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### Good Cheer, Good News!

Henry Rock [henry.rock=citystartuplabs.com@mail144.sea22.mcdlv.net] on behalf of Henry Rock [henry.rock@citystartuplabs.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 11:04 AM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)

# Good Cheer, Good News!



This has been one heck of a year, no matter at what point around the circle you stand. As we close out 2017, City Startup Labs is doing so with high notes. Joyous notes that we wish to share with you as we move into a brand New Year.

#### Good Cheer

If you haven't heard much from us over the past year, it's been because we've had our head down working to make certain that we were fielding the best candidates for a new class, as well as teeing-up a new initiative in 2018.

Without a doubt, this has been our very best group of budding entrepreneurs to date. Perhaps that has something to do with the fact that this was our first co-ed class. OR maybe it's because these young folks seem so much more determined than ever before. We want to make sure that with each pass at this effort we keep improving, and I'm happy to say that we've done so with these amazing entrepreneurs in the making. I encourage you to learn who they are and about their ventures with a click of the image – you'll see for yourself that there's plenty to cheer about.

**Good News**

In 2018, CSL will be launching another pilot in Charlotte, targeting *returning citizens* or the formerly incarcerated, with a unique approach to restorative justice through entrepreneurship. This new effort will be made possible through an award from the [Kauffman Foundation's Inclusion Open Grant](#) (City Startup Labs is one of twenty nationwide recipients), along with another grant received from the United Way of Central Carolinas this year, through their [Unite Charlotte award](#). So stay tuned.

As the City of Charlotte comes to terms with issues of socio-economic mobility and what its entrepreneurial profile will be, City Startup Labs is positioned right at this nexus. We're at a place where we have and will continue to make a difference in the lives of those, who here-to-fore have been watching the entrepreneurial train go by — but now have a ticket to ride.

Thanks to all of you who have been so supportive of this work.

**Happy Holidays!**

Henry Rock  
Founder & Executive Director



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