2021 Winning Projects

HIGH SCHOOLS
The “Dumpster Divers” looked at the issue of illegal dumping, environmental justice, and how they impacted already disadvantaged neighborhoods. The team researched the history of redlining and other racist practices in Kansas City, MO, and how it denied access to sanitation services in communities of color.

The Team’s project included reaching out to city officials, providing appropriate receptacles in the Ivanhoe neighborhood (working with the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council), and working with the dumpster vendor to ensure they were properly maintained once installed.

The Team donated its $500 prize to the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council to support the new Dumpster Program.
The Lobos team developed a teacher training course for educators in Angola. They explained how the region’s tumultuous history is partially responsible for the country’s substandard education system. The Lobos team worked with several community partners to define a training program to help Angolan teachers get the tools they need to be successful. Members of the Rotary Club of Highlands Ranch were so impressed with this project that they decided to help make their proposed teacher training course a reality!

With additional support from other Denver-area Rotary clubs and Rotary International, their hope is to design a curriculum that can be delivered to rural areas worldwide.

This is just one example of how the connections made through the World Affairs Challenge - between teams, community partners, and judges - can really move a project’s impact to the next level!
The WAC CATS focused their project on access to mental and physical health resources for young people aged 18 - 22 in their local community. While they and their peers were gaining more independence as young adults, they didn't have knowledge of or easy access to resources they might need.

Their *WACtion project* was to create a simple digital resource for their target community that would provide easy access to available services specifically for that group. The World Affairs Club planned to create and manage this website as an ongoing resource for years to come. Graduating members are meeting with underclassmen to lay the groundwork for this website, estimated to be built in the fall.
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MIDDLE SCHOOLS
The Water Walkers partnered with Fresh Water Project International to learn about issues rural Malawi faces without access to basic sanitation supplies such as soap and water. To raise awareness of the issue and funds for their project, they hosted a Water Walk where participants carried water for a mile - like so many young girls do in Malawi every day, with information along the path to highlight the severity issue. The team donated those funds and its $500 prize to the Malama Primary School Latrine project through H2O to help build a latrine and hand washing station.
The WAC-a-Moles focused their project on the water crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR), one of the most poverty-ridden and water polluted countries in the world, and with a civil war that has been continuous for nearly a decade. The WAC-a-Moles partnered with Water for Good, which installs wells and pumps in rural areas of the CAR, and who hires local citizens to build and maintain the wells, providing jobs in addition to clean water. The team donated its $300 prize to Water for Good, and held a pinewood derby (Cars for CAR) to raise additional funds.
The WACtivists focused their project on the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia, which has escalated in recent years due to an ongoing civil war. The team’s project is to apply for a grant with Perrigo, a global pharmaceutical company, to distribute medical and disaster relief supplies by partnering with UNICEF. If approved, the supplies would be available in the fall, which the team hopes will coincide with cessation of hostilities.

In the meantime, they raised funds for the refugee children (some of 353,000 who have fled to South Sudan) by making and selling jewelry. Through this effort, the WACtivists funded:

- Installation of 14 water tanks
- Set up one child care facility
- Established a Covid communication campaign
- Sent teams to immunize children

The team also donated its winning $200 prize money to UNICEF to continue its support of the Ethiopian refugees.