



## 2020 Semi-Finalists

**The following ventures have been selected to move forward into the Navigation process with FPC members as their mentors. Come meet them in Fifield Hall from 10:00-11:00 a.m. March 15, 2020!**

**Amani Women Center ~ Entrepreneur: Doris Mukangu ~ Navigator: Todd Lakes**

Through the Amani Sewing Academy, Amani Women Center seeks to empower refugee women to be workforce ready. They work with Atlanta refugee women to help them attain improved functional language and literacy skills, increase their ability to navigate social services systems, build healthy family relationships, and achieve financial independence, either through job placement or self-employment. Amani seeks to develop and brand a new line of sewn products, convert an existing space into a store, and establish an online presence for sales and awareness.

**The Atlanta Shoe Bank ~ Entrepreneur: Sloan Baker ~ Navigator: Sonia Mize**

The Atlanta Shoe Bank provides new shoes to youth and young adults who cannot purchase them. Through Epiphany, the Atlanta Shoe Bank seeks to establish a coordinated inventory system to connect resources with needs.

**Beya Made ~ Entrepreneur: Laurel Thompson ~ Navigators: Lizzie and Lyle Ross**

Beya Made seeks to reduce environmental impact and textile waste by producing eco-friendly children's clothing designed to adjust as children grow, allowing it to be worn three times longer than mass-produced "disposable" children's clothing.

**Changemaker Chocolates ~ Entrepreneur: Danny Lester-Drew ~ Navigators: Erin Demo and Todd Balsley**

Changemaker Chocolates is a chocolate company founded by social workers who saw a need for job opportunities for those with barriers to housing stability. Changemaker Chocolates partners with nonprofit organizations that provide housing placement to support formerly homeless individuals with sustainable employment and income to maintain their housing.

**FAITH: Families & Individuals Transitional Housing App ~ Entrepreneur: Robin Whitehead ~ Navigators: Susan Coker and Kristen Holtz**

FAITH seeks to create a mobile application that will identify available services in metro Atlanta for those experiencing homelessness or seeking immediate shelter. The app would be a tool for individuals, families, and service providers, streamlining process and identifying resources based on service criteria, location, and real-time availability.

**GreenTec ~ Entrepreneur: Billy Quezada ~ Navigator: Ben Hudgins**

GreenTec sells innovative, eco-friendly construction products made with recycled materials—Lego-style building blocks that consist of soil, cement, and recycled glass. Founded by a Guatemalan immigrant, GreenTec partners with nonprofits building homes in Guatemala, seeking to create employment opportunity, community development, and environmental sustainability.

**iAccess Innovations ~ Entrepreneur: Brandon Winfield ~ Navigators: Carol Hill and Brian Kirsch**

iAccess seeks to develop an application for users with mobility impairments, advocates, friends and family to share accessibility information, facilitate access, and rate and review locations based on their accessibility. The app would allow people with physical limitations to “know before they go,” making more effective plans around accessibility and sharing experiences with others.

**Just Bakery of Atlanta ~ Entrepreneur: Leah Lonsbury ~ Navigators: Ben Balsley and Dan Latham**

Just Bakery of Atlanta bakes with local and sustainable ingredients and provides resettled refugees with paid job training, professional certification, and living wage employment (starting all trainees at \$15/hour) to support their economic security. Through Epiphany, Just Bakery wants to expand its currently limited operations by securing a dedicated space to produce and sell baked goods, build community, and grow customer base and employment capacity.

**Mobile Clinic at Jewish Home Life ~ Entrepreneur: Melissa Kaplan ~ Navigator: Heather Scribner**

Jewish HomeLife Mobile Clinic is a clinic on wheels for homebound seniors of all faiths that will provide medical care through regular visits from nurse practitioners. As savings dwindle and needs increase, many seniors become homebound, without resources to get to doctors' appointments. A mobile clinic will allow them to receive care where they live, supporting every stage of the aging process.

**Re:imagine/ATL ~ Entrepreneur: Julie Straw ~ Navigator: Megan Kogan**

reimagine/ATL is a creative agency designed to provide training and workforce development by employing at-risk youth and young adults (ages 16-24) in Atlanta to produce media content (video stories, event recaps, and campaigns) for major brands, foundations, and nonprofits.

**RYSE Creative Village ~ Entrepreneur: Jay Jackson ~ Navigator: Frank Brannon**

RYSE Creative Village (RCV) is a co-working space and incubator for creatives in Georgia's film, music and digital media industry. RCV recently purchased and is redeveloping a former Atlanta Public School property located in an under-served southwest Atlanta community. Once complete, the facility will serve as an eco-system for creatives—with a focus on women and people of color—providing access to a community of like-minded individuals, technical skills training, professional equipment, engineered studio space, and connectivity to job opportunities in the creative industry.

**We Are Wendo ~ Entrepreneur: Khaliah Johnson ~ Navigators: Paul Dimmick and Bob Saudek**

Through a microfinance program and online sales of handwoven baskets, We are Wendo seeks to create opportunities for the women of Kalimani, a small village in rural Kenya, to achieve economic empowerment and engage in grassroots efforts to improve their own health and the health of their families.

**Wish for Wash ~ Entrepreneur: Jasmine Burton ~ Navigator: April Porter**

Wish for Wash has developed innovative sanitation solutions initially designed for undeveloped regions lacking infrastructure. Through Epiphany, the venture seeks to expand current viability pilot programs in sub-Saharan Africa and emerging Tiny Home communities in Atlanta to bring the products to a broader market in both emerging and developed economies.