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18
UNDER
EIGHTEEN

18 Under Eighteen Grace Reid-Vensel

Grace Reid-Vensel is a 17-year-old student and innovator who advocates for her peers within her school and community. Since childhood, she has cared deeply for others and knew she was destined to make a change. Last year, Grace spearheaded a donation-based menstrual product drive at her high school to ensure students had access to these necessary products. After realizing the difficulties of consistently stocking five bathrooms, Grace reached out to The Honey Pot, a menstrual product company, and forged a partnership with the company to replenish the supply of products.

In addition to the menstrual product drive, Grace has also successfully started two Free Stores, one in her school and another in her community. Inspired by the work of Second Lady of Pennsylvania Gisele Barreto Fetterman, Grace hosted her first Free Store at her school in December 2021. She branded the store as a thrifting initiative to both destigmatize the store and encourage people of all economic backgrounds to participate. After the success of the Free Store at her school, Grace partnered with Washington County City Mission to bring a second Free Store into her community.

Grace cites her 10-year background in professional theatre as the foundation that has granted her the empathy and public speaking skills needed to enter the world of government, politics and advocacy.

