

## Imagine Corps 2020-2023 – 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.

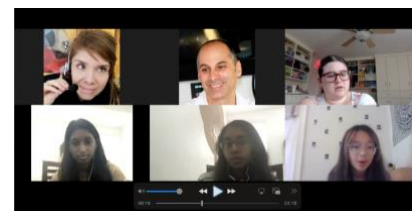
- Challenge Owner: a local growing food pantry called **Project Just Because**, which has just launched a statewide Food Pantry that is becoming a beacon in the state.
  - *The Challenge:* **"Create an Army of Supporters & Fundraising for our new statewide Food Pantry"**.
  - **Concept A: "Feed the Heart"** 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**

### Sponsors:



Collaborative Innovation Institute

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.

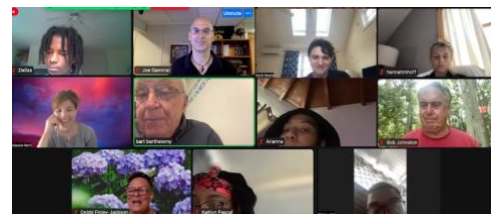
Cohort 1: Martha's Vineyard (in-person)

- 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)

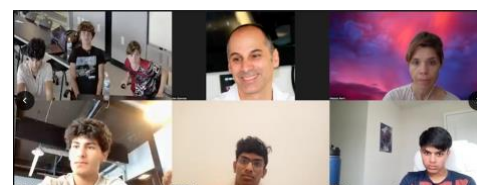
- Challenge Owner: Collaborative Innovation Institute
  - Challenge: **Imagine your ideal Future School (especially hybrid learning rhythm).**
  - Concept A: **“Possibility Playground”** – a future school that balances the virtual and physical aspect of school in an inclusive, safe, and engaging way. 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

**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.

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