

## Imagine Corps 2020-2024 – Pilot Years Successes

With delight, we share with you our cohorts, challenges, sponsors, and invented concepts thus far as we celebrate how our Imagine Corps' guiding purpose of **Possibility \* Impact \* Resilience** is being brought to life.

**Imagine Corps** is a youth learning and community service program where kids are trained in important **creative problem-solving and collaborative innovation** skills they need for future success in school and life but are seldom taught. They are then paired with non-profits in their community with identified challenges that will benefit from their inspired energy, creative spirit, and youthful insight. Their Imagine Corps trainer, facilitator and mentor guides them along the way towards impact on their ideas and in integrating these new skills into their life.

**Imagine Corps Guiding Purpose:** *Nurturing **POSSIBILITY** in the creative and collaborative problem-solving talent of tomorrow...while creating **IMPACT** in their community today ... and building **RESILIENCE** in both over time.*



### NURTURING POSSIBILITY

*"I will stop being afraid to share my opinions and ideas with others because I learned through Imagine Corps that my ideas matter and my ideas will make a difference and a change in the world around me."*

— High School, Imagine Corps Participant

### CREATING IMPACT

In 2020, we piloted the Imagine Corps program (100% virtual due to COVID) in my hometown of Hopkinton. The students created two amazing concepts which are in the process of being brought to fruition.

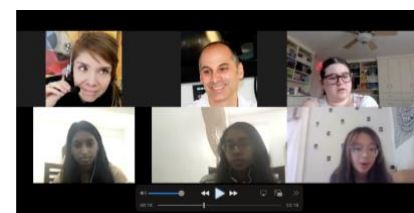
- Challenge Owner: a local growing food pantry called **Project Just Because**, which has just launched a statewide Food Pantry that is becoming a beacon in the state.
  - The Challenge: "Create an Army of Supporters & Fundraising for our new statewide Food Pantry".*
  - Concept A: "Feed the Heart"** is a student-driven Mason Jar Fundraising & Awareness Program. Some of the Imagine Corps kids organized others and developed their own pitch to create a new 'Feed the Heart' School Club.
- Challenge Owner: The kids themselves chose this challenge to work during our practice round
  - The Challenge: "How to make virtual learning more engaging and fun" 😊*
  - Concept B: "Future Teach"** is a student-led experiential virtual learning support program where students teach other students their hobbies and course concepts "virtually" and in fun ways during hybrid/virtual days, reinforcing the teacher's lessons.



**PROJECT JUST BECAUSE**  
Helping families in need from the Heart

In 2021, we delivered another virtual cohort in Hopkinton, MA and experimented with mini "Taste of Imagine Corps" sessions where teens and parents could in a 1-hr session learn about and sample an experience by provide ideas to local non-profits like the Hopkinton Center for the Arts, and Public Library.

- Challenge Owner: **Live4Evan** helps families stay together by providing temporary housing solutions for families of children with congenital heart disease.
  - The Challenge: "Develop a sustainable way for Live4Evan families to easily and personally communicate their Live4Evan story to other cardiac families."*
  - Concept A: "Live4Evan 'Full Heart' Forum"** – a community or sub-communities where people can communicate and gather – digitally or physically – to make the experience of cardiac families easier and more personal.

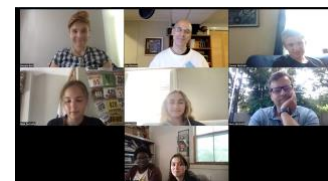


**LIVE 4 EVAN**

In 2022, we expanded to three cohorts across four different geographic areas – Martha's Vineyard, Hopkinton, Dayton, OH, and St Thomas, US Virgin Islands and, for the first time since COVID, was able to run one in-person!!! We also activated our new sponsorship funding model allowing us to run three cohorts and two challenges fully sponsored such that every teen could participate free of charge. Finally, we piloted our first winter Mentoring Program -- pairing 8 mentors with 8 IC teens.

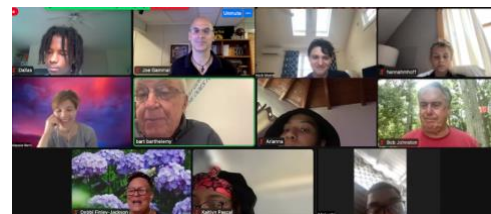
#### Cohort 1: Martha's Vineyard (in-person)

- Challenge Owner: **Martha's Vineyard Island Autism Center**
  - The Challenge: "Design ways to better Integrate the new MV Autism Center into the community"*
  - Concept A: "Zeal Buddies"**– create a buddy matching program for bridging and connecting all neurotypes alike, based on interests, hobbies, and passions.
  - Concept B:** create a suite of **On-premise Interactive Experiences** designed so that everyone - neurotypical and neurodiverse persons alike – can connect with and better understand each other.
  - Concept C: Building a Teen Advisory Board** to bring young talent, perspective, and energy from outside in.



#### Cohort 2: Martha's Vineyard & St. Thomas (virtual)

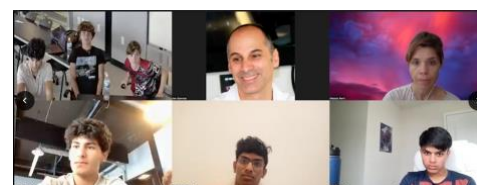
- Challenge Owner: **Collaborative Innovation Institute**
  - Challenge: Imagine your ideal Future School (especially hybrid learning rhythm).*
  - Concept A: "Possibility Playground"** – a future school that balances the virtual and physical aspect of school in an inclusive, safe, and engaging way. A school where mental stress is addressed with the help a strong guidance and support staff, and where socialization activities are prioritized as highly as academics.
  - Concept B: "Beatify for Respect"** - A student-led program that rally's enthusiasm to clean up the school in a way that builds health, pride, and mutual respect.



**Collaborative Innovation Institute**

#### Cohort 3 Dayton, OH & Hopkinton, MA (virtual)

- Challenge Owner: **Collaborative Innovation Institute**
  - Challenge: Imagine your ideal Future School (especially hybrid learning rhythm).*
  - Concept A: "Workday Wednesdays"**: A way for a school to become a better place.
  - Concept B: "Mutual Respect Debates"** where teachers and students can express ideas without judgment, understanding the reasoning behind and impact of "the rule book".



**Collaborative Innovation Institute**

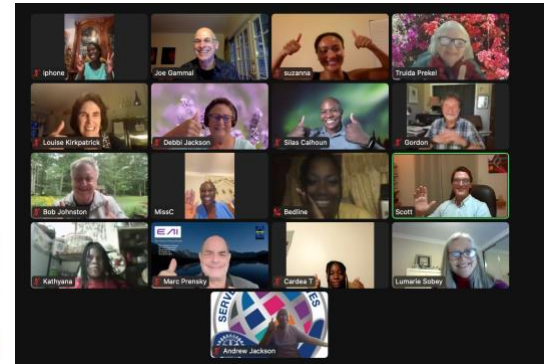
In 2023, we had the delight for the first time of working with an intact group of youth as our cohort – the Interact Club (youth program) of a St Thomas, USVI Rotary Club. The beauty of this and their engaged club advisors and Rotary board members was that the core values and aspirations they envisioned together set the stage for a year of activation during their ongoing Interact Club meetings together. For the training, the team was joined by a teen from Martha's Vineyard and who also offered up a practice challenge the rest of the cohort could learn the methods on.

- Challenge Owner: The Ivanna Eudora Kean **ROTARY CLUB of St Thomas USVI's** and their **Interact Club**.
  - The Challenge: "How to define our voice -- our Interact Club brand identity, values, story — to help us fundraise and achieve our future goals and dreams."*

- **Concept: “Our Interact Clube Core Values & Aspiration”**– elaborated with stories and centered around Adventure, Collaboration, Self-Respect, Family, Helping Others, Compassion, Justice, and Personal Development.
- **Teen Reflection:** *We received “A new and improved Interact Club getting inspired by the imagine corps program!” – Teen*



- Challenge Owner: One teen chose this challenge to work during our practice round with the problem-solving model:
  - **The Challenge:** *“How to create more time – manage it better in order to keep in touch with people.”*
  - **Teen Reflection:** *“I want you to know that after the Zooms and talking about my challenge, I really did commit to my solution, and it worked out. ... I'm so thankful I got to join... Having others there to help you through a systematic way of problem solving can really help you get over the blocks and avoidance we face when trying to solve social or emotional problems on our own.” - Teen*



In 2024, we were encouraged to try some new experiments -- offering our Imagine Corps to younger 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders and integrating our flow into the school year within the experiential learning programs at the West Tisbury School (Middle School) and Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School (MVPCS). So, every Friday in March and May of 2024 found us on the Vineyard with one cohort and then the other, ending with a combined Concept Jam for all stakeholders in June. Each cohort was sponsored by Vineyard Wind, with the help of Vineyard Power. With the leads of the Martha's Vineyard Climate Action Task Force as challenge owners, both cohorts focused on their own chosen aspect of helping to reducing fossil fuel consumption on the island. The integration with the school year and the shorter attention spans of our younger cohorts inspired some tweaks - like a shorter overall program length spread out over multiple weeks, and more rapid movement from one fun exercise to the next to keep all engage. The uniqueness of the challenge also required some extra proportional time for invention to include what we called a Climate Action Primer to expose teens to the causes and linkages of climate effects in a fun and story-like fashion that they created. It all worked. In the end, engagement was high and the concepts they co-created and shared with the stakeholders were rich.

Imagine Corps

## 2024 Cohorts Invention Challenges

Challenge Owner: **MV Climate Action Task Force**

Uber Challenge: *“How might we challenge our generation to lead the transition in reducing fossil fuel consumption and its negative impact.”*



Chosen Task: Envision **environmentally-friendly transportation** on Martha's Vineyard.



Chosen Task: Invent new ways **reduce hunger with more food that is environmentally-friendly, locally sourced, and broadly accessible (\$, amount, awareness)** to all on Martha's Vineyard.

Sponsored by:  
**VINEYARD WIND**

Imagine Corps introduces students to creative problem solving, collaboration, and resiliency skills to be leaders in their classroom, relationships, community, and future through fun games and activities!





Exploring the cause and effect linkages of climate change.



Concept Jam and Celebration at Slough Farm

### 3 West Tisbury School Concepts: "MV E-Transportation System"

Imagine Corps

**Concept A: "MV Electric Scooter System"**— an eco-friendly scooter design and transport system to get from place to place on MV. We will have charging stations and an online app that makes accessing these scooters hassle free.

**Concept B: "MV Electric Tram System"** - to serve both resident and tourist transportation needs cheaply and sustainably.

**Concept C: "Carbon Coins"** — coins are earned based on the time you use the scooters (and potentially the E-tram). Track and use your coins on the app.

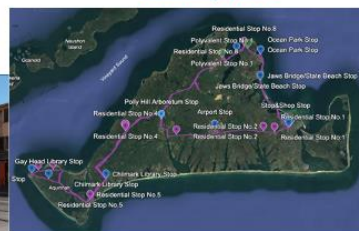
Carbon Coins



Tram System\*

Scooter System\*

Take your e-scooter on the e-tram and get anywhere in an environmentally friendly way.



\* Click to see in Google Earth Map

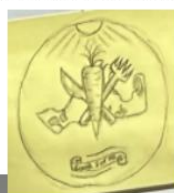


### 3 MVP Charter School Concepts -- "Food For All"

Imagine Corps

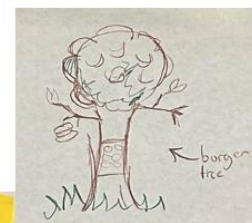
**Concept A: "Food for All -- Community Table"**

- An extended restaurant "table" -- one in each town -- where we give back to the community with sustainably made meals.



**Concept C: "Big Nut -- Food Dispensing Tree"** —

An endless supply of free food grown at home, easily accessible. "Plant" one tree and supplies you for the rest of your life.



**Concept B: "MV Fishing Day -- Fish For Food (FFF)"**

One day the MV island gets together to fish for hunger -- fish, eat, celebrate together, and deliver food to the hungry. Create a "fish to farm" sustainable exchange that provides complete meals and fish fertilizer for farms.

**Fish for Food, Fish for Hunger, Fish for All!!!**

Martha's Vineyard  
PUBLIC CHARTER  
SCHOOL

## **BUILDING RESILIENCE — THE PROGRAM OVER TIME**

Growing with Imagine Corps:

- In Level 1, Imagine Corps students learn foundation skills to become **Collaborative Problem-Solvers**
- In Level 2, Imagine Corps students get advanced training to become **Youth Facilitators** themselves
- In Level 3, Imagine Corps Youth Facilitators become **Imagine Corps Youth Mentors** of younger cohorts

... and work on real community challenges all along the way.

With appreciation to our SPONSORS – past, present, and future:



**Collaborative Innovation Institute**



**UNIBANK**

