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Project Proposal

Due Date

**Organization Name:** Lehigh Valley Summerbridge

**Cause:** LVS is an organization that provides enrichment education for economically underprivileged middle school students in Easton, Allentown, and Bethlehem Pennsylvania. LVS also provides opportunities for aspiring educators enrolled in college education programs to teach in their own classrooms and receive in-depth feedback about their lesson plans and classroom management.

**Why is this cause important:** The current state of public education in Pennsylvania is deplorable. Standards based testing brought on by No Child Left Behind has created an atmosphere of fear and rote memorization among many schools and students. Many students do not learn how to analyze or engage in critical thinking. In addition to this system, the current economy has further increased the gap between the rich and poor. Many students living in Easton, Allentown, and Bethlehem are living below the poverty line. Often times, these students get lost in the school system and drop out or graduate but never make it to college. These students often face other barriers including non-English speaking parents or guardians, parents or families unfamiliar with the American education system, lack of food and clothing, lack of at-home academic support, and lack of cultural capital. Summerbridge is designed to provide these types of students with the education they are not receiving in their regular schools. We provide two free meals a day during our summer program and provide students with enrichment learning in math, science, literature, and writing as well as and in-roads into college tracked high school courses.

**Goals:**

1. Raise awareness in the Lehigh Valley about this program.
   1. Increase yearly monetary donations
   2. Increase yearly non-monetary donations including school supplies, non-perishable food items, and clothing.
2. Make stronger connections with local Lehigh Valley colleges
   1. Bring students on annual summer trips to these colleges.
   2. Bring students, professors, and admissions personnel from these colleges to Summerbridge’s campus to speak with students.
3. Partner with local charity organizations
   1. Contact Cops N Kids and ask them to come back to speak to the students.
   2. Raise collection numbers for Cops N Kids annual book drive.
4. Complete main sections of Website
   1. Good Books
   2. Lehigh Valley Colleges
   3. College Success
   4. College Applications
   5. Vocabulary
   6. Local middle and high schools.
5. Increase engagement in the Lehigh Valley Summerbridge Alumni website.
   1. Increase current student and Summerbridge alumni engagement
   2. Increase current teacher and alumni teacher engagement