



## Panhandling

**Problem: What problem are you experiencing that might be solved by technology?:**

Panhandling. There are generally two broad views on panhandling: a sympathetic view that members of our community are reaching out for help by asking for money and those that view panhandling as a contributing factor to unwanted negative activity that presents an unwelcoming environment. While the answer is more complicated, many people donate the spare change in their pocket to feel they have made a difference and helped the panhandler or they feel pressured by the personal interaction with the panhandler on the street. Because it's a cash donation, the donor does not really know if their cash contribution has helped the individual improve their situation. The problem is how do we enable impromptu donations, assist those that need some extra help in life, and create a safer sidewalk environment for all?

**Challenge: What technology do you think would solve this problem?:** Change for Change is a partnership between the City of Eugene's Parking Services program, Epark Eugene, and St. Vincent DePaul to use parking payment services to accept donations for homeless services. St. Vincent DePaul will use the donations for food, shelter, showers, clothing, and job training. Other cities, such as Denver and Baltimore, use parking meters

on the sidewalks and in stores to accept donations for homeless services. We want to level up the feed the meter model to use a mobile app to enable homeless service donations anywhere in the community. Your challenge is to develop a nimble mobile donation app to accept digital panhandling donations and an accompanying marketing campaign to promote this digital donation option throughout the community. The campaign will create signs, stickers, and billboards for use in stores and intersections that encourage our community to donate through the mobile app, provide education material for those in need of homeless services, and provide donor achievements in the app. The app could provide a dashboard for each individual donor, as well as community wide donations and locations of donations, to show how the donation has helped panhandlers. The challenge also includes identifying locations for additional physical Change for Change meters. We currently have one meter in front of The Kiva at 11th Avenue and Olive Street.

**Prize:What kind of prize would you offer for this Challenge?:** I feel this idea should be managed by a community organization and not the City of Eugene. Another organization can be more aggressive and creative in their marketing campaign. I am open to prize ideas, but can offer a \$500 cash prize.

**Requested by:** Jeff Petry