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NEW COHORT OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE LEADERS SELECTED FOR 2020 REDF ACCELERATOR

Eighteen employment-focused social enterprise leaders will advance their learning and deepen their peer connections

SAN FRANCISCO (October 3, 2019) – Today REDF announced its 2020 REDF Accelerator cohort comprised of 18 entrepreneurs leading employment-focused social enterprise businesses in 11 states and the District of Columbia. The fellows head competitive, revenue-generating businesses with a social mission: to provide paying jobs, training, and support to people striving to overcome employment barriers including histories of homelessness, incarceration, addiction, mental illness, as well as young people who are not working or in school. This unique seven-month program plays a key role in REDF’s strategy to build the employment social enterprise field, functioning like a “mini-MBA” for social entrepreneurs, helping them strengthen and grow their businesses to serve more people.

The diverse industries represented in this year’s cohort, including personal training, web design, and sustainable apparel, reflect the increased adoption of employment social enterprise as a model that effectively balances profit and purpose. With the employment social enterprise movement gaining momentum across the United States, five cities and three states: Delaware, West Virginia and Louisiana, will have leaders participate in the REDF Accelerator for the first time.

Now in its fourth year, REDF Accelerator provides 84 hours of specialized curriculum delivered in partnership with +Acumen, and covers strategic planning, financial planning, and marketing, while keeping the mission of employing people overcoming barriers at the core of all programming. To date, 54 leaders from 36 states have completed the Accelerator.

The 2020 REDF Accelerator cohort includes:

East Coast

- Jon Feinman, [InnerCity Weightlifting](#), Boston, MA
- Maggie McNicholas, [The Osborne Association Social Enterprise Program](#), Bronx, NY
- Thanh Bui, [GrandLo Café](#), New York, NY

- Jessica Santana, [America on Tech](#), New York, NY
- Andrew McKnight, [CP Furniture](#), Wilmington, DE
- Will Avila, [Clean Decisions, LLC](#), Washington, D.C.
- Jennifer Flanagan, [Community Kitchen Pittsburgh](#), Pittsburgh, PA
- Carl Phinney, [Opportunity Construction, LLC](#), Steelton, PA
- Ilyssa Manspeizer, [Landforce](#), Pittsburgh, PA

Midwest

- Gary Wozniak, [RecoveryPark](#), Detroit, MI
- Paula Haines, [Freedom a la Cart](#), Columbus, OH
- Emily Hunt Turner, [All Square](#), Minneapolis, MN
- LaTasha Powell, [Breaking Bread Cafe and Catering](#), Minneapolis, MN
- Amanda LaGrange, [Tech Dump/Tech Discounts](#), St. Paul, MN

South

- Ian Dovan, [Seeds of Change](#), Knoxville, TN
- Dylan Smith, [SustainU Clothing](#), Morgantown, WV
- Maryam Henderson-Uloho, [SisterHearts, Inc.](#), Arabi, LA

West

- Gordon Leung, [Peralta Service Corporation](#), Oakland, CA

For more information, visit our [REDF Accelerator](#) page.

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ABOUT REDF

REDF (the Roberts Enterprise Development Fund) is a pioneering venture philanthropy accelerating a national movement of employment social enterprises – revenue-generating businesses that invest the money they make into helping people striving to overcome employment barriers get jobs, keep jobs, and build a better life. Independent research shows this approach works. It leads to greater economic security and mobility and a significant rate of return to society—\$2.23 in benefits for every \$1 invested.

For more information, visit www.redf.org.