Goodwill of Southern Nevada

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Introduction

History and Purpose

Goodwill was established in 1902 by Reverend Edgar J. Helms in the city of Boston (Goodwill Industries International). Before establishing Goodwill, Rev. Helms used to collect household items and clothing from the wealthier areas of his city, and then train and hire people who were poor to mend and repair the goods. After the goods were repaired, he would then resell the items or give them to the individuals that repaired them. From that system, Goodwill was formed. Goodwill achieved this by providing training and support services for people who need them. They have assisted people with training in industries such as banking, IT, and even health care.

Goodwill also provides services for people who need help learning the English language, who need additional education, and even for people who need access to transportation and child care. Goodwill strongly believes in enhancing the quality of life for “individuals and families by strengthening communities, eliminating barriers to opportunity, and helping people in need reach their full potential through learning and the power of work” (Goodwill Industries International).

Service Site Approach to Issue

The community service paradigm that my service learning site best fits into is the project paradigm. My service learning site best fits into the community service paradigm. My service learning site best fits into the project paradigm. The project paradigm is, I would say that Goodwill fits perfectly in to this paradigm. Goodwill’s goals are all associated with directly meeting community needs of jobs, which is what Morton says is the purpose of the project paradigm.

Social Issue Research

Social Issue Addressed

To fulfill its purpose, my service learning site focuses on addressing the social issue of poverty here in America. While my service learning site is addressing the social issue of poverty here in Southern Nevada, poverty is a social issue that affects nearly every part of our world. As defined by the Merriam-Webster’s dictionary, "poverty is ‘the state of being poor’ (Merriam-Webster). Poverty is defined as the "state of being poor as judged by the standards of a given society." Poverty may be understood as a lack of resources. Poverty may be an issue that affects many people, especially people here in our own town. The effects of poverty are far-reaching and can impact a person’s health, education, and overall well-being. (Goodwill of Southern Nevada)

In the most recent poverty report done by the United States Census Bureau, the official poverty rate in the United States was 12.7 percent (United States Census Bureau). In Nevada, the poverty rate was 18.1 percent in 2015 (Goodwill of Southern Nevada). In Nevada, about 13.6 percent of the western states live below the poverty level (Baldor). That means that approximately 399,420 people in Nevada are living in poverty (Talk poverty!). In our county alone, Clark county, 11.69 of the total population lives below the poverty level (Goodwill of Southern Nevada). Therefore, poverty is a social issue that affects many people, especially people here in our own town. The effects of poverty are far-reaching and can impact a person’s health, education, and overall well-being. (Goodwill of Southern Nevada)

Current and Ideal State of Issue

Poverty is a social issue that affects many people, especially people here in our own town. The effects of poverty are far-reaching and can impact a person’s health, education, and overall well-being. (Goodwill of Southern Nevada). Goodwill’s mission is to “enhance the dignity and quality of life of all Americans” (Goodwill of Southern Nevada). Goodwill's goals are all associated with directly meeting community needs of jobs, which is what Morton says is the purpose of the project paradigm. In relation to the social issue of poverty, my service learning site and the people there changed my view of poverty. Before doing my service learning hours at my service learning site, when I thought of poverty, I thought of people that do not have enough food or enough money to pay for rent and other things. Through completing my service learning site, I was able to sit down and talk with one of the managers there. While we were talking, she brought up how grateful she was for me volunteering there because they could really use the extra help due to the lack of volunteers. I was surprised at how quickly I completed the tasks she gave me. She also told me that many people who volunteer there often do not come back because they believe that the work they do is too difficult.

My Approach to Issue

To address and change this social issue of poverty now and in the future, what we can do is support and donate to more non-profit organizations. By donating time to organizations that are working to change the social issue of poverty, we can make a difference. As we can see, poverty is a social issue that brings many burdens onto individuals. If the social issue of poverty were to be solved, I believe that our world and the future here in Nevada would be much better.

References


Service Learning Experience & Making a Difference

服务学习体验与实践的差异

Service Learning Experience & Making a Difference

Making a Difference

During my service learning hours, I served my community by working in one of the Goodwill stores. On that day, I was able to assist the people who came into the store and put away the items that they brought in. I also had the opportunity to meet the workers who were working in the store. I was surprised at how quickly I completed the tasks she gave me. She also told me that many people who volunteer there often do not come back because they believe that the work they do is too difficult.

My Experience

My experience from my service learning site has allowed me to view things from different points of view and has also allowed me to see that even the smallest contribution to an organization can help. Whether it is from donating items you no longer need or use, donating money, or volunteering your time. When you donate your items to Goodwill, they sell it and invest majority of the money they receive back into programs that the company provides. It is also the same thing with money donations. When you also volunteer your time, you exist the store in promoting and selling auctions through your committee.

Future Change Effort, & Outcomes

Future Change Effort, & Outcomes

In the future, I hope to continue to donate and volunteer at Goodwill to help combat the social issue of poverty in Southern Nevada. Through continuing to support Goodwill, I hope to assist them in employing more people and giving them jobs and training them in their daily lives. Although I believe that any type of service is meaningful, I think that volunteering is the most meaningful type of service you can do. I believe this because through volunteering you can actively engage and take part in something. Volunteering for me allows me to actively take part in something and use the impact I can make for an organization and community. The outcomes that I expect from volunteering would be nothing but positive for organizations or projects that I work with.

References

& Making a Difference