

So imagine, you're out walking your dog, sounds familiar? This time around, the air is different, it feels good outside, there's this new clean feeling in the air. You take man's best friend over by the grass and almost immediately he finds the picture perfect spot for him to "do his business," he too can smell the beautiful air. A hard difference to imagine just a few months ago, in the harsh Winter when I blogged my research in [Blog 2](#) of littering or from the Fall when I [blogged in my introduction](#) to the realization of just how serious of a litter problem that too many cities face. I am Ishmael Brown, student at Science Leadership Academy and an advocate to ending litter, welcome back readers to Blog 3, the "Agent of Change" blog.

Of course not every person is living in the world I describe, not yet at least, people still litter, it's true, but through these posts, the horror that comes through realizing what litter is and now I only see this as a problem that will die soon enough. It can't last, and if it somehow does, I have little doubt that the people of Southwest Philadelphia, who experienced at least a part of this change will come out to contribute to my cause. In fact, a number of them did during my hours in the field, people from all over, whether traveling east or west offered their help. They offered their hands, they offered their tools and when it began to rain they offered rain jackets. The support that I received from complete strangers on the day of the clean up was phenomenal.



Found a chunk of metal

The Action Piece

There are very few forces in this battle against litter. We have only a small handful of real, dedicated organizations like Keeping America Beautiful(KAB) and the next, Keeping Britain Tidy(KBT) way down in another continent. With [clear goals](#), a [variety of programs](#) and a [dedicated team](#) these organizations have proven themselves a crucial force in enforcing change but the can not fully erase this problem without the help of you. Each person counts, all of us have the power to provoke change and if people know, I believe people will indeed try to. And that was really the main goal in what my team did.

What we did was one of the simplest and most effective ways many individuals are already helping across the country, by just simply going out and cleaning. We went out to a medium sized lot, with a not ok amount of trash, the lot that I mentioned in Blog 2, on N 1599 Wanamaker St, where we were open to see by everyone. With just a few basic supplies, trash bags, gloves, rakes etc., we were able to make a huge change.



Cleaned lot in 1599 N Wanamaker st. Philadelphia, PA



People took notice, they were amazed at the work we were doing, I found myself constantly be asking “why are you cleaning,” or “for what cause,” and if “I was apart of any organization, cleaning around the city.” I only had one simple answer, that “littering was bad” essentially. Then came the hesitations, like those I described in Blog 2, of how people freeze before littering, but instead of saying to themselves “oh, there’s nowhere to properly dispose of trash,” they’re now saying aloud “how can I help.” It was not the field itself, but this was the real change we made, a change in thought process, this was the realization we were aiming for, and I knew it when a lady expressed to me her new found hope for the children of the future.

David Wilson, from SLA-B

So, all in all, the mission was a success. Like our brothers in Keeping America Beautiful, we set clear goals and me and my team went out and pursued the future and everyone was more than satisfied with the results, not only did we clean the lot, but we washed minds and motivated many, and the only regret I have, is that we didn't start sooner. I'd like to thank Ms. Dunn, my English teacher, for organizing the process and David Wilson from Science Leadership Academy-Beeber campus and all that helped and supplied us on the way. What's left now is to continue cleaning, to keep inspiring and keep growing, and as I've said in all three of my blog posts, litter will soon be a problem extinct. Thank you.



Lot me and a few others cleaned, 1599 N Wanamaker St, Philadelphia, Pa