Top Copy -

On April 10, 2020 members of the Columbus College of Art & Design Master of Design Program conducted a series of interviews with members of Star House (An agency that operates Central Ohio’s only drop-in center for youth, age 14-24, who are experiencing homelessness.

In these interviews they addressed the increased fatigue and morale of social workers and staff of the Star House whose work with homeless youth is affected by the pandemic.

After completing eight interviews and desk research a stakeholder and empathy map were created. A need that arose was the need for affection and with the need a challenge: How can we find new ways for the staff to communicate.

affection and promote well being, when greeting and communicating with the youth, while complying with Covid-19 guidelines?

The solution - create a wearable mobile option that produces a physical representation of a “hug feeling”.

Hugging means a natural, basic, and intrinsic reaction to share appreciation and feel connected to those we love. It is a human ritual

In response to the challenge a diverse team developed a mobile hug sharing application that anyone can download to their mobile device. The application was made with support from Can’t Stop Columbus, The Columbus Foundation, Columbus College of Art & Design, Star House, Huckleberry House, Novvia, and OSSA Teams.

Simply launch the application and hold your phone to your heart to actually feel the sensation of a hug through vibrations in your phone.

Or share a hug remotely by clicking “Send a Hug” and share it! The receiver clicks on the message and holds the phone to their heart to feel the hug.

\*Font = Freude Regular Sharp White 14.13pt

Bottom Copy -

Your support will advance innovative methods of sharing affection with those who need it most

\*Font = Freude Regular Sharp White 12pt