

# Hacks for Humanity 2016

## Event Overview



**Hacks for Humanity**, sponsored by Project Humanities at Arizona State University (ASU), is a 36-hour competitive hackathon for the social good that challenges participants to create technological solutions and initiatives to address local and global issues by implementing the seven Humanity 101 principles: *kindness, compassion, integrity, respect, empathy, forgiveness, and self-reflection*. This annual event draws some 150-200 students, faculty, staff and community members, each with their individual talents and backgrounds of expertise.

Unlike many such hackathons, **Hacks for Humanity** encourages participants from a wide skillset—even those who have no previous “hacking” experience. This invites the participation of individuals with and without coding skills. In fact, we welcome coders and creatives, app makers and artists, engineers and entrepreneurs alike, along with each and every person in between. When these diverse perspectives come together, innovation is the exciting result. This expectation has fulfilled itself time and again as the products of this hackathon continue to unfold. Some of the previous **Hacks for Humanity** products include:

- A coping app that helps children with ADHD communicate with their parents
- An app that prevents parents from leaving their children in hot cars
- A game-based app that provides adaptive learning technologies for students with disabilities
- An app that sends daily reminders to perform random acts of kindness

The momentum from **Hacks for Humanity** does not stop once the winning team claims their prize.

**Hacks for Humanity** has generated significant change within the lives of several of our participants. Perhaps the best example of this event’s sheer transformative power has been demonstrated through the continuing success of our 2014 winning team, ARKHumanity, who created a system designed to identify specific tweets containing key phrases that are frequently used by people in crisis who risk self-harming. Since their group’s formation and victory at the **Hacks for Humanity** hackathon, they have gone on to win the \$10,000 grand prize at ASU Changemaker Central’s “Innovation Challenge” and \$17,500 from The Pakis Social Entrepreneurship Challenge from the W.P. Carey School of Business. Additionally, this group has now formed the non-profit organization “Humanity X” which continues ambitiously to strive toward improving humanity through creative, new technologies.

The impact of our hackathon focuses on the seven principles of Humanity 101. This separates us from many other such coding events. People walk into our doors competitors and when they walk out, they are advocates for societal change, proponents of an elevated human condition, and often friends. **Hacks for Humanity** not only sparks the inspiration for its participants to act, but it provides them with the tools to make that action effective through mentors and other resources both during the event and afterward.

As the legacy of **Hacks for Humanity** continues to unfold, our desire is to increase its impact exponentially through building robust partnerships with supporting agencies and organizations who share our common goals to change the world one person at a time and to build community one Project Humanities program at a time.

