

# East End Cooperative Ministry

## Executive Summary

### Community Partner

Lauren Boyle

Michael Bartley

### Student Consulting Team

Emmet Mack

Jordan Reichgut

Bobby Zhang

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## Background

East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) is a nonprofit organization that serves the basic needs of members of the Pittsburgh community. In the words of EECM, its mission is: *EECM changes the lives of people facing the impacts of poverty.*

EECM serves a broad range of people by providing hot meals, places to sleep, educational programs, summer camps, and drug/alcohol prevention programs. EECM was launched in 1970 and initially provided housing and breakfast for a small number of high school students. Since then, it has grown to serve over 73,000 meals per year, provide 450 families with groceries per month, and enroll 1,200 children per year in its youth programs. Its headquarters are located in the East Liberty neighborhood of Pittsburgh. EECM has a large corps of volunteers and a well-organized management structure to ensure that the organization maximizes its impact and achieves its overarching mission.

## Project Description

### Project Opportunity

Our project opportunity automates an important process that was previously done manually. As part of her job, Lauren Boyle must enter donation data into The Raiser's Edge database by hand. This is cumbersome, inefficient, and increases the risk of errors in the data. Since donations are made online, we built a feature that automatically enters new donations into the database with no human action.

### Project Vision

We set out to measurably improve the EECM software system to increase fundraising, donations, and revenue. This was accomplished by automating Lauren's manual work so her time can be more effectively spent on fundraising. The key stakeholders include Lauren Boyle, Michael Bartley, Carole Bailey, and other EECM staff who interact with donors and technology

platforms regularly. By implementing automatic database entries we can streamline workflows to add value and increase efficiency for key stakeholders.

## **Project Outcomes**

A summative outcome of our project is a NodeJS application that can pull donation information from a CSV and automatically add those donation records to EECM's Raiser's Edge database system. Additionally, we developed a program that automatically formats a CSV to import into the database system. These technology outcomes help improve and automate the process of adding online donations to the database. These applications free up our community partners' time so they can focus on fundraising and other aspects that are vital to EECM's operations.

## **Project Deliverables**

Our project deliverables include a GitHub repo with the NodeJS application as well as the Batch and Python script that automatically formats the CSV. Additionally, clear documentation about each of the applications and all the information we learned about the Raiser's Edge system is included in the deliverables.

## **Recommendations**

Our recommendations for the future are to deploy the application to Heroku to ensure that it is even easy to use and doesn't require starting a local server. Additionally, adding a more built out NodeJS frontend and application could greatly improve the user experience and allow the CSV to be uploaded to the website and then parsed. Finally, automatically pulling the CSV from the website once a day or once a week could fully automate the entry process and further optimize the process.

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## **Student Consulting Team**

**Emmet Mack** served as the client relationship manager. He is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems and Human-Computer Interaction. He will be interning with Accenture this summer and is looking toward a career in consulting or UI/UX.

**Jordan Reichgut** was the lead programmer and code manager. He is a fourth-year Information Systems major with a Computer Science minor. He is graduating in May 2020 and working full-time as a software engineer at Oracle.

**Bobby Zhang** served as the team manager. He is a third-year Information Systems major with a minor in Computer Science. He will be interning at Sandia National Laboratories for software research this summer and is passionate about cybersecurity.