



Stanford eCorner

Connection Through Purpose

Chris Redlitz, KickLabs; The Last Mile

May 15, 2013

Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/3157/Connection-Through-Purpose>

Chris Redlitz, co-founder of The Last Mile, shares the story of how his program was able to create positive change by connecting an investment banker and a prison inmate, both of whom grew up in the same neighborhood.



Transcript

I get a lot of questions, and we get a lot of questions about, these guys do these business plans, is there anything actually going to come to fruition? So James Houston is a graduate from last year. James has been incarcerated for 18 years. He's from Richmond. And James has had an impeccable record inside prison. He is one of the most respected guys at San Quentin. And he's actually started a program called the Richmond Project which is helping guys as they get out when they go back home, and he's still incarcerated. His plan that he developed inside is called Teen Tech Hub. And Teen Tech Hub is an after school program for kids 9 to 14 years old in Richmond where they can learn about computers and programming. He presented his pitch at our demo day and in the audience was a guy named Eric Moore. And Eric also grew up in Richmond but Eric became an investment banker.

And Eric, he's about 6'3 big husky black guy, and he's sitting in the audience and he's crying. And said to me 'Chris, I looked around and I was embarrassed because I'm supposed to be a little macho and here I am crying because what James is presenting is what I want to do back in my community.' So in September, we're actually launching Teen Tech Hub. We have a location. James comes back home in June. And it's the first one of many that we want to do across the country in underserved neighborhoods. But it just shows that that dream that he had and the dream Eric had can come together and create something really incredible.