

1st place tie (\$1500 each)

Hakeem Jefferson, Crestwood High School, Gable, SC

Hakeem developed Maximizing Our Potential (MOP), an after-school mentoring program at Mayewood Middle School, designed to provide a series of thought-provoking discussions and hands-on activities. This mentoring group aims to lower the number of student suspensions, referrals, and expulsions at the middle school.

Lorna Fink, East Forsyth High School, Kernersville, SC

Lorna created “No Bull! Be Noble!” an anti-bullying coalition and worked with her school system to implement a no-tolerance policy towards bullying. She invited Tony Bartoli, a speaker against bullying from Orlando, FL, to be the guest speaker at her first event, an anti-bullying rally at her high school, which both high school and middle school students and teachers attended.

2nd place tie (\$1000 each)

Stephanie Matson, Thomas Worthington High School, Worthington OH

Stephanie created Kids Pro-Health, an organization which educated fourth graders at the local elementary school about healthy lifestyles. Her project involved a series of five classes held at the elementary school to educate students about healthy food, healthy living, and exercise.

Sarah Meadows, Barnwell High School, Blackville, SC

Sarah’s project, Eating for the Hungry, raised \$5400 and encompassed a two-fold project vision. She first facilitated a coin war between local high schools to raise money to stock an area food pantry. Sarah also work with town leaders to host a benefit banquet, involving a formal dinner, which raised substantial funds to be donated to three local organizations that provide food to those who are hungry.

Honorable Mention

Cotrel Brooks, Lake Marion High School, Santee, SC

Cotrel worked with to host a health fair at his high school in order to enlighten his peers about the health risks that affect young adults. He brought representatives from the region to speak with students about healthy lifestyles, including healthy eating, diseases, and emotional disorders, among other topics. Approximately 1,000 students attended the event.

Danielle Brandon, Mid-Carolina High School, Newberry, SC

Danielle focused on promoting literacy among elementary students in order to prevent high school drop-outs. She held a book drive at her school to collect books for the local elementary school and, in May, will ask the elementary students to sign a contract saying “I promise to read five books this summer.”

Utsav Bansal, Brighton High School, Rochester, NY

Utsav created “iVY: Initiatives for Vigilant Youth,” an organization designed to better involve suburban youth in community initiatives and to help connect urban and suburban youth in the Rochester area. Through his partnership with Youth Voice, One Vision Council, Utsav is working to create iVY communities in every high school and to sponsor events, such as the All City Fashion Show and the building of a Habitat home.