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Community Lutheran Church

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History and Purpose of Service Site

History:
Community Lutheran Church was established with Martin Luther who was Luther was a dedicated monk to the church who after years of research and devotion to the church, established criticism of some of the church’s teachings. In 1517, Martin Luther famously nailed his list of 95 problems he had with the church, leading to his excommunication from the church (Community). After leaving the church Martin Luther worked on reforming the teachings of the church in a way he felt was truer to God’s word and established the Lutheran Church (Community).

Community Service Paradigm:
CLC would, as Morton states, “project approaches to service generally adopt some form of management by objectives...define the problem, outline a solution, name the activities you will carry out and an ideal timeline, and state the measurement criteria you will use to evaluate your performance” (Morton, 22). Community Lutheran makes use of this model by acting as a food bank which helps those with food insecurities.

Social Issue

Food Insecurities: In the whole world, “about 850 million people in the world are undernourished” (Policy Brief, 2). In the United States alone “in 2015, 16.6% of households with children were not fully food secure and 4.7% experienced very low food security, the most extreme form of food insecurity” (Fitzpatrick, 632). “There are eight major necessary nutrients for children’s brain development, namely protein, taurine, fatty acid, iron, zinc, iodine, selenium, B vitamins (Yan, 70)

Addressing the issue: Community Lutheran battled food insecurities by holding weekly afterschool programs to pass out food to underprivileged children, held festivals with free food and community outreach to bring those in need towards the church, and a monthly “Feel Good Fridays” to give back to the community and those in need. I would assist in the weekly program to hand out a range of food to children afterschool in a park, working at the “Feel Good Fridays” to help children find clothes from donations, and manage/delegate tasks at the Spring Festival.

Reflection and Outcomes

Semester Reflection: Over the course of the semester I have been given the opportunity to interact with the community around where I live for the first time and learn their names.

Expectations: Prior to volunteering at CLC, I always figured that churches relied on people coming to church and wanting to be helped, I had never seen a church bring itself to those in need and bring so much light into the faces of those it helped. If everyone began to look out for those in need, this would be the ideal world.

Differences: Before I joined on to help at CLC, there was only a few individuals who handed out food at the afterschool programs and a majority of task delegation at events was left up to youth leaders. I was able to alleviate some of the stress of running events and take over. I’ve learned how to be more compassionate about those around me and the importance of a meal and not to waste food when others struggle to find it. With continued effort and perseverance, more food banks and outreach programs may be planned, getting rid of food insecurities across the valley.

References:

- Community Lutheran Church Home Page. www.communitylv.org/ Accessed 21 Apr. 2018