

Form Summary

Name	Sidney Robinson
Email	sidneydrobinson13@gmail.com
Phone	770-605-1953
Birth date	05/20/2003
Age	18
Please Check All that Apply:	African American/Black
High School:	Brookwood High School
High School Mailing Address:	3955 Embassy Way
High School Guidance Counselor:	Ashlee Linderman
High School Contact Phone #	770-972-7642
GPA:	3.3
Class Rank:	N/A
Graduation Date:	5/26/2021
College Name:	Indiana University
Intended Major/Field of Study:	Marketing and Professional Selling
Church Name/Pastor (if member):	
Community Service and/or Extra Curricular Activities (if any):	FBLA DECA Robinson Media(My media business) Lacrosse
Honors and Awards (if any):	Captain of Varsity lacrosse VP of Future Business Leaders of America VP of DECA 1st Place in the region PSA in FBLA. Leadership Achievement Recognition Award
Please list below the names and amounts of any grants or scholarships you have been awarded for the coming school year: Name of Award: Amount: Granted/Pending:	
	My friend and I had just finished eating our \$15 pizza. We

grabbed our coats, put them on, and proceeded to walk back to the hotel to prepare for our DECA state competition the following morning. Walking outside, we could feel the freezing January breeze hit our faces. As we were getting closer to the hotel, I saw an image that would stick with me forever. It was an elderly homeless man in a wheelchair bundled up using every piece of clothing on his body trying to keep warm. I could hear the chattering of his teeth and see his body shivering as he maneuvered his wheelchair closer to a building radiator that was producing heat. My friend and I spoke about what we saw; it was truly horrifying. At that moment, it was a true reality check knowing that we were sleeping in the Hyatt Regency hotel and just finished a \$15 meal. I tried to imagine myself freezing on the streets with nowhere to go. Then it hit me that I truly wanted to solve this problem of homelessness in my community. This is a major problem that our society has overlooked for too long.

We recently had a project to create a sustainable solution to solve homelessness in my community. During one of our classes, my teacher introduced us to Matt Elder, the Director of Home First a nonprofit that specializes in homelessness solutions. In my county, there are 10,000 documented homeless people. There are no homeless shelters in my county. To me and my peers, it had seemed like another class project but after my encounter with the homeless man, my whole perspective changed. I had this burning passion to solve the problem in my community. My friend and I came up with an idea and started a project called "Balnce". The project involves the idea of slowing the progression of homelessness by renovating storage containers into homes to help with housing people that are on the path to becoming chronically homeless (someone who has been homeless for a year or more). Our project would repurpose 40 ft shipping containers that would be completely furnished on the inside and would be used for temporary housing. The idea of tiny houses has been trending worldwide for the last couple of years. Many people already live in container homes because they are easy to maintain and operate. Each container on average costs \$10,000 furnished and lasts 50 years. Container homes help our environment by using renewable resources that we already have. This is a great way to get people off the streets and give them a helping hand. We offer a more humane solution that makes homeless people feel less like a statistic and more like a human while preparing them to get on their feet.

The United States has the highest GDP of any country in the world yet, we have one of the highest homelessness populations worldwide. We seem to never confront the problem of homelessness head-on. In many ways, we shy away from homelessness almost embarrassed to confront the issues. Many people have great ideas but they're useless if you never take action. Although the class project is over, I realized if I truly want to solve this ongoing problem, I needed to take action. I emailed

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and called our local senator and local city council members to see if this is a feasible solution. During our phone conversation, the senator agreed with the possibility. We are scheduling a meeting with Senator Martin to discuss the executive plan with him and his peers about our design. I envision a world where that freezing homeless man has the audacity to hope for change. Although I'm just 1 high school student I dare to think I can change the world. I believe that I can change the future of homelessness through innovative problem solving and determination.