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"WeLevitate" is a fitness and community service app that allows users to stay fit and donate to charitable causes from anywhere, at any time. Whether you're practicing yoga or going for a run, this app helps you set and achieve your fitness goals while making a positive impact on society. By combining fitness and charitable giving, “WeLevitate” provides a unique platform that promotes healthy living and social responsibility.

Since my elementary school days, I have been fortunate enough to participate in many social and community events. The happiness and satisfaction I felt during these events was incomparable. Benefaction and doing something for others always brings warmth to my heart and gives me eternal peace. I have been indulging in bringing change in the community by participating in various activities such as by being a board member of the Hinsdale Public Library Junior Advisory Board, a member of the Young Community Changemakers program, and the PR Manager of the Hinsdale chapter of PERIOD. All these experiences have strengthened my desire to empower the community, especially teens like myself, by providing key interventions to motivate them. I am thrilled because in May’23, my community services were recognized by the United Nations Association of the USA and I earned an Ambassador Award.

Throughout the years, I kept exploring ways to pursue this aspiration along with my creative passion and academic knowledge to make a bigger impact. The desire to contribute to society became even more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and I made every effort to assist in any way possible. With the support and encouragement of my parents, I thought up an innovative design for a new mobile application that I believed will have a positive, empathetic impact on society. The foundation of this project combined my passion for community service and fitness, as they have been constants and motivating stimuli in my life.

The pathway leading towards this innovative idea started when I contemplated how I could merge my two passions and envisioned an app that would enable users to convert any fitness activity into a charitable donation of their choice. My app permits users to endorse a charitable organization while keeping track of their fitness progress. Hence, users could positively impact their community while enhancing their physical health. Additionally, the app encourages community and collaboration, as users can interact with individuals who share similar goals. By promoting volunteer work and fitness simultaneously, my app WeLevitate inspires users to lead healthier, more rewarding lives while contributing to the betterment of the world.

With the idea set in place, my target audience was decided as well: teenagers. Fitness is a constant in a teenager’s life, whether it be from sports they participate in, expectations they have in themselves, etc. I can easily relate to this, so I wanted this app to be something teenagers and others can use to relate to. Moreover, this app could help them reach any goals they set for themselves and further their pursuits in terms of fitness. Aside from fitness, my app would also allow them to be able to give back to their community as well as any global organizations. In a

way, they become philanthropists, in that they get to choose which organization to support while using the app. I hope that through my app, teenagers will be able to find easy ways to show their support for charities, while also staying on track with their fitness goals and conducting healthy lifestyles.

I finalized the design of my mobile application, including the app flow, screen layout, color scheme, and font choices. The next milestone was to choose a name fitting for the purpose of the app. After extensive brainstorming and coffee sessions, I finally settled on the name "WeLevitate". Despite my busy junior year at HCHS, which involved a heavy academic workload and active participation in various clubs and social events, I was highly motivated and remained focused on keeping the app development work on track.

The knowledge gained from being part of leadership programs helped me cultivate skills necessary to advance the development of the app by improving my productivity and promoting better decision making. By being a PR Manager for PERIOD chapter in Hinsdale, I was able to learn important entrepreneurial skills. These skills are invaluable when I am promoting my app, as I am able to properly portray what my app is about, while also using creative measures on the WeLevitate Instagram account. Moreover, by taking the Business Management class in my school, I learned critical entrepreneurial skills which have helped me thus far in order to gain followers and partner with different organizations. Also, I have gained inspiration from important figures we have talked about, such as Mike Krieger and Kevin Systrom who founded Instagram, as they had notable dedication and relented through any hardships they faced during their journey.

As one of the key features of "WeLevitate" is to allow users to donate to the charity of their choice, I reached out to various organizations to onboard them onto the platform. This proved to be a difficult but enriching experience for me. Despite initially receiving no response from the 30-40 charities I contacted, I persisted in my efforts and continued to research and reach out to different organizations. After 10-12 weeks, I received inquiries from organizations who asked questions about the app and its goals. Despite my persistent efforts, I was unable to convince any charities to join my initiative. Although this was a disappointing period, it didn't dampen my determination and confidence. Eventually, I was able to onboard a fantastic organization, "PERIOD".

Throughout the project development phase, I continuously took inspiration from my surroundings to improve my app designs and features. I found the current events incredibly motivating, as they showed me that millions of people around the world are ready to step up and help out in times of need. This relayed to me that my app will be willingly accepted and that there are like-minded people around the globe who will utilize my app to be a participative member in society.

This venture has taught me that persistence and self-belief are the keys to success. There will be moments in life when your ideas may seem worthless, but those are the times when you must continue working and believing in yourself. Throughout this journey, I often felt like giving up,

losing faith in my idea, and worrying about what others might think. However, I reflected on my accomplishments and the inspiration behind the end goal, and I knew that giving up was not an option. This mindset helped me persevere and continue reaching out to more organizations and charities, even when I received no positive response. As I focus on mindfulness and giving back to society, I see myself as a catalyst for creating awareness of a holistic approach to life in changing times. My ultimate goal is to help change today's society by addressing the issues that torment people in their daily lives, making the world a better place to live, and eventually preserving essentials for future generations.

My focus is not only on my own fitness and community service, but also on providing a platform for others to stay fit and donate from anywhere and at any time. I hope that this service initiative will evolve into a global movement, where users around the world can use WeLevitate to make a positive impact on their communities. I plan to use my education to create a non-profit organization built on empathy and compassion, to aid those in need and further global initiatives that provide a better future for all. Additionally, I aim to expand WeLevitate and connect with global organizations, giving philanthropic users a wider selection of charitable services to choose from. WeLevitate combines my passions and knowledge, and I believe that as I continue on this journey, I will be able to make further improvements by receiving feedback and gaining exposure in a changing world. This isn't just about my own fitness and community service, but also about providing a platform for others to fit+donate from anywhere and anytime.

My search for community service opportunities has ignited a lifelong passion for giving back. As part of my commitment to this mission, I have pledged to donate 1% of the total donation made by each user of WeLevitate using my internship income. My ultimate goal is to increase my self-contribution for every donation made by other users through the app. I am dedicated to keeping this mission alive and creating a positive impact on society. As the saying goes, "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step", and this inspirational milestone in my life began with an idea that came from my heart.