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Project 150

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Introduction

History

- Co-founded in December 2011 by Don Purdue and Patrick Spagur.
- Non-Profit organisation serving Las Vegas and Reno in Nevada.

Purpose

- Offer support and services to homeless, displaced, and disadvantaged high school students so they can be successful during their high school journey and ultimately graduate.

Paradigm

- Project: the issue of homelessness in high schools has been defined and they have elaborated a plan to solve it.
- Help after graduation and political involvement could lead to social change.

Social Issue

- Project 150 addresses the issue of homelessness in high schools of Las Vegas and Reno.
- Currently serving over 3300 homeless students and around 3000 poor or disadvantaged students attending 59 schools in Nevada.

Current state

- 1.5 million children are experiencing homelessness each year in America (Bassuk, 2010).
- Nevada is ranked fourth in the entire country for youth homelessness and first in the nation in rates of Unsheltered Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (Cook-Craig, 2017).

Ideal state

- Students all have stable housing and access to all the educational resources required to be successful.
- Housing affordability and accessible pipelines to career opportunities are critical components to making youth homelessness rare (Cook-Craig, 2018).

Approach to issue

- Donating resources like clothes, food, and school supplies.
- Project 150 also offers free life skills and education workshops.

Ressources

1- Cook-Craig, P., Craig, C., Lim, K., Ghafoori, A., & Jacobowitz, M. (2018). Uncovering challenges and opportunity in addressing youth homelessness in Southern Nevada: Community comparisons. Las Vegas: University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
 2- Cook-Craig, P., Guthrie, J., Sousa, William, et al., (2017). The state of youth homelessness in Southern Nevada. Las Vegas: University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
 3- Bassuk, Ellen L. "Ending Child Homelessness in America." *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 80.4 (2010): 496-504. Web.

Service Learning Experience and Making a Difference

Service to community

- Worked in the warehouse sorting donations and in betty's boutique assisting the students.

Differences in my own views

- Learned a lot about homelessness and the root causes.
- I now have a more optimistic view about homelessness.

Difference I made for the site

- Helping unload heavy loads of food and donations.
- Organizing betty's boutique and helping students to find what they needed.

Personal and professional learning

Personal: I learned to appreciate everything I have and to understand that we live in a society with unequal opportunities.
Professional: helping other is a bigger incentive than money.

Future change

- Reduce homelessness by giving the students a fair opportunity to graduate, go to college and get a job.