

2023 Community Projects Champions

1st Place

Junior Division

Students: Knox Guftason, Grey Hall, Gus LaBar, Wyatt Larrick, Isabel Lenihan, Cara Raven, Maggie Roberts, Sana Roy, Sophia Tri, & Aksel Welke

Coach: Hall

School: Selwyn Elementary

Positive Pollinators

Do you like chocolate? Pizza? Blueberries? If you like these things you can thank a pollinator. They are responsible for 1/3 of our food supply but they are on the decline due to human behavior, habitat loss, disease and pesticides. Our project wants to educate our school and neighborhoods about pollinator decline.

1st Place

Middle Division

Students: Claire Chen, Rutwa Patil, Mehar Seth, Raveesh Seth, Ethan Zhang, & Brendan Zhou

Coach: Patil

School: Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy

Unforgettable Vegetables

In Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, 15% of the population lives in food deserts, which lack convenient supermarkets and healthy food options, leading to a higher risk of obesity and diabetes. With 349 food deserts in the state, over 1.5 million residents are affected. We're a team of school students named "Unforgettable Vegetables" that aims to improve access to healthy food in the Charlotte Metro Region's West Boulevard area. We plan to set up mobile food carts, transporting food from local farmers that can be purchased through the SNAP program, increasing access to affordable and healthy food for the community.

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Senior Division

Students: Adithya Retheesh, Parvathy Unnikrishnan, & Radhika Unnikrishnan

Coach: Shyamala

Schools: Ardrey Kell & Weddington High Schools

Evolving Team: Food Smart

Food wastage occurs in many different areas including in restaurants, households, retailers and grocery stores. Idea is to build stronger connections and relationships between these supermarkets and restaurants with local food banks and shelters to maximize the food recovery. This would feed those that are hungry and thus reduce the food wastage problem in our community, decreasing the consequences related to food waste such as greenhouse gas emissions and the food crisis. A real time Smartphone app will help solve the engagement issues as more and more people rely on mobile devices in everyday life.

2nd Place

Senior Division

Students: Vihaan Gaurav, Satvik Gorle, Elsie Nethala, Emily Nethala, Sindhu Sureshkannan, Bumika Vanapalli, Vishnu Vanapalli, Akhil Varukuti, & Ajith Varikuti

Coaches: Veera & Manchi

Schools: Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy, Ardrey Kell, Marvin Ridge, & Providence High School

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Evolving Project Refugee: No Needs Left Behind

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Refugees are people forced to leave their country because of war, persecution, political turbulence or natural disaster. After the screening process, they are resettled across the United States by non-profit organizations that are contracted by the government. When refugees arrive in this unfamiliar country, they are unaware of American laws and customs that didn't exist in their country of origin. PROJECT REFUGEE identified the lack of legal literacy that these refugees possessed. PROJECT REFUGEE's solutions increased the legal literacy of the refugees by distributing informative flyers, doing a car seat drive, and spreading awareness through social media.

