



2019 Semi-Finalists

ACCOMPANY ATLANTA ~ Entrepreneur: Amy Ard ~ Navigator: Mark Myette

Accompany Atlanta provides peace of mind and a comforting presence in moments of medical vulnerability. During emergencies, our critical-care doulas lend a needed hand, offer compassion, and advocate for our clients until a trusted family member or friend can join their loved one at the hospital. Most low-income seniors cannot afford Accompany Atlanta's yearly subscription fee. These seniors often have complex and unmet health, economic, and psycho-social needs, especially if they have no family support. Accompany Atlanta would train community-based volunteers (in churches and synagogues, for example) to support these vulnerable seniors and provide community-based education and services. Our training would prepare volunteers to help in moments of medical crisis, guide seniors through important discussions about end-of-life wishes, and assist in gathering necessary legal and medical documents.

ART FROM THE INSIDE MOBILE ART STUDIO ~ Entrepreneurs: Andrea Shelton, Lucy Fugate ~ Navigator: Stuart Bondurant

"Creating Art, Creating Opportunity" ~ HeartBound Ministries is an Atlanta-based prison ministry, which provides programs and resources to support Georgia's correctional staff, inmates, and their families and break the cycle of crime and incarceration. In 2017, HeartBound successfully launched "Art from the Inside," Georgia's first inmate art show and sale. Proceeds from the art sales benefit HeartBound's Little Readers program, which allows children of incarcerated parents to see and hear their parent reading to them via DVD. Epiphany funds will be used to expand "Art from the Inside" by transforming a van into an "Art from the Inside" mobile art gallery and studio that can travel to art festivals, colleges, and more. Proceeds from art sales will be shared with the inmate artists to help them rebuild their lives, and support HeartBound's Little Readers program. "Art from the Inside" offers a bridge of hope for prisoners, greater awareness for the outside community, and imparts skills to help inmates transition to the free world.

AUTOMOTIVE TRAINING CENTER ~ Entrepreneur: Larry Witherspoon ~ Navigator: Ben Balsley

Automotive Training Center is a program in Atlanta, Georgia that provides young men with technical training so that they may obtain entry-level employment in the automotive repair industry. The majority of our students are at-risk, from low-income neighborhoods where unemployment and high school drop out rates are both high. ATC was founded on the principle that all of its students have untapped potential that has not developed because of their specific life circumstances. ATC gives its students opportunities to grow the technical and entrepreneurial skills they already possess. We instill these values through a positive, encouraging, and challenging learning environment. ATC's training produces graduates that are more likely to maintain stable employment, become business owners, and have stable family lives when compared to their peers.

BETTER LIVING TOGETHER ~ Entrepreneurs: Beate Sass, Tim Sass, Moira Bucciarelli, Martha Teal, Bob Rosen, Joe Walsh, Liz Walsh, Trace Haythorn ~ Navigator: Michele Garren

Better Living Together was formed in 2016 to address the critical need for affordable housing solutions that include individuals living with intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD). The group is working to create a prototype community where people with and without developmental disabilities live and thrive together. Better Living Together envisions an inclusive community consisting of individuals with disabilities, elderly persons, and individuals or families with below median income who will have the opportunity to own single-family homes with accessory dwelling units or attached studios. Each household will be responsible for maintaining the basic primary needs of its resident individuals. Specially designed common spaces will facilitate resident interaction for meals, gardening, and special occasions.

EVICTION ASSISTANCE MOBILE APP ~ Entrepreneur: Andrew Thompson ~ Navigator: Pearson Beardsley

Over one in five Fulton County renters are served with an eviction notice every year, many of which can be avoided with access to basic information about Fulton County housing court. The Eviction Assistance Mobile Application ("Eviction Assistance MAP") is a mobile phone app for renters that will help reduce evictions by delivering easy-to-understand information about housing court, reminders for court dates, and tips on how to successfully mediate a case to every tenant facing eviction precisely when they need it-- all while saving courts significant time and money.

GEORGIA FAMILY LAW UNIVERSITY ~ Entrepreneurs: JoAnna Smith and Sana Rupani ~ Navigator: Todd Balsley

Georgia Family Law University (GaFLU) empowers individuals from a wide range of backgrounds to take control of and solve their family law issues. 80% of Georgians do not qualify for free legal services, but cannot afford traditional representation. Of Georgians who need legal help, almost 75% try to address the problem themselves, only 9% have an attorney, and the rest do not ever address their issue. When people try to address their family law issues themselves, they unknowingly give up parenting time with their children, pay much more or receive much less child support than they should, or agree to terms and conditions that they cannot possibly uphold, leading to contempt and further legal consequences. Through easy-to-understand, online video classes, templates, and other resources, GaFLU can transform families by allowing them to escape domestic violence, receive income from child or spousal support, and create stability for children.

GIVESTRY.COM ~ Entrepreneur: Leigh McAllister ~ Navigator: Muriel Schelke

Givestry.com connects communities through online gift registries to directly provide essential goods and services, eliminate waste, and support the full restoration process for trauma victims.

JORDAN'S HARVEST ~ Entrepreneur: Larry Teem ~ Navigator: Lee Johnson

Jordan's Harvest exists to give intellectually and/or developmentally disabled adults in the Atlanta area a safe and productive work environment through a small-scale, year-round and self-sustaining organic farm.

KULA ~ Entrepreneur: Sarah Buchanan ~ Navigator: Craig Maxwell

Kula is a non-profit organization that is eradicating poverty through the development of entrepreneurs in Rwanda. Operating from the belief that business, not charity, will end poverty, Kula has created a 15-month business fellowship that provides industry training, business investment, and life and leadership skills. Through their fellowship, women and men are empowered to build profitable businesses, raise healthy families, and provide an education for their children.

LIV FUL ~ Entrepreneurs: Hogan Basse, Matt Elsberry ~ Navigator: Brian Kirsch

Each year, millions of people's lives are affected by biting bugs that dictate how we live, work and play. LivFul envisions a world without the threat of deadly bug bites. We're a Christian company on a mission to make and distribute the world's best insect repellents to those who need them the most....all while sharing the gospel! Our patented technology slows absorption and evaporation, keeping the repellent on the skin where it can protect for more than 16 hours. With Epiphany support, we will advance the distribution of our products to countries in most desperate need.

THE OLIVE BRANCH ~ Entrepreneur: Jamie Wallace ~ Navigator: Brant Ferrell

The Olive Branch seeks to provide immediate care to juvenile victims of sexual abuse and sex trafficking through a controlled access victim resource center. Such a center will fill a current gap in available services and resources, meeting victims' most immediate needs.

OPEN DOORS ~ Entrepreneurs: Matt Hurd, Aaron Goldman, Kim Wolfe ~ Navigator: Eric Busko

Open Doors' mission is to ensure that homes will always be available for people exiting homelessness. Our work has created a community partnership of real estate experts, developers, building owners, nonprofit service providers, and funders committed to finding homes for the homeless in Metro Atlanta and helping them so they never experience homelessness again. By placing carefully-screened families and individuals into available apartments across the community, we are reducing both the number of people in homelessness and the costs to house them. Open Doors recruits companies with professionally managed properties willing to rent to veterans, families, and individuals in need of housing. Working with housing case managers employed by the best nonprofit agencies in Metro Atlanta, Open Doors connects property managers to households who have the financial assistance and ongoing supports to be stable tenants. Since our inception in 2012, this partnership and process have created permanent housing for over 5,700 people.

OPEN HAND CAFÉ ATLANTA ~ Entrepreneurs: Shannon Cook, Jess White ~ Navigator: Dan Latham

"Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food." ~Hippocrates~ Embracing this motto, nonprofit Open Hand Atlanta and its social enterprise, Good Measure Meals, are launching a new café space to support low-income, at-risk individuals and families with healthy food at Grady Hospital. Part of a comprehensive approach including screening patients and offering healthy cooking classes, the café will feature local produce from minority farmers and grab-and-go meals. The long-term goal of this project, which includes a Teaching Kitchen, a Food Pharmacy and a Food Prescription Program, is to create a collaborative, sustainable and replicable model to break the perpetual cycle of food insecurity and poor health, once and for all. The café launch is scheduled for mid-2019 and will reach more than 20,000 people each year.

PADSPLIT ~ Entrepreneur: Frank Furman ~ Navigators: Tim and Allison Bennett

PadSplit's mission is to solve the affordable housing crisis, here in Atlanta and beyond. PadSplit residents are employed, but earn only \$20-25k/year on average and simply cannot afford housing costs in Atlanta. Forty percent of their residents have experienced homelessness in the past year, despite employment. PadSplit takes one unaffordable home and creates a shared living environment that makes it more affordable for more people. This model creates holistic affordability by bundling the (shared) costs of furnished rooms, utilities, wifi, and laundry, while also moving people closer to work. PadSplit works with homeowners to transform rental properties into safe, energy-efficient, and respectable co-living housing in the Atlanta metro area. After only one year, PadSplit has created housing for about 100 singles, couples, and single parents with children, with 2,000 people on their waitlist. Just as Airbnb made hosting normal for people, or Uber normalized hitching a ride with a stranger by making it convenient and accountable, PadSplit is building a technology platform to do the same for homeowners and residents.

PARALLAX HEARING COMPANY ~ Entrepreneur: Thomas Hampton ~ Navigator: Chas Harris

Parallax Hearing is a cochlear implant company in the prototype stage. The company seeks to solve two problems: 1) reducing the cost of cochlear implants dramatically, so that this technology is widely accessible; and 2) not marginalizing, but partnering and ministering alongside the Deaf to ensure respect and dignity for this minority community.

PRETTY TECH ~ Entrepreneurs: Khanna Bell, Ngozi Eze ~ Navigator: Doug Allvine

Mobile App that aims to train and employ 1,000 young women of need in self-sustainable S.T.E.M. jobs by 2020.

PROJECT TRANSFORMATION NORTH GEORGIA ~ Entrepreneur: Diane Ward ~ Navigator: John Freebairn

Project Transformation North Georgia is a religious-based organization focusing on literacy development and social emotional learning. Project Transformation's collaborative model of ministry harnesses the creative energy and leadership of college-age young adults who live in intentional Christian community and lead 8-week summer day camps in urban churches for children in underserved neighborhoods. RAND Corporation found that summer learning loss, particularly in reading, disproportionately affects economically disadvantaged students and Project Transformation works to close that gap. The Project Transformation model is new to Georgia, but is a continuation of established programs operating in eight different regions of the country.

PURPOSEFUL PECANS ~ Entrepreneurs: Laura Ernst/Meals-on-Wheels-Atlanta ~ Navigator: Gary Shell

Purposeful Pecans is a new initiative to support the mission of Meals-On-Wheels-Atlanta ("MOWA"). MOWA serves over 300,000 meals yearly to seniors in need, and its near-term goal is to grow to serve over 500,000 meals per year. Financing this growth will require expansion of the donor base and pool of volunteers, and some outside-the-box thinking, like Purposeful Pecans. Purposeful Pecans are cooked in MOWA's kitchen after the day's meals are prepared, using gourmet recipes ("Sweet & Hot" and "Cinnamon Star Anise") developed by the former executive chef at The Four Seasons Hotel. These delicious treats are sold directly in pop-up markets, on the internet, and through a distribution network in Atlanta's hospitality industry. The profits from Purposeful Pecans will help fund MOWA's mission to feed low-income and homebound seniors. Purposeful Pecans is in its start-up phase, and Epiphany funding would help finance investments in equipment, facilities, and marketing needed for growth.

REFUGE COFFEE CO. ~ Entrepreneur: Kitti Murray ~ Navigator: Kara Land

Refuge Coffee Co. is a nonprofit enterprise that provides living wage jobs, job training, and mentorship to resettled refugees through the business of coffee and hospitality. But our real mission is welcome. Our refugee trainees help to drive that mission, welcoming the world at our coffee shop in Clarkston and from our red coffee trucks all over Atlanta. We do this business of welcome WITH refugees, not FOR them. Our trainees interact daily with people from many cultures, and because we employ locally and work hard to bring worlds together equally, our little establishment has become a town center that stands for hope. "With" is subtle but powerful. It chips away at biases and can transform an entire community's mindset. Now beginning our 3rd year of operation, we have multiple opportunities to grow, both as a coffee shop and a catering operation, including new catering trucks, new locations, and a kitchen addition to our current location, all of which will create more jobs and training opportunities.

SHELTERING JEWELS OUTREACH ~ Entrepreneurs: Phyllis Jewell, Demetris Dyer, Richard Ellis, Leonard Davis ~ Navigator: Frank Brannon

People in need don't have a good way to find help easily and quickly. Given the fact that everyone has a smartphone, there is an opportunity to provide an easy-to-navigate smartphone app that delivers useful and up-to-date helpful information about available help and resources. Currently there is only the 211 app from United Way, but that amounts to nothing more than a Google search for help. A smartphone app that knows where you are and can identify resource providers near you would let people in need find the help they are looking for quickly and easily, while allowing resource providers to offer their services more efficiently & effectively.

SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW ~ Entrepreneur: Adam Graham ~ Navigator: Bill Todd

The Society of St. Andrew builds caring communities by bringing people together to harvest and share healthy food with neighbors who need it. The Epiphany Project will allow us to glean Atlanta's neighborhood farmers' markets and distribute fresh produce to places with limited access to it using local community partner agencies.

ZERO MODEL ATLANTA ~ Entrepreneur: Daniel Stinson ~ Navigator: Chad McCloud

Zero Model is a national social enterprise launching profitable businesses and providing life-changing employment for the formerly incarcerated. Our work is built on a model that leverages the limitless potential of people and the transformative power of businesses and jobs. We believe that potential is universal, but opportunity is not. We exist to create economic opportunities for hard-working individuals determined to earn a second chance. We do this through business incubation, employment, and advocacy.