

# NEWARK WATER ASSOCIATION NON-PROFIT

Founder: Vin Henrich '23

## DEAR 2021 SEED GRANT JUDGES

Hello, my name is Vin Henrich and I am the founder of Newark Water Association, a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit designed to provide the community of Newark, New Jersey with access to clean, safe, and free water. I am reaching out to you today because I feel that your support could significantly help us continue our mission of “Saving lives one water bottle at a time.” Please check out our website for more info: <https://www.newarkwaterassociation.com/>

**The Problem:** Here at Newark Water Association, we believe in “Saving lives one water bottle at a time.” Every time a child takes a sip of contaminated water, they are susceptible to permanent damage to their developing brain and nervous systems. Unborn children are liable to birth defects and adults face long term effects such as cardiovascular and kidney problems, cognitive dysfunction, high blood pressure, fertility issues, over a dozen different cancers, and in some cases even death. Every project we initiate saves the lives of those in need. Newark NJ is suffering a Lead Water Crisis similar to the crisis that Flint Michigan is going through. 18,000+ Lead Service Lines have contaminated the water in Newark. The Federal Government requires action to be taken when lead in the water is at 15 parts per billion and in June 2019 the average Newark lead levels peaked at 57 parts per billion more than 3 times the actionable level. In 2016 tests revealed 30 public schools were contaminated with elevated lead levels and most are still contaminated.

**Our Solution:** We provide clean water to the people of Newark. Clean water is a human right and until all 18,000 pipes are fixed and restored, we will be in full momentum. Since August of 2020, we have raised \$20,000 and donated over 115,000 recyclable bottles of water to youth sport programs, churches, day care centers, and the citizens of Newark.

**The Ecosystem:** In any Lead Water Crisis residents are face with 3 needs, the immediate, temporary and permanent need. When the federal government verified the lead contamination The City of Newark supported the Immediate Need by having Bottled Water Donations. After a few months they stopped donating bottled water and decided to try and support the Temporary Need by supplying PUR Faucet Water Filters to residents. Unfortunately, they did not work properly. The concentration of lead in Newark homes were too high filter out the lead. Instead of going back to donating bottled water again, the City was able to take out a 110-million-dollar loan from Essex County to support the Permanent Need of starting a Lead Service Line Replacement Program. This all is excellent work except there is one problem. At this moment Newark residents are still drinking lead contaminated water. The immediate need is not being met. This is where Newark Water Association steps in. We support the immediate need by supplying those who need water the most with our Bottled Water Projects.

**Metrics:** I have said since the beginning, “If I can give one kid one water bottle and he/she lives one day longer in their life-time then this Nonprofit organization is a success.” As for this Summer success will be launching our Water Filter Summer Pilot Program. We will pick 5-10 Daycare Centers and install Reverse Osmosis Water Filters. Throughout this process we will also have a video documentary series as well as putting together educational videos and presentations that we will be able to launch at schools across the country starting in the Fall. Eventually, our long-term goal, to become the first Nonprofit to

replace lead service lines ourselves. As of now we will continue to support Newark, NJ but as time continues, we hope of expand to other effected areas across the country.

**Board of Directors:** Vin Henrich- Founder/CEO, Elizabeth Wiede- COO, Jeff Kurtz- CEO of The Kamson Corporation/Philanthropist, John Merklinger- Director of Senior Service at Seton Hall Prep, Luke Henrich- Brick City Lions Alum.

**Partners:** Costco, Essex County, The City of Newark, The Kamson Corporation, Seton Hall Prep, Gallagher Financial Services Corp., The H.A.T., West Orange Rotary, Essex County Sheriff's, NJIT, New Community Corporation, Catholic Charities USA.

**Mentors:** Jeff Kurtz- CEO of The Kamson Corporation/Philanthropist, Joe DiVincenzo- Essex County Executive, Chris Durkin- Essex County Clerk, Nicole Mozeliak- COO of American Dream, Leigh Garofalow- CAO of Private Family Office, Makaela Kingsley- Wesleyan Professor, Rosemary Ostfeld- Wesleyan Professor, Joe Giaimo- Wesleyan Alum.

### **Timeline:**

**August 17th, 2020: Brick City Lions Donation:** On this day the Newark Water Association was born. With the help of Gallagher Financial Services Inc., NJIT, and the City of Newark we were able to donate 38,400 bottles of water to Newark's powerhouse football organization Brick City Lions.

**October 16th, 2020: Daycare and Church Donation:** Rain or shine! Our second event had us working like we never imagined. With the help of Seton Hall Prep Seniors and Essex County, we were able to give 1,000 bottles of water each to 25 different daycare centers across Newark. Afterward, we donated the rest of our water to Catholic Charities, Saint Johns, New Community, and Saint Mary's.

**December 22nd, 2020: Police Outreach Donation:** We come together. We wanted our last event of the year to be the most impactful. By partnering with The Essex County Sheriff's Office we were able to hold a Food and Water Drive for the people of Newark. This event strengthened community relationships during the holiday season and helped us hit our goal of donating 115,000 bottles of water since we started up.

**Spring 2020:** As I am on campus this Spring my main objective is to fundraise, establish a social media campaign, and network with mentors and other Nonprofits.

**Budget:** We will use this \$5,000 Seed Grant to help Newark Water Association take its next step from not only providing support of the immediate need but also the temporary need. We will conduct tests on the water of the Daycares before and after we install the Reverse Osmosis Filters. Testing will cost between \$20-60 dollars. The Reverse Osmosis Filters cost between \$300-550 dollars. Overall, we will be able to install Reverse Osmosis Filters in 5-10 Newark Daycares