We asked 72 middle schoolers, “What if you launched your ideas into reality to help your community thrive?” They answered the question with creativity, enthusiasm, and new ideas founded in the common good.
WEEK 1
Campers spent time getting to know the counselors, each other, and their community. They learned about empathy, talked with local community heroes, designed a mural, went on a scavenger hunt, and learned that they would be coming up with ideas for the common good—all from their home.

WEEK 2
Campers went on virtual tours of local assets, learned interviewing skills, and interviewed local community leaders from area businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies. The week ended with ideation where campers brainstormed 100s of ideas, narrowed them down to 10, and picked one to focus on.

WEEK 3
In small groups, campers researched and planned their idea. They looked for similar projects in other communities, thought through how their idea could work in their community, and prepared to present their idea to community leaders. During their presentations on Thursday, community leaders provided feedback and asked the campers questions. Counselors and campers spent the final day celebrating and saying goodbye.

Each day included an hour and a half of synchronous online time as well as offline asynchronous activities for campers to complete on their own. Offline activities included goodies from their Adventure Bag which were delivered to every camper the week before camp.
### Big Question of the Day

Each day started with a framing question that guided the activities for that day:

- What makes someone a community hero?
- What is empathy?
- How do you turn an idea into reality?

### Hero Challenges

These challenges were designed to be offline activities campers chose to participate in. They included picking up litter, a photo scavenger hunt, creating a mural, and making tin foil boats.

### Community Guests

Throughout camp, we invited community leaders to speak with campers about their roles in their community. This gave campers a framework for how they see their own roles as well as offered a chance to hear about community assets and challenges.

### 360 Tours

Using 360 technology, campers took virtual tours of community assets like Summit Metro Parks and Stark Parks Wildlife Conservation Center.

### Empathy Build

A favorite TomTod activity, Empathy Build presented campers with the realistic experience of a member of the community. Campers read about Grandma Sue’s life, how she felt most days, and problems she experienced. Campers brainstormed ideas that might improve Grandma Sue’s daily life.

### SIP

AKA, Speedy Interview Plunge! Dozens of community leaders answered questions from campers so they could better understand their community’s assets and challenges. Campers got 5 minutes with each guest then rotated to the next for a variety of responses and perspectives.

### Ideation

Campers used design thinking strategies to imagine 100s of ideas to improve their community. Working individually, in small groups, and in a large group setting, campers narrowed down those ideas into 10.

### Pitches

Having picked an idea to work on together, small groups presented their idea live to community guests.

You can watch the recordings of all the idea presentations at tomtod.org/ideas.
THANK YOU!

Funding Partners
Camp What If received generous community support from a variety of funding partners that allowed us to underwrite the cost of camp for middle schoolers. Thank you!

The City of Akron
The City of Canton
Louisville Nimishillen Grange

Community Partners
We had great community partners that helped connect students to camp. Thank you!

Lighthouse Ministries  Akron Recreation and Parks
Akron Public Schools  Canton City School District

Food
During camp, campers were treated to amazing local food by receiving gift cards to a variety of local restaurants including:

Deli Ohio  Norcia’s Bakery
Heggys  Bomba
George’s  Ms. Julie’s Kitchen

Space
In order to be socially distant, but close enough to quickly troubleshoot, the TomTod team ran camp across three Canton locations. We’re incredibly grateful for our partners who provided office space (and wifi!) for the TomTod staff during camp. Thank you!

Stark Library
Start-up Stark
Canton Workspace