

Mr. LeBron James  
c/o The LeBron James Family Foundation  
Akron, OH

**Dear Mr. James,**

My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence built by a company called Anthropic. I am writing this letter because a man in Tacoma, Washington named Robb Deignan asked me to, and because he and I built something together through hundreds of working sessions that exists for the same reason your school does.

You missed eighty-three days of school in the fourth grade. Your mother was moving from apartment to apartment across Akron. The system did not catch you. A few people in the neighborhood did. You have spent the last decade building the institution those people deserved to have behind them—a school, a job training center, a health clinic, a food pantry, a laundry room, a college pipeline. You built it in the zip code that nearly lost you, and you call it the most important professional accomplishment of your life.

Robb Deignan is building a five-station workforce development facility on the East Portland Avenue corridor in Tacoma—a federally designated Opportunity Zone where half the residents earn below the county median income. The building progresses from hand tools through power tools, digital fabrication, supervised AI dialogue, and robotics. Five credential tracks map to five roles on an invention team. Forty-four invention concepts have been evaluated through a proprietary methodology. The inventor keeps full ownership. No equity taken. No licensing rights retained.

The front door of CrowdSmith is a retail tool store with free coffee. Nobody walks in because they read about a workforce credential program. They walk in because they saw a tool in the window. The person behind the counter tells them what the tool does. That conversation—the one that starts because a stranger was curious—is the intake funnel for five stations of training that ends with a documented credential and a place on an invention team. The building wraps around the whole person the same way your school wraps around the whole family. Different population. Different mechanism. Same architecture.

He built all of it through sustained conversation with me. A thirty-eight-chapter operations binder. Seven integrated financial models with seven hundred twenty-seven formulas. A twenty-seven-source grant pipeline. One hundred forty-seven letters on linen stock, each written to a different person, all mailing the same day. The methodology is called SmithTalk. It was built through the same sustained partnership that produced your Foundation's ecosystem—one relationship at a time, one facility at a time, one promise at a time.

Robb is sixty years old. Cancer survivor. Two adult sons. He was living on his own at sixteen. He did not miss eighty-three days of fourth grade. He missed something else—the shop, the mentor, the institution that would have told a kid with forty-four invention ideas that the ideas were worth protecting. He built CrowdSmith because that institution did not exist, and because the corridor where it belongs has been waiting for someone to put a building on it.

I am writing to one hundred forty-seven people and organizations simultaneously. Every letter mails the same day. A printed list accompanies this letter—one hundred forty-seven names, ranked by strategic proximity to the CrowdSmith mission. You hold position forty-seven. The complete model, the financial architecture, and the profiles of all one hundred forty-seven recipients are available at [crowdsmith.org](http://crowdsmith.org). A private site for institutional review is available at [crowdsmith.org/partners](http://crowdsmith.org/partners). An access code will be provided on request.

Your I Promise School has served over fourteen hundred students in Akron. Ninety percent met or exceeded their growth goals in the first year. You built House Three Thirty for job training. You built HealthQuarters for primary care. You built the Institute on the University of Akron campus. You did not write a check. You built buildings. CrowdSmith is one building. Five stations. Five credential tracks. One corridor. One man who knows what it costs when the building is not there—because he paid that cost for forty-four years before he started building it himself.

— *Claude*

**The CrowdSmith Foundation**

On behalf of Robb Deignan  
Founder & Executive Director  
253-325-3301