

Here's the one thing to consider out of all of the Giving Tuesday requests...

Henry Rock [henry.rock@citystartuplabs.com@mail68.atl91.mcsv.net] on behalf of Henry Rock [henry.rock@citystartuplabs.com]

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To: [Steve Johnston](#)

CityStartupLabs

Creating a *New Class* of Entrepreneurs

Simply – are you up to the task?

"There is never time in the future in which we will work out our salvation. The challenge is in the moment; the time is always now." ~ James Baldwin

This year Charlotte and our country have convulsed and cleaved. During these times some would say we've been disconnected from our moorings, while others say, *we're just righting the ship*. Yet, in spite of it all, we must and will (where the will resides) find a way to live up to the promise of "this land is your land, this land is my land" – and *work out our salvation*. Are you up to the task?

Surely we'll need all shoulders to the plow for the work required – like the very able ones of the young men who have been going through City Startup Labs' Center of Excellence. Guys like Cortney or Lee, Jarron and Andre or Victor, some of the participants of an initiative dedicated to building entrepreneurial competency, innovation and leadership, over the past three years, right here in Charlotte.



We dared to reimagine young black men as a *new class of entrepreneurs and innovators*, and so far they're proving us right.

During our pilot, 45 started, 27 graduated, 21 pitched, 10 ventures were selected winners, 4 are in business. This year 17 started, 11 graduated, 9 pitched, and 5 ventures were selected winners for incubation, where they're hatching their ventures right now.

So, as we close out the year and gear-up for the next, are you up to the task of bringing these young men off of the sidelines and into the game? Are you up to the task of shoring up the contributions from a guy like Jordan Starck (CSL Class of 2014, Doctoral student at Princeton and founder of [Madison Multicultural Educational Solutions](#)) or Aaron Galloway, Class of 2016 winner and founder of [Infinigift](#), through your *contribution*?

It's these guys I'm pulling for – many of whom aren't given the chance, who are eager to show just how far a righteous chance will take them and us along for the ride.

Find out how far your contribution can go when it's put to this kind of work. If you're up to the task and I know you are, be generous.

Thank you for your willingness ~ Henry Rock, Founder & Executive Director

[YES, I'm up to the task!](#)



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