

ANT (Think 6 Feet)

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Community, Education, Health, Vulnerable Populations

What problems are you trying to solve?

One of the biggest indirect consequences of this pandemic is the fear of losing a sense of community. While this pandemic has caused us to become increasingly aware of our physical health, it has also had profound effects on our mental and psychological health. I know that I speak from a position of privilege that this pandemic has not had a direct effect on the health of my family and loved ones, but it has impacted me, as well as many others, mentally. As a rising senior who has many friends who are part of the class of 2020, I have experienced first-hand how this pandemic has stripped away their community during their last months of highschool. The problem I hoped to solve with my idea was, "How can we safely maintain a sense of community during times of social distancing?"

What inspired you to address this problem?

As I previously mentioned, the inspiration for this idea stemmed from the class of 2020. They have truly been our role models during these unprecedented times and have taught me how to handle these situations with respect, empathy, and grace. My heart goes out to them; they will not be able to graduate in the traditional way. This idea was an attempt to provide a safer method of being around our community as social distancing guidelines are slowly beginning to be lifted.

Describe your idea and functionality:

The app that I envision would be simple, but practical. The basic function would help us safely begin to reconvene together as a community. To start, users would create a profile on the app and then would proceed to add their friends. When two individuals have both added each other, they can connect to use the service. It's easier to explain the idea in practice: Say for example, you wanted to have a picnic with a friend in an outdoor location. You both would activate the app and click "Track" next to the other's profile. The app would take into account, using GPS, your geographical location in relation to your friends. While isolation is beginning to be lifted in Connecticut, it is still important to consider the CDC's guidelines of maintaining a distance of six feet. My app would emit a sound to let both friends know when the distance between them is less than six feet. This will decrease the risk of transmission and better educate the population. Many people are still continuing to see their friends in large groups and are putting people at risk. This app would allow individuals to see their friends, as social distancing regulations are slowly being lifted in the state, but also remain conscious, global citizens. This app could also potentially be used proactively when visiting a more vulnerable individual. For example, if you wanted to visit an older family member after isolation restrictions had been lifted, you could still ensure their health with this app.

Team Members:

Links: