

Greetings,

How often do we turn on the news and witness the constant violence that interrupts or city from day to day? How many young males and females have we seen lose their lives over senseless disputes or by simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time? I'm sure in your mind your saying "this happens every day what's new about that!" and you are absolutely correct. Our problem is that these things have become such a norm that we have now become desensitized of the issue and continue our everyday lives never thinking that there could be a solution.

My heart aches and groans at the cold and senseless violence that is taking place in a city I call home. One I used to feel proud when I would say "I'm from Philadelphia". I have children of my own and hearing the headlines every other day of a life taken is overwhelmingly heart wrenching and now, I am honestly tired. Tired of sitting on the sidelines wondering when it will change. I've thought for many years how can I help? Help in a big way! The first thing that popped into my mind is education but not just educating children but providing them with the help and support they need to know that we believe that they can be more than what is perceived of them on the news. I want to change a life, change a community by funding areas that suffer from high dropout rates. I want to help fund tutoring programs for schools that may not have the ability or funding to provide that for their students. Planttheseed aims to give youth the courage to aim above the influences of their society. Together we can make a difference one child at a time by investing in their future.

I can imagine you're thinking what makes this nonprofit organization any different from any of the others already out there. The thing is that this isn't much different than any of the others out there. My goal is not to gain popularity or increase my wallet but to be the missing piece to a puzzle, a solution to the problem. We all have to work together in order to see change. A machine is only successful when all the pieces do their part. One person can't do it alone, it takes a community to be on one accord with one mindset and that should be to see each generation that follows not only succeed in life but to pass the baton to the next generation. If we only planted one seed we would only have one type of flower. Yet if we have a variety of seeds to plant we have a multiple array of flowers. Why not the same for our youth? Together we can provide more for our youth than ever before by recognizing that one can't do it all on its own.

So many of our young adults have to choose between a minimum wage paycheck and whether they should further their education. Together let's bring a fire back into our communities by giving hope! I want to give back. Do right by my community by giving someone else's child a chance. Be a part of the solution not the problem. Sow a seed. Plant a seed.

Sincerely,
Michelle Colley

