5-1-2018

Project 150: High School Is Tough Enough

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PROJECT 150 – High School Is Tough Enough

Jessica Okawa

Introduction

◆ What Is Project 150/History
- 501©3 non-profit charitable organization
- Established in December, 2011
- A librarian noticed a student who never seen her eating at school, and later, the school found out that there are 150 homeless students in Rancho High School. This is where the project’s name came from. The Local TV news reported about the 150 homeless students which brought an attention to audiences. People decided to hold a charity event for Christmas season. The success of the event provided a vision of what they really need to do.
- Currently serves more than 6,000 high school students

◆ Purpose/Mission
- Offer support and services to homeless high school students through graduation
- Learn the life skill to be successful
- Provide opportunities for their futures

◆ Community Service Paradigm
Charity: Individual contribute to the community without expecting nothing in return, and with no expectation that any lasting impact will be made.

Project: Defining problems and solutions and then implementing a plan. There is no ultimate solution, but doing something is the appropriate way to give back to the community.

Social Change: Ordinary people find ways to bring their values, their actions, and their world into closer alignment with each other.

- Project 150 is Project paradigm, and my community service belongs to Charity paradigm
- Three paradigms are interrelated

Social Research

◆ Social Issue
- Homeless students
- Drop high school, substance abuse, sex trafficking, high suicide and death rate, or stay as homeless
- Separate from direct family member due to family conflict
- Parents lose their jobs or their wages are not enough to sustain a whole family

◆ My Research
- 1.7 million of youths under age of 18 experiencing homeless in each year
- “once an individual or family enters into homelessness, it becomes increasingly difficult to return to a place of economic stability” (Gupton)
- “Homeless youth are at high risk for sexual exploitation and commonly describe being sexually victimized and engaging in sexual risk behavior, street prostitution, and survival sex” (Heerde)
- 23% of homeless adolescent boys and 39% of homeless adolescent girls experience depressive symptoms severely

◆ Ideal State of The Social Issue
- All high school students have a safe place to go to finish their education
- Currently leading the nation in homeless youth
- The ripple effect of being able to solve this problem would be incalculable

◆ Service Site Approach to Issue
- Looking at a future utopian state of society members with productive lives, voting and making policies to shape future generations
- Provide foods, school supplies, clothing, and hygiene products
- Scholarships and job fair

◆ References


Service Learning Experience & Making a Difference

◆ Semester Reflection
- The reflection papers increased my critical thinking about the social issue
- Changed my view and attitude to the community service
- See the different side of Las Vegas, eye-opening

◆ Expectations
- More interaction opportunities with the students
- Had only few conversation with students

◆ Differences in My Own Views
- Sympathy to empathy
- Different learning experience from class learning
- Care more about the social issue, and plan to continue my social service

◆ Differences I Made for the Site
- My contribution is too small to make a huge impact on the entire site, but there are many volunteers like me to make small contribution, so all together, I believe we made a great change for this site.

◆ Personal/Professional Learning
Many people work hard for helping these students without gaining any profits
- Understanding the paradigms of service

◆ Future Outcomes
- Students can find a job to support their own lives
- Achieving their college dreams

◆ References


