at this school, giving them access to something that we often take for granted.

The Result: Our biggest accomplishment was the implementation of the library and the impact on the students at Holy Family English Medium School. We spoke at the National Youth Employment Coalition, which kicked the project off by allowing us to win grant money that went to cover shipping costs. We're excited to see how the library continues to impact the lives of students at Holy Family English Medium School in Jagdalpur, India.

\$10,000 Grand Prize Winner

New Manchester High School, FBLA Chapter (Douglasville, GA)

Latoya Thomas, Advisor

Project: Jaquar Squad

The Need: There is a lack of resources for displaced families receiving services from the Ronald McDonald House Charity.

The Project: Our project consists of 3 goals:

- Goal 1: Raise awareness and educate a minimum of 1000 school and community members about the Ronald McDonald House Charity and the services provided by this organization.
- Goal 2: Collect & Deliver a minimum of 1000 items/donations to build 100 Family Kits.
- Goal 3: Provide a minimum of 50 NMHS FBLA Chapter members with career based skills & Community Service Training.

The Result: Our Chapter adviser, Dr. Thomas, was actually a recipient of Ronald McDonald House Charities' services. Her son was born premature and she and her husband lived in the Ronald McDonald house for nearly a month, until her son was strong enough to be transported to an Atlanta Hospital. Having this personal connection to this organization gave our committee a real sense of pride and motivated us even further to do our very best to support this amazing organization. We're excited to see how our work impacts more families!

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\$10,000 Grand Prize Winner

Eastern Lebanon County High School (Myerstown, PA)

Holly Hartman, Advisor

Project: MultiDAY Holiday

The Need: Families in need in the ELCO School District don't have access to the things that would allow them to have a joyful holiday season.

The Project: To help these families have an enjoyable holiday season, we sought out to gather 500 items for the ELCO Caring Closet and ELCO Food Pantry by Christmas.

The Result: We doubled and almost tripled the goal we had set for items collected, totaling 1800 items! Through our work and the generosity of our community, we were able to provide goods to families in need to help them have a happy, healthy holiday. We even ended up receiving monetary donations that we used to deliver chocolate milk and doughnuts to the middle school and played holiday bingo with them.

Other Special Prize Winners

\$2,500 WINNERS

Mohave High School, FCCLA chapter (Bullhead City, AZ)
Michele Leyendecker, Advisor

\$2,000 WINNERS

Basha High School, FCCLA chapter (Chandler, AZ)
Melanie Alexander, Advisor

\$1,500 WINNERS

Withrow University High School (Cincinnati, OH)
Julia Hess-Eha, Advisor

\$1,000 WINNERS

McCracken County High School, HOSA chapter (Paducah, KY)
Andrea Heisner, Advisor

Andover eCademy (Andover, KS)
Cheryl Poage, Advisor

Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, DECA chapter (Miami, FL)
Michelle Minoso, Advisor

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\$500 WINNERS

National Executive Council for FCCLA (Herndon, VA)
Joshua Leddinger-Lucero, Advisor

Thomas Downey High School, FBLA Chapter (Modesto, CA)
Tera Coleman, Advisor

Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, DECA chapter (Miami, FL)
Michelle Minoso, Advisor (3 teams)

Kittitas Secondary School, FCCLA Chapter (Kittitas, WA)
Cheryl Uceny, Advisor

Maywood Public Schools (Maywood, NE)
Janice Arent, Advisor

Bridger High School, FCCLA chapter (Bridger, MT)
Vicki Kaufman, Advisor

Belmont After School Enrichment Collaborative (Belmont, MA)
Blake Stensland, Advisor

Westfield High School, DECA chapter (Chantilly, VA)
LeAnne Grammo, Advisor

Lakeview Junior & Senior High School (Columbus, NE)
Tara Dlouhy, Advisor

Cedar Crest High School (Lebanon, PA)
Amy Sullivan, Advisor

Randolph-Macon Academy (Front Royal, VA)
Daniel Malinconico, Advisor

Buckeye Career Center, FCCLA chapter (New Philadelphia, OH)
Bobi Thompson, Advisor