



## UNITED WAY OF METROPOLITAN DALLAS CELEBRATES SOCIAL INNOVATORS DRIVING CHANGE AT 'THE PITCH' 2026

***Dotted Named Social Innovator of the Year, Earning a Total of \$115,000 to Expand Impact Across North Texas***

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**DALLAS (APRIL 29, 2026)** – Amid a high-energy evening of innovation, inspiration, and community celebration, [United Way of Metropolitan Dallas](#)— together with presenting sponsor Goldman Sachs and powered by PNC—announced the winners of the 2026 [The Pitch](#), the region's premier social innovation competition. The event, held on April 29 at The Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory in Irving, Texas, awarded a total of \$270,000 in funding to support five visionary social entrepreneurs dedicated to improving access to education, health and income in North Texas.

Following compelling live pitches and Q&A sessions, **Dotted** was named **Social Innovator of the Year**, earning a total of \$115,000 in prize funding, including \$60,000 for the top honor, to expand and accelerate its impact across North Texas.

The Social Innovator of the Year award, presented by PNC, recognized **Dotted** for its work to transform women's healthcare by expanding access to trusted resources and qualified medical professionals through a digital platform.

"The Pitch continues to showcase the power of bold ideas to drive meaningful change across North Texas," said Jennifer Sampson, McDermott-Templeton President and CEO of United Way of Metropolitan Dallas. "Each of this year's finalists demonstrated extraordinary vision and commitment to addressing our community's most pressing challenges. While we celebrate tonight's winners, the true impact will be felt in the lives improved through these innovative solutions."

### **Additional awards presented during The Pitch include:**

- The **\$30,000 Audience Choice Award**, presented by Sara and Gary Ahr, was awarded to **Dotted**, as determined by votes from audience members in attendance.
- The **\$20,000 Innovation Award**, sponsored by Vistra, was awarded to **Cooking for the Crowd**, which provides affordable, nutritious meals to nonprofit organizations, freeing up resources to advance core missions. This award recognizes the finalist with the highest innovation score, as determined by the judges.
- The **\$20,000 Impact Award**, sponsored by Goldman Sachs, was awarded to **From Ordinary to Extraordinary**. This award recognizes the finalist with the strongest potential for measurable community impact. From Ordinary to Extraordinary equips domestic violence survivors with career training to build stability.
- The **\$15,000 Presentation Prize**, sponsored by LBK Roofing, was awarded to **From Ordinary to Extraordinary** for excellence in storytelling and delivery.

Each finalist, including **Restorative Farms** and **#TeenWritersProject**, received an **Accelerator Prize of \$25,000** sponsored by March Tocqueville Fellows, in recognition of their participation in the [Social Innovation Accelerator](#).

## A Legacy of Social Innovation

*The Pitch* is the culminating event of United Way of Metropolitan Dallas' Social Innovation Accelerator, a program designed to identify, support, and scale innovative solutions that improve access to education, income, and health across North Texas.

Each year, selected fellows participate in an intensive development experience that includes seed funding, mentorship, and strategic guidance. From this cohort, five finalists are chosen to present at *The Pitch*.

Since its launch in 2013, the Social Innovation Accelerator has supported the development of 103 social entrepreneurs, empowering their organizations to raise nearly \$80 million and positively impact more than 579,000 North Texans, deepening impact across the region.

### Event Overview

During the event, each finalist delivered a live pitch followed by a Q&A session with judges. Finalists were evaluated based on innovation, equity, impact, sustainability, and presentation.

The 2026 judging panel included:

- **Scott Mueller**, Head of the Southwest Region for Private Wealth Management, Goldman Sachs
- **Kit Collins**, Senior Vice President, Territory Sales Executive, Treasury Management, PNC
- **Mahiri Takai**, Brand Strategist, Host of Cook Dad Cook
- **Amber Venz Box**, Co-Founder & President, LTK
- **Cheri Norris**, Founder & CEO, Cornbread Hustle

### Sponsors

The 2026 event was made possible through the generous support of its sponsors, including presenting sponsor **Goldman Sachs** and powered by **PNC**, as well as **Sara & Gary Ahr**, **Vistra**, **Fossil Group**, **Toyota**, **The Eugene McDermott Foundation**, and **EY**.

Nonprofit organizations interested in submitting an application for the next cohort of the Social Innovation Accelerator can learn more about the criteria and complete an application [here](#).

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### About United Way of Metropolitan Dallas

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas is a social change organization that unites the community to create access and opportunity for all North Texans to thrive. We bring together passionate change-makers alongside corporate, civic and nonprofit partners to drive lasting change and equity in education, income and health – the building blocks of opportunity. United Way is committed to leading a fully inclusive, multicultural movement right here at home. We invite all North Texans to Live United and be part of this change. To give, advocate or volunteer, visit [UnitedWayDallas.org](https://UnitedWayDallas.org).

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