

Forwards Fund Manifesto

*You've begun, and there's only one direction to go... **Forwards.***

Our Story:

When traditional VCs didn't want to invest in our startups, we decided to build our own to bootstrap our dreams to success while helping others along the way. We've tried it all: pitching at college entrepreneurship competitions, frantically applying for grants, seeking support from distant family members and friends. You name it, we've tried it. That's why at Forwards Fund, *when the world doesn't believe in you, we will.*

We don't sit in the ivory towers of Silicon Valley wearing blazers and pretending we have all the answers and understand your business better than you do. We're just a few college students who believe in people and ideas. Some might call us delusional... and maybe we are... but every big success starts with a bold idea and the confident optimism to chase it. We believe that going against the odds, opposing the mainstream, and challenging the impossible is what will make the greatest entrepreneurs and companies of the future. Call us contrarian and crazy, we know we are, but it just might work.

We're not here to impress anyone or try to prove something to the world. We're not here to throw buzzwords around or act like we've made it. We're building while we invest, same as you. We're not looking across at you, we're standing right beside pointing you forward. If your dream feels unachievable and your bank account makes it seem even more unfeasible, you're probably right where you need to be. *We bet small, but we care big.*

We're not here to sign six-figure checks. We'll give you a few hundred dollars, maybe a few thousand, but we'll be there with you at 3am, when it feels as if all hope is lost, bouncing your ideas off a wall and finding what sticks. We'll root for you when everyone else laughs. We don't care about your credentials. You don't need an Ivy League education, an MBA, or a PhD. You don't need a world-class pitch deck or a perfect business plan. You just need an idea, a vision, and the mindset to win even when everyone doubts you. That's what we're looking for. The world already funds the loud. We fund the overlooked. The quiet ones, the people without connections, the ones still dreaming... but moving forwards anyway.

We believe in humble beginnings. Sleeping on the office floor and showering at the YMCA. Living out the American Dream and making something of themselves even when starting out with nothing. Those who have made it through difficult circumstances are the ones with



the resilience and perseverance to soar above the stars. College students hustling to build a startup from their dorm rooms. Immigrants coming to the land of opportunity with nothing but a suitcase and a dream. We believe in backing the ones who wrestle with questions of how to make the world a better place and those who feel “ready” to take a leap of faith but don’t know where to start. There are many important problems in our world to be solved. We’re just waiting for the right people to step up to the plate.

We are huge proponents of the first principles approach to problem solving: breaking down complexities into their most fundamental truths, logically reasoning from the ground up, questioning assumptions while challenging conventional axioms, and seeking creative, original solutions. We strive to add value to startups with useful products or services and sustain rapid growth. We believe flexibility and the ability to pivot quickly are a must for any startup and that chasing perfection in the early days can hinder success. Feedback loops are vital in business development as founders must always be iterating and constantly assessing what has been done and how they could be doing it better. We believe in the ambitious drive for innovation, the power of teamwork, and the conviction to never give up. *When something is important enough, you do it even if the odds are not in your favor.*

We’re called Forwards Fund for a reason. Because we’re never going backwards. Because sitting still is not an option. Because we believe in motion, direction, and momentum... no matter how slow it may be at first. No empty promises. No fluff. Just some folks who believe in people who have a passion to build great things. That’s what this is. That’s what this will always be. We’ll help you build the company you’ve only dared to imagine. We know what it’s like to be in your position. We’ve been there before and we’ll be there again many times. We’re here to grow alongside you. To share what works and what doesn’t. To be hands-on when needed and always a phone call away. *With us you’re never alone.*

Let’s get to work. Let’s build together. Let’s move **forwards**.

- The Forwards Fund Team