



*For Immediate Release*

## **17-year-old's nonprofit named one of three finalists out of 67 applicants for The Dallas Foundation's coveted Pegasus Prize**

*Project Lorenzo brings specialized IT certification courses to homeless recovery centers*

**Dallas, TX** -Project Lorenzo, a nonprofit founded by Armando Parrish (17), has a unique approach to addressing the root causes of homelessness. They help create high-wage employment opportunities through certification courses and one-on-one teaching.

High inflation is causing an increase in people experiencing homelessness. They simply are not earning enough money to keep up. Project Lorenzo will use the \$10,000 prize money to bring specialized IT job certification classes to homeless recovery centers and work with these individuals until they pass Google, Microsoft, or other IT certification tests. The program gives these individuals the skills and confidence to break the cycle of not earning a livable wage and gives them a pathway to economic security.

### **Project Lorenzo's Run to Help End Homelessness 5K**

Besides applying for grant money, Project Lorenzo has several fundraisers each year. In August, they held a music festival with 25 bands donating their time. Their annual 5K is Saturday, November 26 at Breckinridge Park. The race is timed and there are medals for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall and 1<sup>st</sup> place in each age group. The nonprofit is collecting donations of socks and water bottles from the participants. These items are used to assemble care packages that the runners can take with them to distribute to people they see on the streets.

## **About Project Lorenzo**

Project Lorenzo became a 501(c)3 non-profit in October 2021. However, Parrish has been helping a homeless man, Lorenzo, for many years by bringing him food and clothes. Parrish knew he could do more to help Lorenzo and others struggling during these difficult times. “I have seen him through the worst of times, and I am done seeing him struggle. It physically hurts to see the way people live” said Parrish. “The basic necessities of life that have been denied to him are the ones we waste without a second thought.” So, Parrish created a nonprofit called Project Lorenzo to raise money to help people transition from dependency to self-sufficiency.

Project Lorenzo also helps people with their immediate needs by assembling and distributing care packages to people currently experiencing homelessness.

Visit [projectlorenzo.org](http://projectlorenzo.org) for more information.

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Armando Parrish, founder of Project Lorenzo



Parrish and Lorenzo at Project Lorenzo's Music for Change fundraiser

