

The Troubled Teens Team (or T4!)

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Our Problem Statement:

In today's world, with constant news of tragedy and cyberbullying as visible as simple entertainment, it can be easy to feel as if there is not much good in the world. With most teens engaging with social media for hours at a time every day, especially with many spending quality years of their youth in quarantine and online classes, feelings of isolation and despair are at an all time high. In addition to this, marginalized communities such as BIPOC and LGBTQ+ are exposed to societal traumas that impact them differently than their privileged peers; social stratification and income equality worsen this, barring the impoverished from access to aid.

Medication and/or therapy can be incredibly useful for those who have access to it, but as stated, often those who would benefit from services the most cannot afford them. For many in therapy, it can still feel isolating to only have a medical professional to talk to about one's problems. Something that can help teens, both in and out of mental health services, is a sturdy support system of friends, counselors, and plenty of resources. Every teenager deserves to have a safe space to vent, make friends, and express oneself. Every teenager deserves to live a long and healthy life.

Our solution is a disguiseable app and browser where these teens can find communities and resources. Within the application, there are a number of focused discussion groups, moderated by a carefully curated and diverse staff of counselors and therapists, that the users have the option to join whenever they feel ready to discuss something they may be dealing with. In these groups, mods will be tasked with overseeing the small group, starting up conversation, and keeping courtesy. The main group will have the option to be set up as pen pals, where they would write weekly wellness checks and journal entries; they can then reply to others posts and truly feel that no matter what they are experiencing, they are never alone.

Persona #1: Jake Horne



May 31, 2006



St Louis, MO



Student

Personality

- Easy-going
- Athletic
- Competitive
- Reserved
- Courteous
- Avoidant

Influences

- Teammates
- YouTube Gaming Influencers
- Video Games
- Friends
- Family

Jake Horne

Biography

Jake is 16-year-old who is currently a junior in high school. He's always had a vast interest in the gaming community on YouTube, and has emerged himself into that hobby, as well as being on his school's soccer team. He's relatively a shy guy who keeps things to himself, so overtime, he's bottled up many of the emotions and internal battles he's been going through. On the surface, he's a very likeable guy, but underneath, he's been dealing with a persistent depressive disorder (which his parents can't seem to understand) and severe anxiety from all the pressures of soccer, the sport he loves the most. Gaming has been his coping mechanism, but even that can only do so much and he's now in need of professional help from us.

Education

Alderglen High School, 2020-Present

Honors List, GPA: 3.6

Motivations & Frustrations

Motivations

- Playing soccer with teammates in hopes of making it to nationals before graduation
- Watching favorite online gamers and learning how to game better to create his own channel
- Family and the pride they have in him, as the eldest son
- Keeping up good grades and staying on honors list
- Strengthening friendships despite his want to push his loved ones away

Frustrations

- Constant family praise despite feeling inadequate with himself
- Stresses from being one of the top players and a starter on the soccer team
- Bottled up emotions he doesn't understand so he can't explain to family and friends; he instead internalizes everything

Persona #2: Lanxin Song



Lanxin (Lucy) Song

Biography

Lanxin is a first-generation Chinese immigrant who feels too disconnected from her roots to be considered Chinese but too foreign to be considered American. She is currently a sophomore attending an under-funded high school in Fredericksburg, Texas where there are no other East Asian people in sight. By day, she desperately seeks to blend in with her American classmates, but the white girls won't stop picking on her. By night, she teaches herself Chinese by writing hanzi in a yellowed journal. Her parents are often too busy running a bustling restaurant specializing in Chinese noodle dishes to pay her much mind. With a passion for theater and a hunger to reconnect with her home country, Lanxin watches Chinese dramas featuring immortal heroines combating evil and navigating political intrigue in dangerous worlds filled with mercenaries and magic-users. It is her dream to one day become an actress, but Hollywood is known for its gatekeepers. Her white classmates laugh at her aspirations, telling her to become a mathematician instead. Consumed by loneliness, Lanxin wishes that she can meet other people from her culture to discuss Chinese actresses, cook soup noodles together, and confide in. Maybe then, Lanxin will not feel so out-of-place and unwanted.



July 17, 2006



Fredericksburg, Texas



Student

Education

Alabaster Jewel High School, 2021-Present

Honors List, GPA: 4.00

Motivations & Frustrations

Motivations

- Reconnect with her roots by learning to write hanzi, watching Chinese dramas, and cooking soup noodles with her parents.
- Become an actress to increase Chinese representation in Western media so other Chinese diaspora girls will feel less alone.
- Graduate summa cum laude to appease her strict immigrant parents.
- Find other Chinese girls to become friends with so she will feel less lonely.

Frustrations

- Her parents are too busy running the family restaurant to talk to her about Chinese culture.
- Her classmates are mostly white and a lot of them constantly tease her homemade Chinese lunches and stereotype her as "the Asian nerd."
- She feels invalidated every time she talks about her dream of becoming an actress to her family because her parents want her to find a stable job in either medicine or law.
- She feels lonely being the only Chinese girl in school, and she wishes there was someone who looked like her with a name and face like hers in the area other than her parents.

Personality

- Reserved
- Introspective
- Meticulous
- Compassionate
- Steadfast
- Curious

Influences

- Chinese Dramas
- Mean Classmates
- Family Values
- Hollywood