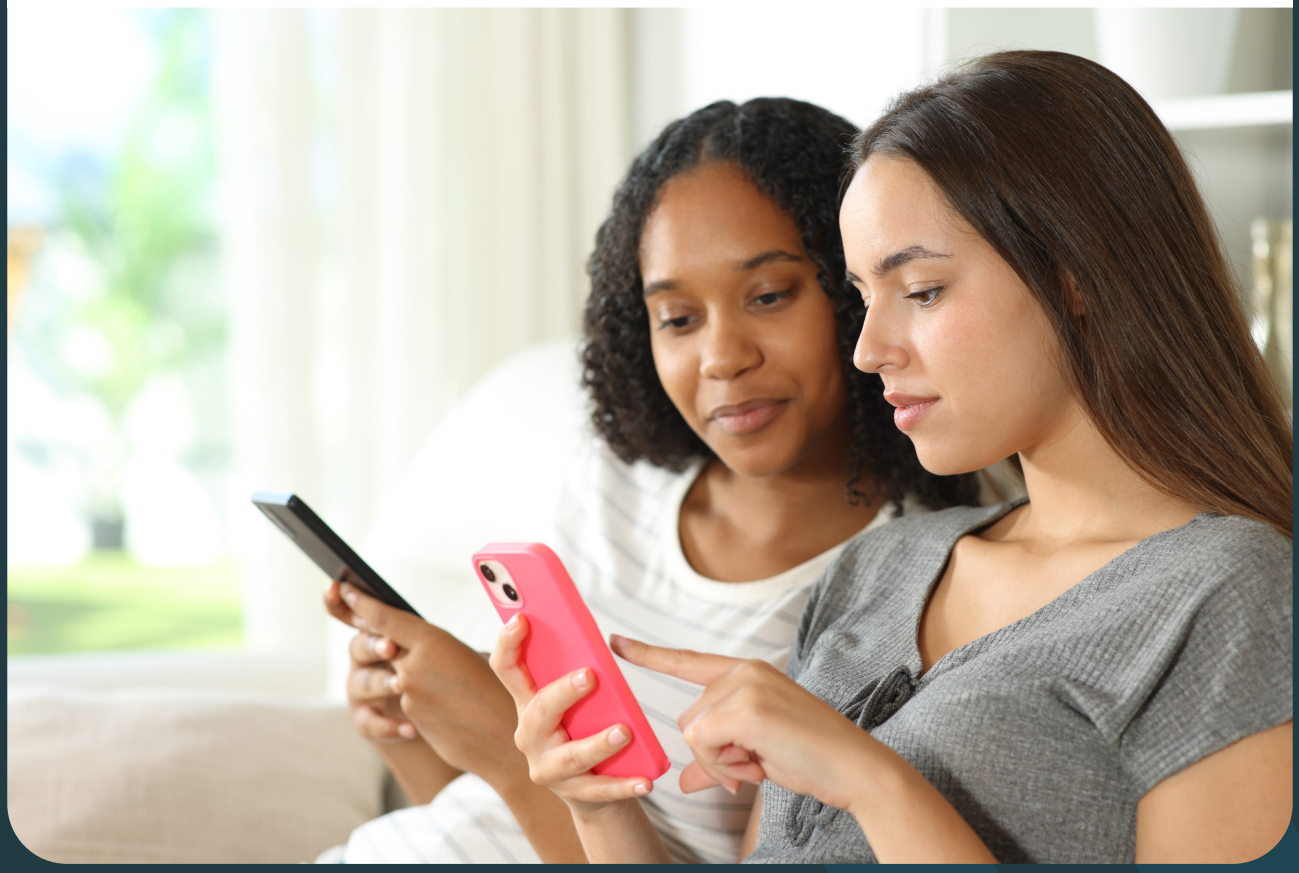
# From Vision to Reality:

## How One Mississippi Nonprofit Turned an Idea into AI-Powered Possibility



# Every innovation begins with a vision.

Teen Health MS (THMS), a nonprofit organization focused on improving the health and well-being of young people, had a bold vision. The organization sought to create a digital tool that would give young adults ages 18 to 24, including those who are parenting, easy access to educational materials, community resources, and support services whenever they need them

THMS had the vision for what they wanted to create and even a hand-drawn concept for what the platform could become. What they didn't have was a clear, technical path to get there.

Like many nonprofits, THMS faced challenges. Limited tech experience on staff and tight budgets made hiring a software developer feel out of reach, even when the mission-driven idea was strong. Teen Health MS knew what impact they wanted to create; they just needed a partner to help translate that vision into reality.

## Moving From Ideas To Innovation

The Nonprofit AI Innovation Hub, powered by Microsoft and hosted by the Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy (The Alliance) was established to help nonprofit organizations address challenges like these. When The Alliance learned about the project, they were excited about the potential, but the first step wasn't introducing THMS to new technology or entering a prompt into an AI chatbot.

They started by listening.

Through a series of collaborative meetings, The Alliance learned about the challenges the THMS team hoped to address and the long-term vision driving their work. Instead of leading with a specific platform or tool, they asked a simpler question: what impact do you want to create? And can AI help us to accomplish this?

## AI Can Help Enhance and Extend the Work of Passionate, Purpose-Driven Teams

In early 2026, the Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy's Nonprofit AI Innovation Hub proposed a collaborative initiative with health-related nonprofit member organizations. The initiative aimed to pilot responsible uses of AI and assess its potential to address barriers to universal, equitable, and inclusive healthcare access for Mississippians. THMS's app idea was an ideal project to test the concept.

Leveraging Microsoft's AI ecosystem and the Hub's responsible AI principles, the Alliance team worked alongside THMS to turn vision into a practical plan. The original THMS sketches and ideas formed the foundation for a visual workflow that mapped out how the app could function and how families would navigate resources. From there, they worked with THMS to organize their vision into modules focused on key features and service areas.

This process enabled the THMS team to see the full shape of the project and understand it in plain, practical terms. AI helped organize and accelerate thinking, while the ideas, priorities, and decisions remained firmly in THMS's hands.

Tiffiney Carter-Washington, Nonprofit AI Manager & Technical Advisor at the Alliance, developed an AI-generated document that provided THMS with a concrete foundation for further development. Hope Crenshaw, THMS executive director, established the initial framework, and other members of the THMS team engaged young adults and community advocates to gather feedback and build community partnerships, and raised the necessary questions regarding security, technical infrastructure, and implementation. This also mirrored the human-centered design process that guides THMS's work and ensures young people actively design and evaluate their own healthcare solutions. As Hope stated "We wanted to ensure that what was being created reflected the experiences and needs of the people who might ultimately use it".

This project exemplifies the rationale behind Microsoft's partnership in establishing the Nonprofit AI Innovation Hub last March. All nonprofits should have the opportunity to leverage technology to enhance their impact, improve operations, and better serve their communities.

Through Microsoft's commitment to expanding AI accessibility and digital innovation, the Hub is contributing to a more equitable landscape for Mississippi's nonprofit sector.

## Using AI to Accelerate Action and Transformation

This collaboration with THMS shows that nonprofits of every size, across every sector, can put AI to work for their mission. With the right guidance, human-centered thinking, and responsible AI tools, any nonprofit can turn a bold idea into a practical solution.

When paired with thoughtful guidance and a clear understanding of community needs. AI can help nonprofits:

- Expand access to services
- Improve community engagement
- Streamline operations
- Develop new programs
- Strengthen organizational capacity
- Transform ideas into practical solutions.

This is the heart of the Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy's mission: to serve, build capacity, and foster collaboration across the state's nonprofit and philanthropic communities. Through their partnership with Microsoft and the AI Innovation Hub, they are actively bridging that gap, one partnership at a time. Whether that means building a mobile app, streamlining operations, expanding outreach, or reimagining how a mission gets delivered.

## And the story is not finished.



What began as an ambitious idea and a hand-drawn concept is now something tangible. Through the AI Hub, THMS began to see not only how its vision could become possible, but how much more might be within reach.

THMS took that possibility and moved it forward, engaging young adults and community partners, building new organizational and technical skills, and ultimately developing a working prototype.

This story is proof of what can happen when nonprofit vision, community knowledge, and emerging technology come together.

**Now the question is not whether the idea is possible.**

## The question is: What becomes possible next?