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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). Goodwill achieves 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).

Social Issue Research

Social Issue Addressed

To fulfill its purpose, my service learning site focuses on addressing the social issue of poverty 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, “the state of one who has insufficient resources to acquire the necessities of life” (Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary). Poverty level is what defines the income level for a person or a family as being in poverty (Goodwill of Southern Nevada). 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).

Current and Ideal State of Issue

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, this number is 13.6 percent, and while this is somewhat lower than the United States as a whole, there are still a significant number of people who fall below the poverty level (Ballard). That means that approximately 399,420 people in Nevada are living in poverty (Talk poverty). In our country alone, Clark county, 11.69 of the population are living in poverty, which is why we need to help the people in our community. Therefore, we can conclude that poverty is a problem for Nevada, and I believe that my service learning site is accomplishing this goal.

Poverty is a social issue that is affecting many people, especially people here in our own town. The effects of poverty are far-reaching and can impact a person’s health, education, family, and future. In present day, there are many issues that come with poverty. Poverty can be defined as “the state or condition of one who is destitute, suffering from want” (Noted Dictionary of American English). Poverty is defined as “the state of being poor or lacking adequate resources to meet the needs of one’s life” (McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American English). Poverty rate is defined as “the percentage of the population below the poverty level” (Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary). Poverty in the United States is a problem that affects nearly every part of our country, and it is a problem that we need to address.

Not only does poverty affect a person’s health, but it can also affect a person’s education. According to research done by social scientist, children that live in poverty are two to three times more likely to drop out of school than children that have access to education. Poverty affects the ability to get a good medical treatment, which is why many people don’t have access to health care. Poverty affects the ability to get a good education, which is why many people don’t have access to the education they need. Poverty affects the ability to get a good job, which is why many people don’t have access to work.

Community Service Paradigm

The community service paradigm is that my service learning site best fits into the project paradigm because this paradigm focuses on meeting direct needs in the community (Morton). Morton says that the project paradigm assumes “thoughtful, reasoned approaches leading to measurable action—doing something—is the appropriate response to community needs” (Morton). Based off of Morton’s analysis of what a project paradigm is, I would say that Goodwill perfectly fits in to this paradigm as well. Goodwill’s goals are all associated with directly meeting community needs of jobs, which is what Morton says is the purpose of an organization in the project paradigm.

Service Learning Experience & Making a Difference

Service Learning Experience

During my service learning hours, I served my community by working in one of the Goodwill stores. On the first day, I worked at the register and learned about the system. I later worked with the employees in the back room, and I learned about the inventory and how the items are organized.

Semester Reflection

Serving at the same service learning site multiple times had no negative effect on me. In fact, I think it was the opposite. I actually learned more by serving at the same site multiple times. Serving at the same service learning site multiple times, I was able to become more comfortable with the people I work with and the working environment. I was also able to become more comfortable with the people I work with and the working environment. I was also able to become more comfortable with the people I work with and the working environment. I was also able to become more comfortable with the people I work with and the working environment. I was also able to become more comfortable with the people I work with and the working environment. I was also able to become more comfortable with the people I work with and the working environment.

Expectations

During my service learning experience, I honestly was expecting to do exactly what I did. From previous experiences with completing service learning at this service learning site, I knew what I would do for. I knew that I would also have many other opportunities throughout the store and put away items. But if anything did turn out of my grasp, I would probably have been working in the back room. I usually was in the front of the store to help them, but this time I was on the task to work in the back. There I completely had few tasks that were different, but I must admit that I enjoyed it. Therefore, my service learning experience went beyond my expectations and made my service learning more enjoyable. Differences in My Own Views

My service learning site was a way to make a difference in the way that I view service learning, the social issue of poverty, my future career, and my perspective on the world. My service learning site made service learning more enjoyable for me. Doing it, I really expected to not enjoy my service learning experience. But I was lucky to have worked with some amazing people that made my experience there way better than expected. In addition to that, I was also lucky to have done things that I’ve enjoyed doing, like being organized and talking to people.

In relation to the social issue of poverty, my service learning site and the people there changed my view on poverty. Before doing my service learning hours at my service learning site, when I thought of poverty, I thought of food. I also thought of the food that one would have access to. Food was the solution to poverty that I thought of. But the more I learned, the more I realized that poverty is much more than that. Through completing my service learning hours at Goodwill, I could see that jobs are the perfect solution to poverty. When people have jobs, they are able to provide for their families and no longer worry about food, clothing, or shelter.

Differences I Made for the Site

My service at this site made a difference. While completing my service learning hours at my service learning site, I was able to sit down and talk with the manager there. While we were talking, she taught me about the things that they were doing and the tasks that they were doing for the week. She let me know what they were doing to help the people who are in poverty. She also taught me that there are people who are volunteering here, and I don’t need to do anything, we can donate it. When we donate our items to organizations like Goodwill, we are allowing that organization to invest in helping our community and the people in need.

My Approach to Issue

To address and change this social issue of poverty now and in the future, what can we do is support and donate to more non-profit organizations. By supporting and donating to more non-profit organizations, we can change the social issue of poverty. nghệ

References


