

2020 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT MAKERS: HOMETOWN HEROES

We at ISD are proud to recognize the heroes that have kept our communities going throughout this difficult year. We would like to thank the local news and community organizations that do the work on the ground to find these heroes. Here is our 2020 Hometown Heroes Honor Roll.



Pastor Karl Anderson – Gainesville, FL

Pastor Karl Anderson is giving back to his community by setting up events where people can have access to free groceries/food. Has fed 70,000 people in the County of Alachua. He also runs other campaigns such as backpack rallies where children are given free backpacks with supplies. He has given 30,000 backpacks over the past 20 years.



Alisha Baldwin – Huntsville, AL

Baldwin, a nursing student, makes masks for front line employees. She dedicates about nine hours a day making masks for Huntsville Hospital and Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Another point of distinction: She served as an air traffic controller in the National Guard from 2003-05 and survived an explosion in Bagdad.



Chad Butters – New Tripoli, PA

Chad Butters, owner of Eight Oaks Farm Distillery, turned his operation into a hand sanitizer production facility. He wanted to offer affordable hand sanitizer to his community after seeing the skyrocketing prices and shortages as a result of COVID-19. The cost of each bottle is whatever his customers can afford to donate.



Alexa Cannon – Bedford, NH

Cannon is a high school senior who lost both of her part-time jobs. She now shops for people who cannot go out themselves because of the risk of COVID-19. She has about 10 customers in Bedford. She donates half of her profit to her local food pantry and animal shelter.



Cindy Cordrey – Newark, DE

Cordrey is a music therapist who visits Alzheimer patients' homes and plays music for them. She used to play music at a care center, but the center closed when the pandemic hit. Undaunted, she now takes her sessions on the road.



Jill Hudson – Baton Rouge, LA

Hudson is striving to bridge the gap between verbal and non-verbal communities. She is working with a local non-profit that supports American Sign Language (ASL) services. She also played a role in creating Blue Bridge ASL Academy, a bilingual immersion school for toddlers. Her dedication is creating a ripple effect: teachers at her local elementary school are now providing ASL instruction and signing with their students.



Toshua Parker – Gustavus, AK

Parker keeps his small town of 450 people supplied with food by making weekly voyages to the state capital of Juneau. Each trip takes about 14 hours. Parker doesn't hike up prices in his stores. He is a true hero who provides for his community.



Dianna Perrico – Canfield, OH

Perrico has been remaking old band uniforms into masks for local hospital workers. So far she has made about 750 masks from band skirts. The masks are free, but she is asking for donations to give back to the band. So far she has donated close to \$2,500 to the Canfield Band to be used for new uniforms.



Jami Sales – Paauilo, HI

Sales, her cousin Marlene Simpson, and a group of volunteers have hand-sewn and distributed more than 17,000 masks throughout Hawaii to help fight the pandemic. Their first goal was 500 masks for Hamakua Health Center. Then masks went to Hale Ho‘ola Hamakua, North Hawaii Community Hospital and Hilo Medical Center.



Sarah Shapiro & Skye Loventhal – Los Angeles, CA

These two high school juniors created a website that has recruited about 100 tutors to mentor 300 kids in first-through-fifth grades across the world.

Honorable Mentions

[Shelia Baker](#) – Columbus, GA

Baker started a huge campaign to feed every child in Harris County who needs or wants to be fed. The effort has already given out 87,000 meals. They have 11 sites throughout the vast area of the county.

[Chloe Browning](#) – Danvers, MA

Browning is the division director of a residential services for a non-profit agency that has more than 100 people living in 26 homes for people with developmental disabilities. Some 250 direct care staff work in those homes. Browning oversees the program and motivates her workers during these challenging times.

[Nancy Goeke, Taffy Hebbeler, Jan Hanser, Annette Theissen, Denise Bowman](#) – Covington, KY

These five friends have developed a grassroots effort to let the front-line workers of Northern Kentucky know that they are appreciated. They have created a GoFundMe page where people can donate. Things like cookies, flowers, donuts, and yard signs are delivered weekly.

[Manda Griffin](#) – Houlka, MS

Griffin is a nurse practitioner who goes above and beyond her duties by treating patients over online calls, in their homes, and in their cars. She does this to put her staff and patients at a lower risk of infection.

[Zeeyah, Aleena, Amaara, and Inaaya Jacobsen](#) – Greenwich, CT

These four sisters have created an online food drive through GiveHealthy to help donate to *Neighbor to Neighbor*. The nonprofit feeds more than 1,000 families a week.

[Eliza Kenigsburg](#) – Portland, ME

Kenigsburg is a coordinator for the Mainer Together program. She helps organize volunteers who deliver groceries and check up on elderly people and others with a higher risk of infection.

[Sophie & Sydney Kleiman](#) – Evansville, IN

The Kleimans have put their time at home to good use. They have been making masks to donate to people in need in their community.

[Keith Linton](#) – Los Angeles, CA

Linton, who is a retired police officer, launched *Boys to Gentlemen* (five years ago), which is a nonprofit mentorship program. The mission of the organization is to turn "at-risk boys" into "at-hope gentlemen." He has helped more than 5,000 children in 20 different local schools. The program also teaches kids about finance and basic education, such as knowing how to tie ties.

[Mike Mattessich](#) – Bergenfield, NJ

Mattessich, who was formerly homeless, has become an organizer, creating *Bikes 4 Veterans and Others in Need*. He looks for cheap bikes online that he can fix up and distribute to fellow veterans and people who cannot afford their own. His organization has donated more than 50 bikes to various people throughout his community.

[Meaghan Mckenna](#) – Hinesburg, VT

Mckenna created *Hearts for Hunger*, which is a group that supports feeding children in need. They hold a 5K charity run, with all proceeds going to a Vermont food bank specifically to feed children.

[Shelby Moore](#) – Minford, WV

Moore volunteered to help deliver food boxes to students in her community. She realized there wasn't enough food for all the kids, so she came up with a plan to start her own meal program where families can buy meals at a discount. All the proceeds are used to buy groceries to provide additional food. She has also started offering meals to the elderly.

[Anthony Pedersen](#) – Colorado Springs, CO

Pederson, a 27-year-old special needs student, started a t-shirt sales project to encourage people to wear face masks. He has a goal of \$5,000 and plans to donate all of the proceeds to local food banks.

[Zooey Sophia Pook & Jeremiah Richardson](#) – Las Cruces, NM

Pook and Richardson are residents of Las Cruces who have started campaigns to deliver essential items, such as groceries and toilet paper, to people in need.

[Joseph Kevin Prior](#) – Long Island, NY

Prior is the manager of the Philly Pretzel Factory. He started a fundraiser that raises money to buy pretzel trays for healthcare workers, and he delivers the trays himself.

[Kaya Suner](#) – Providence, RI

Suner came up with COVID Connectors, which is a nonprofit whose mission is to connect sick patients with their loved ones by collecting iPhones and iPads so that

patients can video chat with their families. Suner quickly gained popularity, and his group has been able to fulfill a quota of 650 devices for Rhode Island hospitals. Through the effort, Amazon has donated 540 devices also.

[Salena Taylor](#) – Jackson, MI

Taylor started an organization, called Partial to Girls, which donates diapers and baby formula to people in need within Jackson County. They have donated more than 80,000 diapers and thousands of cans of baby formula.

[Robert Wealer](#) – Hannibal, IL

With the help of his mother, 13-year-old Wealer set up a food can drive on Facebook. He has raised about \$6,200 and 32,000 food items for donation in the last seven years.