Alumni Impact

- **35M** Lives Impacted
- **$56M** Follow On Funding Raised
- **84%** Alumni have a co-founder who is a woman or person of color
- **34%** Median Revenue Growth
- **65%** Alumni are solving a problem they personally experienced
Just over a year after graduating from Fast Forward, CommonLit helps over 3 million students improve their reading, writing, and critical thinking. CommonLit’s online platform is free to teachers and students, and is used in over 30% of public middle and high schools in the U.S. Founder Michelle Brown built CommonLit because it’s the product she wished she had when she was teaching a class of students across 7 different reading levels in rural Mississippi.

Can you guess the strongest predictor of student success? Surprisingly, it’s parental engagement - not socioeconomic status. Heejae Lim built the first version of TalkingPoints, a multilingual communications tool for parents and teachers, with $5,000 from her student loans and tech tools like Google Translate and Twilio. Today, TalkingPoints has enabled over 2 million conversations between teachers and families.
With 1 in 5 New Yorkers living in substandard housing conditions, tenants need tools for legal empowerment. JustFix equips tenants with the technology and resources they need for self representation in housing court, enabling them to achieve housing repairs and avoid wrongful evictions. This year, 66% of tenants who used JustFix were able to secure repairs or avoid eviction, compared to the status quo of 10%. JustFix also launched a 1st-of-its-kind advocate dashboard which enables organizers to track their work.

Nexleaf Analytics scaled tremendously in 2017, doubling its impact to now ensure 12 million babies get working vaccines. Its Coldtrace product, which leverages the Internet of Things to monitor vaccine storage, is expanding beyond refrigerators to cover the entire vaccine supply chain. This means Nexleaf can track and measure vaccine storage from factories to trucks to hospitals. This expansion opens up new markets for Nexleaf as its technology could be used to improve supply chains for any perishables in hard to reach markets.
Cohort Highlights

WattTime builds software that enables smart hardware devices to detect surges in clean energy, and modify on-off cycles to maximize clean power usage. In 2017, WattTime joined the prestigious clean energy organization, Rocky Mountain Institute, as a subsidiary organization. Mergers and acquisitions are rare in the nonprofit space, but this move enables WattTime to accomplish its mission at greater scale than was previously possible. Currently working in partnership with Microsoft, WattTime’s software provides valuable carbon emissions data for Microsoft’s open-source platform.

Real Talk launched the first and only mobile app that uses real stories from real teens to deliver sex education, with topics ranging from relationships to bullying. Available on iOS and Android, the Real Talk app enables teens to access credible information, have a safe space to learn about sensitive topics, and develop a sense of belonging by learning through the stories of others. The organization was founded by former Teach for America teachers who saw 1 in 3 of their students become pregnant before their sophomore year of high school.
Quill builds free online tools to improve grammar and writing, and now serves 1 million students, 4X growth since last year. Nearly doubling its budget in 2017, Quill now has 4 full-time engineers. This team built Quill’s machine learning engine internally, which enables sentence fragment detection and helps remediate student errors. Quill’s end goal is to serve students in low income communities, and 63% of its users are in Title 1 schools.

Brandon Anderson founded Raheem after losing his partner to police violence. Raheem’s Facebook Messenger chatbot enables the public to anonymously and securely rate their experiences with police, while its digital dashboard daylights officer performance data to police precincts and their communities. During a 3-month pilot with San Francisco and Berkeley this summer, Raheem collected twice as much data as the cities had collected in a year’s time.
Launched the 1st
And only tech nonprofit Job Board, with 500+ listings.

Data report examining the state of diversity and funding in the tech nonprofit sector.

Hosted the first tech nonprofit summit, Accelerate Good Global.

“Fast Forward understands the unique challenges facing tech nonprofits and is helping the world understand, too. If you are a nonprofit founder using tech to solve an intractable social problem, these are your people.”

MICHELLE BROWN
FOUNDER & CEO OF COMMONLIT

What We’ve Funded

10% Workforce Development
10% Financial Inclusion
24% Healthcare
10% Education
3% Environment
34% Civil/Legal Tech

AI
- Quill
- Think of Us
- Hack Club
- JustFix.NYC
- TalkingPoints
- CareerVillage.org

Mobile Apps
- Concrn
- Beyond12
- Onward
- Learn Fresh
- Real Talk
- Money Think

Hardware Integration
- Nexleaf Analytics
- WattTime

Chatbots
- OnlineSOS
- Raheem
- Stellar
- Democracy Earth

Blockchain
- Stellar
- Democracy Earth

Open Source
- WattTime
- Quill
- Stellar
- Callisto
- Democracy Earth